WOMAN AT HOME

BRAINS AND BALD HEADS.

IF dermatoligists are to be believed the twentieth century woman stands a good chance of being compelled to wear a wig. The claim is made that intellectual labor develops lack of vitality in the hair, and that the daughters and granddaughters of the brainy, aggressive women of to-day who are pushing themselves into the front rank of the professions and distinguishing themselves in the fields of intellectual endeavor will be baldheaded in early life. Science foresees this lamentable state of affairs, and sends a note of warning. The "new woman" may be the progenitor of a nobler, a better woman, a brainier woman, but the latter will be a bald woman. The "new woman" is herself developing a tendency to baldness. It is an accepted scientific fact that excessive mental labor superinduces a weakness of the scalp tissue and the loss of the hair, that soon shows as partial baldness. With succeeding generations this weakness is aggravated, and is often marked by a complete loss of hair in early life. While a woman may escape actual baldness herself, in her children the germ will be sown, and so transmitted from generation to generation, until our young women will either be bald, bald as the egg of commerce, or at least be forced to wear short crops of hair, like unto that of the boys of the present day. A glance over any assemblage of physicians, lawyers, statesmen or scientific men will show a decided majority of bald heads, while of the remainder the supply is light and scant, and the man with a luxuriant growth in such a gathering is conspicuous by reason of the fact. Close observation of the hundreds of women who are taking an active part in public affairs will reveal this tendency to scanty locks. Women naturally make every effort to conceal such a fact, and it is not apparent to the casual observer, but inquiry among specialists who treat loss of hair and scalp diseases is met with the admission that, while formerly women patrons were rare, they now come for treatment in numbers equal to the male customers.

WOMAN OF TO-DAY. WOMAN OF THE FUTURE.

Women in the Hotel Business.

The Misses Elliot, two prominent young New York society women, have created considerable talk by their recent action in opening a small hotel in that city which they will hereafter conduct. A few years ago such a move on the part of members of the 400 would have been a nine days' wonder, but New York society has lately grown wiser. Ten years ago when a member of one of the oldest New York families opened a grocery store in Newport society was sadly scandalized, but it has been found that the effort to create an American aristocracy that would look down on "vulgar trades" was not destined to succeed. Indeed, one of the most popular signs of the times is the action of so many "swell" men and women, in entering trade. It makes Americans feel that democratic institutions are not a failure.

Only a Suggestion of Perfume.

It is a law of modern form that men shall not use perfumes. Women are permitted to carry about them a delicate odor of flowers or spices, but not too much of it. Time was when the scent of fine ladies and dandies was overpowering. But all that is changed now, and the lady is expected to carry with her only a suggestion of perfume, if she has any at all. This, too, in spite of the dictum from Paris that the scent shall be strong. Perfume is put on the handkerchief, essence of orris is used in the hair and other essences are used in my lady's toilet, but each perfume is subtle and delicate. She has her bath perfumed, too. She puts eau de cologne into it, and half a pint of benzine goes into it to clear the skin and make it firm and tight. One of the fads for the bath at present is the use of bags filled daily with almond meal or orris, with shaved soap and oil of roses or violets.

Is It "Lady" or "Woman?"

A recent issue of the Verbalist has the following to say regarding an old dispute: The use of the word "lady," whether in the singular or the plural, simply to designate sex is in the worst possible taste. There is a kind of pinfeather gentility which seems to have a settled aversion to using the terms "man" and "woman." Such expressions as "She is a fine lady," "a clever lady" and the like are studiously avoided by persons of refinement. If a woman of culture and refinement—in short, a lady—is compelled from any cause soever to work in a store, she is quite content to be called a saleswoman; not so, however, with your young woman, who, being in a store, is in a better position than ever before. She boils with indignation if she is not denominated a saleslady.

To My Lady Who Plays.

See her dainty fingers
Tripping o'er the keys;
With what grace she does it,
With what wondrous ease!

Does her playing mind you
Of the robin's song,
Piping in the tree tops
All the morning long?

Does her touch bring to you
Thoughts of breaking hearts?
Is her playing mindful
Of poor Cupid's darts?

Or does she—dear maiden
With the ivory hand—
Make you think of hours
In some dreamy land—

Dreamy spot like Venice,
With its rippling ways,
Dreamy old Sevilla—
Isn't of these she plays?

Nay, not so this player
Of whom now I sing,
Pretty little maiden,
Dainty little thing—

Plays not of old romance,
No sweet dreams evokes;
She's just my typewriter
Copying off my jokes.

—Harper's Bazar.

Frisco's Female Bagpipe Player.

San Francisco, Cal., not Edinburgh, Scotland, is the proud possessor of the only woman bagpipe player in the world. She is Miss Elaine Telfor, and she is an American by birth as well as by residence. She comes of Scottish stock, however, her father being an Ayrshire man, who traces his ancestry back to Robert Bruce. His daughter was fond of Scottish legends and tales in her youth, and at an early age was inspired by the ambition to become the mistress of the melodious art of piping. She learned readily and she is now sought all along the coast to give color to the gatherings of the men from Burns' land. Miss Telfor is a slight, dark-haired girl of 18, but she carries herself with the proverbial stateliness of the piper and marches to the tunes she plays. She is fairly ablaze with the medals and decorations which have been bestowed upon her by the admiring Scotch societies of California.

The Rush at a Bargain Counter.

One of the most interesting features of the large shops where women spend much of their time and some of their money is the department known as the "waiting-room." There the shopper is to be seen in her most disheveled, most distressed condition. After the bargain counter rushes, the snubs from haughty clerks, the disdain of the cash girls, and a long list of similar woes, she retreats to the refuge provided by the proprietor. She sits in a disconsolate heap on velvet-cushioned sofas. She lets down her dignity and sometimes her hair. She frequently curls up on one of the hot-looking divans and goes to sleep. She studies her shopping lists and examines those of her purchases which she carries with her. She uses the firm's stationery with the lavishness which is natural in dealing with other person's belongings. She displays sisterly kindness toward fellow shoppers driven by the bargain tempests into the same haven. And once at least she has been moved to the most remarkable friendliness. One of the storm-tossed sisterhood drifted into the harbor and spied there another, who eyed her coldly. After a few minutes she walked over to the lady of the frigid aspect.

"I beg your pardon," she said, "but I know you had intended to buy that last 50-cent fan that I got. Would you like it now? I find it's too salmony-pink anyway for me."

Whereupon the other dilapidated purchasers who had put in for repairs were treated to the unusual sight of two rival shoppers almost embracing over a 50-cent fan.

Training of Turkish Girls.

Turkish girls of the better class in the cities, after they are too old to attend the primary schools, are largely educated at home by governesses, many of whom come from England and France, but, unfortunately, do not represent the highest culture of these nations, so that real love of study is not, as a rule, developed under their influence. Turkish women have a great aptitude for foreign languages, and those met on the steamers of the Bosphorus often speak French, and it is not unusual for them to speak German and English also.

Friends of Fitzhugh Lee, the new consul-general to Cuba, declare that he compounded the first real mint julep that President Cleveland ever drank.

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO PUPIL AND TEACHER.

A Serious Problem that Confronts City Boards of Education—Unruly Boys Converted with the Rod—Some School Games for the Children.

Truants and the Schools.

One of the most serious problems that confront the Chicago Board of Education, says the Chronicle of that city, is the question of truant children and the best methods of dealing with them. No hasty answer can be given at present that will in any wise meet the conditions, and yet the subject is one that deserves the attention of every worthy citizen.

It is obvious that truants are not desirable pupils. They are in most cases children of careless, indifferent parents. They are unkempt, uncouth and have usually inherited the lax, loose ways of their parents. Sometimes vicious, they frequently disturb the order and welfare of the school, and unduly tax the time of the teacher, which should be given to instruction and not to incessant reproof and discipline.

It is justly complained that a few such children tend to demoralize a room, and the best strength of a superior teacher is needed to keep in check their pernicious influence. Naturally teachers do not favor a law which compels the attendance of these runaways, and the sight of a truant agent returning one of them is anything but welcome.

Then, too, the limited time of these pupils in school, even when they remain the number of days required by law, counts little in the way of direct attainment. Their indifference and inability lessen the general average of the school, and the ambitious teacher has to realize that the whole tone of her school is weakened by their presence, or rather by their continued coming and going.

Looking at the matter from this point of view, it would seem best for the welfare of the school, that is to say, best for the majority of pupils, that the truant agents be dropped and the money given to compulsory education be spent upon pupils who need no compulsion. Plausible as this seems, and favorable as it would be to the higher tone and character of our schools, it would be unwise and unjust.

For the leading object of our public schools is not to make brilliant scholars, but to secure good citizenship. To this end the State is justified in taxing the people. A government by the people, in order to be secure, must be a government by an intelligent people, who understand clearly the duties as well as the rights of citizens.

Our public schools teach not only the three R's and the higher branches of learning; they teach also the necessity of promptness, order, harmony, obedience to law, self-restraint—all of which are essential to good citizenship. No pupil can pass the various requirements of the public school without gaining in self-discipline or having clearer ideas of right and justice.

Beyond all other children the truants and street waifs need exactly that kind of influence which the public school exerts. More than other children they need special fitting for citizenship—the object for which our schools are primarily designed. It would be unsafe to the State to leave them on the street in order that the general scholarship of the schools may be raised or that teachers and faithful pupils may be rid of their annoyance.

Even where the attendance of these truants is but eighty days or only half a dozen days the value of this time to them cannot be rated. An idea of what three days in a good atmosphere may mean to a vagrant boy may be gained if we consider what three days in a school of vice would do to the best of boys. The effect in the one case may be as strong as that in the other, unless one admits that vice is more potent than virtue—a point that cannot be maintained.

How She Converted Them.

The following is from an address by E. E. White, of Cincinnati, one of the ablest school men now prominent among America's pedagogical leaders. It contains a most wholesome bit of doctrine put into the form of a concrete illustration:

A lady who had unusual success in country schools was once employed to take charge of a Cleveland school which two successive teachers had failed to control. Nothing was said to her respecting the condition of the school, and she took charge of it, anticipating a pleasant experience in teaching in the city. At noon she returned to her boarding place in tears, and said to her brother that she could do nothing with the boys, and had made up her mind to resign and go back into the country. "I have done my best to interest the boys," she added, "and they have simply run over me. Boys have gone head first out of the windows this morning and back again, whistling at me." "Do not think of resigning, Mary," said the brother, "but go back and put your school in order and give the boys a lesson in prompt obedience. Ask them to rise quietly at the beck of your hand. If a boy fails to respond, attend to them." "Shall I whip?" asked the troubled teacher. "Whip? Yes; if necessary," said the brother, "and I will furnish the whips. Your school is in rebellion." She sighed, but took the whips furnished and returned to her school to try the experiment. She came back at the close of school with a look of victory on her face. "Well, Mary," said the brother, "what kind of a school did you have this afternoon?" "I had an excellent school," she replied, "the last hour." "What of the first hour?" said the brother. "I do not like to say." "Did whip?" "Whip? I whipped a half-dozen boys the first twenty minutes, but they toed the mark after that. I am going to have a beautiful school." That lady taught in the schools of Cleveland until she went to her reward, and she never whipped another pupil. It is a good many years since the speaker gave the above advice, but he would give it to-day under like circumstances.

Primary Reading.

Children cannot read until they are perfectly familiar with small words and can recognize them at sight. If it be attempted before this is accomplished, the reading is slow, laborious and dull.

Many of our poor readers in the upper grades are so from a slovenly habit that comes from lack of proper drill. The bright boy or girl will soon learn to recognize words, but the slow ones must have the right kind of a drill and plenty of it.

Every child who enters school has a vocabulary of from two to three hundred words. The first few years of his school life the teacher merely teaches him the written and printed forms of words he already knows.

A good plan is to make a list of words given the pupil from chart, board or book, and run over them every day. Tell the children you want them to make a new spelling-book, and you want all the words they can think of. Begin, for instance, with a-t. Write it, see it, spell it and sound it. Tell them to make another word from this, putting some letter before at. Write a-t the first one, then add the letter given you. Some one suggests c, write c and you have c-a-t under this word, and ask for another letter. This time some one will give r, then you have r-at. Proceed in this way until you have at, cat, rat, fat, mat, Nat, vat, bat, sat, tat. Then take a-n and proceed in the same manner, leaving your list on board or chart. You now have an, can, ran, man, fan, Dan, tan, yan, van. Take i-n, and you will produce in, tin, fin, bin, win, din, kin, sin, etc. After several lists have been made, make phrases, such as: a cat, a rat, a mat, a fan. You can carry this out indefinitely. Use three words, as a man ran, a cat ran, a fat rat ran at a man, etc., etc. The children will enjoy the work. If you have no pictures, draw something to represent the word. No matter if the drawing is crude, children as as often amused and pleased with these crude drawings as with the more perfect ones.

For pupils who have words with two or three syllables, separate the words into parts; as sing-ing, bring-ing, pretend-ing, com-mand-ing. Always have a list of words in view. When there is lassitude in the number class call for a list of words; or, when there is a minute or two between classes turn the attention to some one of these lists. If lists consist of words of two syllables, as, ring-ing, sing-ing, bring-ing, wing-ing, fling-ing, cling-ing, pronounce first part of each word as sing, ring, etc. Then pronounce the last part; put them together and pronounce. This makes an excellent drill, and one that tells in the end.—The Teachers' Outlook.

School Games for Children.

"Going to Mexico" is the name of an entertaining game for boys and girls. It is suitable for an evening gathering of almost any kind. The company arranges itself in a circle with the "Traveler" in the center.

"What are you going to take to Mexico with you, Arthur?" asks the traveler, pointing suddenly at one of the boys and beginning to count rapidly.

If Arthur says apples or andirons or the name of any other object beginning with A, the first letter of his name, before the traveler counts ten, he keeps his seat and the traveler turns suddenly and points at Kate.

"One, two, three——" he counts.

"Cookies," stammers Kate.

"You cannot go to Mexico with me, says the traveler, and he takes Kate's chair and Kate becomes a traveler. Then she tries to catch some one else. The same person may not mention the same object twice.

An interesting diversion consists in having every one present except those who are in the secret stand up around the room with their faces toward the hall. Then the leader steps up to one person in the ring and asks:

"Are you perfectly satisfied?"

Then the question is asked earnestly of each person in the ring, the interest increasing all the time. When the leader has been informed that every one is well satisfied, he steps to the middle of the room and says:

"Very well, you are all satisfied. You can stand there as long as you please."

—Institute Herald.

Rules for Strengthening the Memory.

Seek and preserve vigorous health as a fundamental condition of a good memory. Train the senses to careful observation and accurate discrimination. Deepen and intensify your first impressions of what you would memorize, (a) by concentrating the thought upon it, (b) by exercising the will power in regard to it, (c) by allowing the object or thought to remain for a sufficient length of time before the mental vision.

Test your memory to determine whether you commit more easily by sight or sound, also to find which you retain more firmly, the images of sight or the sound images. Select for memorizing purposes some selection, and assign yourself a limited portion for daily memorizing at a selected hour of the morning. Preserve the period religiously for the two-fold purpose of committing the daily portions and reviewing the lessons previously committed. Make it a rule to comprehend thoroughly every idea or fact you would commit to memory.

Mrs. Oliphant, who has written seventy-eight novels, never writes in the daytime. She thinks the stillness of night conducive to good writing.

TOPICS FOR FARMERS

A DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Unfavorable Condition of Affairs in the Farming Industry Is Reported—Dirty Eggs Will Not Keep—Value of the Harrow as a Cultivator.

Condition of the Farmers.

The statistical report of the department of agriculture indicates a rather unfavorable condition of affairs in the farming industry. The exhibit shows the number of head of live stock in Jan. 1, 1895, and again on the corresponding date of the present year. Every kind of live stock shows a very marked decrease during the year. As between the two exhibits there is a decrease of 4.8 per cent. in the number of horses, 2.3 per cent. in mules, 2.2 per cent. in milch cows, 6.6 per cent. in oxen and other cattle, 9.4 per cent. in sheep and 3 per cent. in swine, or a decrease of over 28 per cent. in the number of live stock in the country in a single year.

With the exception of horses and mules the stock named is all in farmers' hands, and constitutes not only a very considerable part of their wealth, but is one of their chief means of accumulating property, while they are important in maintaining the fertility of the soil and the production of the farm. Not only does the report show a decrease in the number of animals, but a shrinkage in the value of all except cattle and sheep, which average a little, but not much, higher. As a rule, surplus of grain, such as there has been in the northwestern States the last year, makes the price of stock firm, because it is more profitable to feed grain to stock than to sell it at the low prices that abundant harvests generally create. But the indications are that owing to hard times and low prices of grain farmers have had to dispose of such commodities as could be most readily exchanged for money to enable them to pay their debts and taxes.

The showing of the department does not give a very flattering indication of agricultural prosperity, and without prosperity among farmers and producers there can be no very stable condition of business generally.

Dirty Eggs Will Not Keep.

In laying down eggs for winter use care should be taken to see that they are perfectly clean. The shell is porous and the odors of any filth attached to it quickly penetrate to the interior and begin the process of decomposition. It is impossible to keep eggs many months and have them exactly like fresh eggs. The evaporation from the egg robs its of moisture, though this is largely prevented by immersing the egg in lime water. But all water except that which has been just boiled contains some air. Packing eggs in salt will keep them for a short time, and is the easiest and cheapest way for keeping for home use.

Don't Spare the Harrow.

The progressive farmer now does most of his cultivating of what used to be hoed crops with the harrow. He harrows before planting and after planting, before and after the crop is up, and keeps harrowing until the cultivator is called in because the harrow can't reach the ground on account of the big growth of the crop. Such use of the harrow would have scared a conservative farmer out of his wits a few years ago, but it means clean fields and good crops at the minimum cost of labor.

Black vs. White Oats.

There is a popular prejudice against black oats in this country, owing to a belief that they are more chaffy, and their chaff is harsher than that of the white oat. This is not true, however, of all kinds. We have seen white oats that would weigh within a few pounds as much per bushel as barley, and whose husk was almost as hard as a barley beard. It is the kind of husk, rather than its color, that the purchaser of oats should look to. It is not a good plan to feed oats unground, especially if they are of the rough, bearded kind. The ground oat will be digested better, and in any event its husk will be so broken up in grinding that it will aid perfect digestion, instead of preventing it, as white oats often do.

Crossing Brahmas and Leghorns.

The first cross of Brahmas and Leghorns makes a very desirable fowl for farmers' use. They are good layers and are more hardy than the pure Leghorns and are also better for the table. But the cross must not be interbred or it will inherit the poor points of both strains. The roosters should always be pure-bred fowls, either of the Brahma or Leghorn, according as which style of fowl is best adapted to the breeder's aims. Where there is poor range and restricted quarters the Brahma fowls will do best. Leghorns are an active breed, and will not do well when closely confined.

The Time to Plow Orchards.

"Plow before the leaves are out" is the advice generally given by our agricultural exchanges. That is all well enough for trees that are in full bearing and past their prime. Such trees need all the vitality they can comand to perfect their crops. Plowing while the tree is dormant does not seriously injure it if the plow is not run deeply near the tree. The cutting off of small roots is easily replaced when the growing season begins. But if the roots are cut badly after the leaves are out the tree cannot supply sap as fast as the leaves exhale it, and there is a consequent check in growth. This is for young trees that are making too much wood growth is just what is needed. It used to be said by farmers that the buckwheat crop was the best for young orchards. The plowing for that is done in midsummer, and one or two years of such treatment will always induce the formation of fruit buds, and bring the tree into bearing. This habit of fruit bearing once formed is continued unless insects or blight cause the fruit to fail after it is set, and the blight is very largely prevented by liberal use of mineral manures.

Turnips Are Exhaustive.

Turnips are often sown on land that has borne a crop of corn or potatoes with the idea that they will grow after frost has killed the main crop, and that thus some profit may be got without cost. But this overlooks the fact that turnips are a very exhaustive crop, especially of phosphate. In England phosphate is mainly used in growing turnips which are fed off by sheep, and their plant food is thus returned to the soil almost immediately. In this way the land is put in good condition for a wheat crop. Here where the turnip crops is always removed, its effect is to make the soil poorer for the crop that follows it.

Cleaning Land with Buckwheat.

The quick growth of buckwheat, and its broad leaf completely shading the ground, fits it to suppress most of the annual weeds. It has even been said to kill the Canada thistle, but this is more probably due to plowing the thistles under in June as preparation for the buckwheat than the crop which followed. But there is a better reason for the belief that growing buckwheat clears the land of wire worms and insects that destroy vegetation. There is no insect that wil eat either the root or stalk of buckwheat, and sowing it on any piece of land for two years will kill the wire worms by furnishing nothing for them to eat.

Shrunken Wheat for Poultry.

The very best use of shrunken wheat, some of which will be found in every crop, is as food for poultry. The grain being shrunken, is deficient in starch, but it has all the greater proportion of gluten, which is the chief element of the egg, while the outside husks or bran is rich in phosphate, which helps to make the egg shell. The poultry dealer can usually buy shrunken wheat at a lower price than the perfect grain, while for feeding fowl it is really better for being shrunken.

Keep Only Good Cows.

Good judges of cows are careful of the expenditure. They are economical, and pay a fair price for a choice animal rather than to incur the extravagance of feeding one that does not pay. The rule now among experienced dairymen is to keep no cow that will not produce at least three hundred pounds of butter a year. Such a cow may cost more than the average sum usually paid, but she will give more profit in one year than some cows will in twice that period of time.

Honey from Alsike Clover.

Farmers should keep more bees than they do. If they did Alsike clover would be more sown. It has the advantage of the common red clover, that its honey is within reach of the common bee. It makes a light honey quite as good as from the white clover, and there is never any failure to blossom, as there often is with white clover in time of drought. By cutting some of the alsike before it comes into blossom the time when it blooms may be protracted and thus make the honey-producing season longer.

An Irrigation Hint.

If windmill irrigation or pond irrigation or any other kind of irrigation can ever be made to answer the purpose of giving a small tract of ground on every farm a good soaking just in the nick of time between tardy showers in July or August, there can be no question but that even so small a piece of individual enterprise as this would prove of vast public good.

Farm Notes.

Professor Crozier, of Michigan station, after a careful study of the subject, especially recommends broom corn millet for poor soils. It is inferior to many other crops on good soils, but seems especially suited to poor soils. It stands drought well.

It is the labor that is the most expensive item on a farm. It is much cheaper to have a good man at high wages, who can handle the maximum number of cows, than to have a cheap man who can do only half as much work. A good farm hand who understands his business saves time and labor.

If you desire a full matted row of strawberries next spring, work the plants in the row with a hoe, so as to kill the weeds and grass, and then go deep on each side with a cultivator, applying fertilizer liberally, so as to have the plant food ready for the runners that may be sent out by the parent vines.

The temperature of the soil regulates the growth of the crops. The farmer cannot regulate the temperature of the atmosphere, but he can influence that of the soil by cultivation. The entrance of air carries warmth and reduces the water in the soil, thus preparing the plant food for use by the roots of the plants.

Gooseberries and currants are the most neglected of all fruits, receiving but little cultivation, yet they pay well when made specialties. The bushes need trimming and careful protection from weeds and grass, and should receive an abundance of manure or fertilizer, which will induce them to produce more and better fruit.

If a burdock, at any stage of growth, is cut below the surface of the ground and a handful of salt thrown on the cut surface it completely destroys it. The moisture from the cut dissolves the salt, and this, in turn, helps to rot the root, so that no sprout from it is possible. The earlier this is done the less trouble it will be to cut the root below the surface.