A Secret.

A man who had purchased a fine-looking horse soon discovered that the animal was blind, and after several weeks he succeeded in disposing of her, as the defect did not seem to lessen her speed nor detract from her general appearance. The next day the new owner of the horse appeared.

"Say, you know that mare you sold me?" he began. "She's stone-blind."

"I know it," replied her past owner, with an easy air.

"You didn't say anything to me about it," said the purchaser, his face red with anger.

"Well, you see," replied the other, "that fellow who sold her to me didn't tell me about it, and I just concluded that he didn't want it known."

Pie.

The old lady who distinguished her pies by marking them with a "T," signifying "'tis mince" and "'tain't mince," has been outdone by the culinary expert of a little hotel among the Green Mountains. The chance guest had finished the serious part of a wholesome dinner, when the cook, who was also waitress and landlady, asked him if he didn't want some pie.

"What sort of pie have you?" he asked, expectantly.

"Well, we've got three kinds," said the hostess, "open-faced, cross-barred and kivered—all apple."—Woman's Home Companion.

The Retort Susanic.

Susan B. Anthony had addressed the New York Constitutional Convention in Albany in 1867, and offered to answer questions.

"You know the bullet and the ballot go together," drawled Mr. Greeley. "If you vote are you ready to fight?"

"Yes, Mr. Greeley," she replied. "Just as you fought in the late war—at the end of a goose-quill."

Taken by Surprise.

"How many children have you?" asked the census taker.

"Well," said the father of the large family, studying a moment, "there's John, Julia, Hiram and Samuel—them's twins—Lucy, James, William——"

"I'm not asking their names. I only want to know how many there are in the family."

"Drat it!" irritably rejoined the father, "you ask me so kind o' sudden like that I disremember. I jist got to name 'em, mister, 'fore I can tell ye how many there is."

Clarence Knew.

"I don't take any stock in the professions of these politicians," the visitor was remarking. "They've all got some selfish scheme to put through. You never can tell what a man has up his sleeve."

"I can, Mr. Jymes," said little Clarence, butting into the conversation. "You've got a dirty cuff up yours. I can see it."

Diplomacy.

"I suppose, Henry, you are going to be initiated into the order of the Antelopes to-night. Anything to spend an evening away from home!"

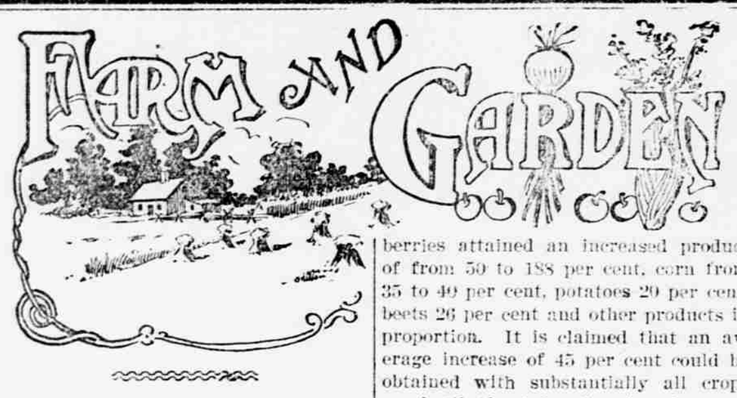
"No, dear; I have decided to withdraw my application. A friend of mine who belongs to it has told me I would be sure to be blackballed."

"The idea! Do they think you're not good enough for them? Henry, you go right off and join the Gazelles! Show those cheap skates you can get into a good deal better secret society than theirs!"

Not Worth While.

Austere Person—I can't tip you, young man, unless you have change for a tenner.

Waiter (sizing him up)—Keep your dime, sir; I haven't a nickel about me.



Profit depends as much on the cost of production as on the selling price.

Where the pungent smell of ammonia is noticed escaping from the manure it may be taken as an indication of loss.

In nearly all cases the offspring of immature, undeveloped animals is inferior to that of mature and full-grown parents.

Cold air will not injure sheep, but a wet coat and a cold wind may prove as dangerous as it would with any other animal.

Sheep restore to the soil a larger proportion of the elements than they take from it in grazing than do any other stock.

Don't be discouraged if mistakes are made; those who do things make many of them, but repeating the same mistake spells disaster.

Don't hitch the colt to a load until he has been thoroughly accustomed to drawing a light wagon or sleigh, then hitch to a light load at first.

In selecting tomatoes for seed, save the large, smooth fruit on the vines that produce the earliest; try to save the fruit with the most meat and the least seed.

A sure way to make an enemy of what might have been a friend is to recount to him the number of times you have accommodated him in the past, some time when you happen to be a little "out."

"Plumping" poultry is done by dipping the fowls ten seconds in water nearly or quite boiling hot, and then immediately in cold water. Hang in a cool place until the animal heat is entirely out of the body.

Never choose a dairy cow because she is fat, sleek and a beauty. "Beauty is as beauty does." The fat and sleek dairy cow doesn't do the handsome thing. The scraggy, bony cow does. Therefore, she is the real dairy beauty.

Cultivate black walnut, as the supply is fast becoming exhausted, while the demand for that kind of wood for furniture and other purposes is very great. Trees of good size grow in ten to twelve years, and the lumber commands a very high price.

It is queer how the seasons can affect the size of some fields in all neighborhoods. In the spring a piece of ground may be thirty acres in measuring the work done per day, but in the fall the same piece may be only twenty or twenty-five acres in measuring the yield per acre.

To preserve the wheels of vehicles and also to prevent shrinkage of any of the parts, put some boiling linseed oil into a pan or other vessel and raise the wheel so that the rim will pass through the oil. Revolve the wheel and let the felloes be well soaked for about three minutes, and the wheel will then be more durable.

For old orchards the "trimming up" method is perhaps the best. Cut off the bottom limbs to a point 3 or 4 feet from the ground, then cut off the ends of the most extending branches. Do not prune too closely. Pruning may be done any time this winter, or early spring, but the wounds should be covered at once with paint. An old tree bleeds freely, and will suffer if there are a large number of wounds on it.

Night Is the Time.

It has long been known that budding trees, when transplanted in the evening, were more likely to thrive than those that were moved in the day time.

A French expert has gone a step further and proved that distinctly beneficial results can be gained by transplanting in the dead of night.

He has transplanted large tracts without losing any of the trees by the adoption of this method. Trees, he says, should not be moved while their buds are too tender, and the work should be done between 10 p. m. and 2 a. m.

The roots should be covered with earth which has for several days been exposed to the air and light. This should be settled by copious watering and not by pressure of the feet. For the first two weeks after moving the boughs and leaves of the trees should be thoroughly sprinkled.

Electrified Potatoes.

The use of electricity in cultivating farm and garden products is not new, says the Ohio Magazine, but it has made considerable progress in recent years. One method of experiment has been to stretch a wire netting across a field high enough not to touch the growing plants and circulate through it an electrical current. In other experiments the soil has been electrified by wires under and around the roots. By the former method it is said that strawberries attained an increased product of from 50 to 188 per cent, corn from 35 to 40 per cent, potatoes 20 per cent, beets 26 per cent and other products in proportion. It is claimed that an average increase of 45 per cent could be obtained with substantially all crops on fertile land by the electric treatment.

Pasturing Pigs.

In an experiment conducted at the North Platte Experiment Station in Western Nebraska recently, two lots of weaned brood sows were fed, the one three pounds of corn a day per 100 pounds of hog, together with alfalfa pasture; the other four pounds of corn in a dry lot without alfalfa or other seed. It required nearly 43 per cent more corn to yield 100 pounds of gain in the dry lot than in the pasture. To pasture a pig through the season at North Platte costs about 50 cents, valuing alfalfa consumed in the field at $2.50 a ton.

Twenty-nine shoats, averaging 185 pounds, made for six weeks an average daily gain of 1.50 pounds each on three pounds of corn a day per 100 pounds of pigs. With corn at 35 cents this made a cost, not including the alfalfa consumed, of $2.36 per 100 pounds of gain. Another lot, averaging 139 pounds, was fed a full ration of corn. They gained 1.6 pounds a day each, a cost for gains of $3.07 per 100, not including alfalfa, corn being 35 cents.

Grinding Grain for Pigs.

Many farmers are now forcing their pigs to make the greatest possible gain in weight for "killing time." The office of experiment stations of the Department of Agriculture summarizes some Wisconsin station pig-feeding experiments covering a period of ten years, with the following conclusions: Where there is plenty of time for maturing pigs, and it is not necessary to secure the maximum daily gain, it is doubtful if it pays to grind corn for pigs. The test shows that where quick maturity is an important item, better results are secured from cornmeal. Pigs fed cornmeal eat more grain and make somewhat larger daily gains. Cornmeal can doubtless be fed to good advantage in finishing off a bunch of hogs which were first fed shelled corn. Changing over to cornmeal near the close of the feeding period also furnishes a change in the character of the ration which will be satisfactory to the animals. When fitting hogs for show, sale or in high-pressure feeding for market, the feeder will consider it advisable to grind the corn, even though it is expensive to do so.

Wetting Dry Lands and Drying Wet.

The United States has spent about $20,000,000 in reclaiming by irrigation arid lands of the West. There are further tremendous projects under way on which something like $1,000,000 a month is being expended.

Not a little stirred, perhaps, by the American example, Australia is now boring wells and laying pipes to bring life to its great "dead heart"—to make fertile the innumerable acres of the interior so that population need no longer be limited to the fringe of coast lands.

But irrigation is not to be the end of government enterprise in America. There is water to be taken off as well as water to be turned on. In the eastern parts of the republic are 77,000,000 acres of swamp land which may be reclaimed by drainage. The States wherein these lands lie are demanding at Washington federal aid as generous as that given to the States with the dry places.

In this other case the United States may draw an example from abroad instead of setting one. Holland has planned to spend $76,000,000 in reseuing 1,400 square miles of territory now held by the Zuyder Zee. The little kingdom will destroy a wide stretch of historic waters, but it will feel repaid in crops and rents.

Decreasing Length of Stock.

The results secured at the Illinois Experiment Station in breeding corn so that ears will come at a certain position on the stalk will interest corn growers everywhere. Growers of corn on the rich, bottom lands have complained for years that too much growth went to stalk, at the expense of the ear as well as of soil fertility. The Illinois Station shows that every farmer has it within his own hands to determine the location of ears and reduce the height of the stalk. The way to go at it is merely selection—going through the fields now and selecting, as foundation stock, seed ears growing at easy husking distance from the ground, and then repeating the process each year until the habit becomes fixed. We walked through a 200-acre field of fine corn with the owner a few days ago. The corn had had a marvelous growth, but, as the owner remarked: "You would have to roll it down before you could husk it." The ears were out of all proportion to the growth of stalk, and what a waste of soil fertility in producing these mammoth stalks! Select the low-down, heavy stalk, well-rooted and with a good ear set within easy reaching distance. A stalk of that kind will resist wind, it ripens earlier and it will produce a good size ear of corn.

Look Into Space.

A young man whose eyes had been troubling him consulted a New York oculist. "What you want to do," said the specialist, "is to take a trip every day on the ferry or in New Jersey, Long Island—any place where you can see long distances. Look up and down the river, across fields or, if the worst comes to the worst, go on the top of a skyscraper and scan the horizon from that point. The idea is to get distance. You use your eyes a great deal and always at close range. You can't use them any other way in town. Even when not reading or writing the vision is limited by small rooms and narrow streets. No matter in what direction you look, there is a blank wall not far away to shut off sight."

In Doubt About the Point.

"But I have talked long enough, my friends," said the long-winded orator. "Before I sit down, however, I am willing to answer any questions you would like to ask as to points I may have failed to cover in my discourse."

A brief pause followed.

Then a timid looking man in the audience rose.

"Is a motion to adjourn in order?" he asked.—Chicago Tribune.

His Scheme Failed.

"I wonder why it is," remarked one of the two men who had just lunched turned to speak to the other, "that they always have pretty cashiers at these restaurants."

But the pretty cashier, though she blushed and smiled, did not fail to detect the Canadian quarter he threw down in payment of his check.—Chicago Tribune.

Had No Kick Coming.

"I suppose," said the young widow, coyly, "that you have been unfortunate in your love affairs."

"On the contrary," rejoined the middle-aged bachelor, "I have been exceedingly fortunate. I never fell in love with a woman who would have me."

No Hurry.

The American traveler who endeavors to hasten the comfortably gaited Orient against its wish soon comes to a halt. That was the experience of "A Woman Alone in the Heart of Japan."

"Make the rikman hurry. I have a date, and can't wait here all day," she said to the "boss rikman" at the station. He blazed like a fiery dragon.

"Vell, you get so mad, you no can wait for dis, you go find 'nodder riksha," he said.

She answered very meekly:

"Dear friend, you do not know me. I am not the least bit mad. This is only a gentle American hustle. If you want me to be real mad, I will show you the difference."

"Vell, you vas almos' mad," he insisted. "You seem jus' like mad when you say, 'No can wait; mus' have riksha quick; hurry up!'"

Division of Labor.

"Yes, sir," said Tuffold Knutt, "me an' another feller wunst run a Swiss cheese factory up in Wisconsin."

"A Swiss cheese fact'ry," said Eaton Jogalong. "What part o' the work did you do, you old snoozer?"

"I made the holes in the cheese."

Glass weights for scales are now in general use in Switzerland.