

Hunting Wolves in Eastern Nebraska

WOLVES and coyotes have again descended on the fold in Nebraska. Scarcity of feed on the western ranges, owing to the short growth of grass and the consequent diminution of the herds and flocks, together with the unceasing warfare that has been waged against these outlaws of the west, has driven them nearer to civilization this winter than they have come in many years. At one time the coyote was an object almost as familiar on the Nebraska landscape as the prairie dog or the jackrabbit. Those were the days when the antelope abounded and the jackrabbits and similar creatures were plentiful, so that the sneaking varmints had little trouble in getting food, and consequently flourished. Civilization is fatal to all such, and with the recession of the frontier the western representatives of the genus canis in its pristine state have also receded and well nigh disappeared. Unrelenting warfare has been waged against them for many years by the stock raisers, and sudden death has lurked in the least suspected places for the marauding members of the wolf tribe. Poison and traps, springs and guns are limited in their possibilities, though, and have their drawbacks in usage as well, so the tribe of Lobo and 'Cita have not perished from the face of the earth.

War of Extermination.

Nearly every one is familiar with the life history of the "King of Currumpaw" and the romantic tale of "the coyote who learned how," and there be many in the west who will aver that these tales do not greatly overstate the facts. Every stock range has its account against wolf and coyote, written in the blood of slaughtered steers, of dogs that have been maimed or have proved treacherous and gone over to the enemy, or have been foolish enough to eat the poisoned morsel set out to catch the plunderer of the herds. Extermination is the sentence pronounced against him, and the effort to carry out the sentence is never relaxed. So when the wolf ventures back nearer to civilization than its outposts conditions on the range must be unfavorable to an extreme.

Whatever the cause, wolves and coyotes are plentiful in Nebraska this winter where they have been little more than a memory for many years. Farmers do not relish this propinquity, and have taken the most active steps to induce the intruders to retire. Ordinary methods of dealing with these pests have proved inefficient. The offer of a bounty has served frequently to encourage an industry hardly likely to become popular, although decidedly profitable to those engaged in it. Where the bounty is certain men have been known to breed wolves for the sole purpose of selling their scalps to the county. This, with the price received for their pelts from furriers, made the business one of considerable profit. But the cold disapproval of the public, backed up by the law, has had a deterrent effect and the practical abolition of the bounty has also operated to discourage the breeding of wolves. Only a few years ago a bunch of enterprising cow punchers gathered up some hundreds of wolf scalps on the ranges of Montana and Wyoming and shipped them to eastern Nebraska and western Iowa, where several county treasuries were neatly milked before the fraud was discovered. All these things tended to discourage the practice of paying a bounty and left it incumbent on the farmers and stock raisers to fight the wolves solely for self-protection. This has been done so earnestly that the wild animals had almost totally disappeared from the more settled sections of the state. Only in the wilder parts were wolves or coyotes found, and then not in great numbers. Their descent on civilization simply means an invitation of destruction. What was a popular sport in the early days



TWO OF THE HUNTERS WITH THEIR TROPHIES—Photo by Anderson, Wahoo.

of the state has been revived, and grand wolf drives are being organized and carried on in counties where they have not been known for many years.

Old-Time Way of Hunting.

One of the most primitive methods of hunting is that form which adopts what the Highland Scotch called the "tinchel," that is, a cordon of men surrounding a specified area and gradually drawing to a common center, driving thereto all the animals caught within the slowly narrowing circle. This practice has been followed since before the time the first of the wolves was domesticated and became a dog. It has lost none of its efficacy, for the beasts of the field have not kept up with all the points that mark the advance of mankind, and consequently some of the prehistoric practices of the chase are still in use. When the Nebraska farmer decides on a "wolf drive" notice is given to all residing within the area to be beaten over, usually a space about twenty miles square. Every able-bodied man and boy joins, for the fun of the thing is ample repayment to anyone who has a tinge of red blood in his veins. Captains are chosen to control the sides, always four, for the territory is marked in a square, and the beaters approach along its four sides. Ample precautions are taken to secure the safety of all concerned from anything but unavoidable accidents. No firearms save shotguns are allowed, rifles and revolvers being too dangerous. In some cases even the shotgun is tabooed, the killing being done with clubs.

Finish is a Hot One.

On the day appointed the sides set out.

The captains agree as to the point where the columns shall converge and then the aides are charged each with his duties and the hunt begins in earnest. Slowly, steadily the lines move toward the place of meeting, which is of necessity an open meadow or field, driving everything before them. As the area is cut down smaller and smaller the congestion of the animals becomes greater and greater and the alarm that first started them becomes an actual terror. Prairie chickens, quail and other game, birds, rabbits and the like, flee in wild dismay from the approach of the human walls, while the wolves, seeming to realize the trap in which they are caught, dash back and forth in search of shelter or a place to escape. Any which may try to break through the cordon are shot as they run. Finally all are huddled down together in the field where the drive is to end. Around each of the four sides stands a solid wall of men and boys, armed with every weapon with which a wolf may be killed, and yet which is not essentially dangerous to the users or their companions. Here the dogs are brought into play. These are generally strong hounds, who can easily cope with a wolf in open fight. When the dogs are set to work the wolves are in their extremity, some of fear and others of desperation. Some will rush wildly to one side or the other of the square that has crushed them, only to be shot down. Others stand in bewilderment in the center, to be pulled down by the dogs. No matter what their choice, death is their portion. Sundown of the day of a wolf drive finds the farmers homeward bound, each satisfied that from a dozen to twenty more of his four-footed foes have died.



HOUNDS HELD IN LEASH—Photo by Anderson, Wahoo.



GROUP OF HUNTERS AFTER A SUCCESSFUL DRIVE—Photo by Anderson, Wahoo.



HUNTERS READY FOR THE RIDE— Photo by Anderson, Wahoo.

Relations Between Doctor and Cook Should Be Closer

OF THE arts which may be reckoned ancillary to that of medicine, says the London Lancet, there is none probably which is so neglected by practitioners of medicine as that of cooking. Most medical men regard the kitchen as beneath their notice and would scout the idea that any special training in its materials and its methods might be of service to their professional powers and usefulness. Such an attitude of mind is as unwarranted as we believe it to be injudicious. Not only are there very many substances which are common to the kitchen and to the dispensary, a knowledge of which, therefore, is justified by their presence in one if it does not indicate an acquaintance with the other, but, moreover, rightly regarded, the kitchen and the cook play almost as important a part in attaining the aims of the medical man as do the druggist and the dispensary.

It is obviously of the greatest importance that if a physician orders a medicine he should be able to tell that it is duly dispensed. A similar argument may certainly be applied to the products of the kitchen. No medical man would ignore the importance of diet both in health and in disease, and the cook may well be regarded as a chief officer in the service of preventive medicine.

We do not hold the belief of an old writer quoted in Dr. W. T. Fernie's "Kitchen Physic," who says that "the practitioner

has only to direct such food as may contain the particles that his patient may stand in need of. For example, are the kidneys diseased? Then let him prescribe stews and broths made of ox-deer and sheep's kidneys. Asthmas require dishes prepared from the lungs of sheep, deer, calves, harts, and lambs. Are the intestines diseased? Then he should order tripe, boiled, fried or fricasseed. When this practice has become general we shall be able to remove every disease incident to the human body by the assistance of the cook only." Unfortunately, the art of therapeutics is no such simple affair as this. The recently proved value of thyroid gland, however, in the treatment of myxoedema, to take only one striking instance, should lead us to take a close interest in the help that substances which may be most suitably prepared in the kitchen are able to afford us in the treatment of disease, and not to regard the kitchen simply as a place from which the provision of healthy food for healthy persons is all that can be desired or obtained.

There is a fund of interest and of information in the old accounts of the various properties and powers with which writers from the earliest times invested different articles of diet. Thus, Pliny, tells us that "Cato thinks that after eating hare sleep is induced, but the common people suppose that after such food the body is more lively and gay for nine days; this may be only

an idle rumor, but, still, for so widespread a belief there must be some foundation." Whether there is any true foundation for such a belief or not an investigation into the exact chemical properties of flesh of various animals and into such articles of diet, for instance, as shell-fish, which are known to have peculiar effects upon certain people, would not only be of great interest, but might lead to results of great therapeutic value.

Such chemical work as this is a most fitting direction in which to turn some of the efforts of clinical laboratories, such as are sure in the future to be more and more extensively employed in connection with all large general hospitals. There are many widespread beliefs and theories with regard to the effects of different foodstuffs in health and disease. Exact knowledge on such points is scanty. We cannot doubt that in attempting to enlarge and to define it, direct or indirect results of importance and utility would be obtained. Why, for instance, are tomatoes in the popular mind so widely associated with the spread of cancer? We have no grounds whatever for believing the idea to have any reasonable foundation. Yet how much do we know of the special constituents of the tomato? Has it any therapeutic properties? Is it, as a matter of fact, particularly prevalent where cancer is especially common? Such questions and their solution are a natural adjunct to intelligent medical interests in

the kitchen, and we have mentioned merely the crudest and most obvious of the many problems, therapeutic and pathological, that the kitchen suggests to us if we honor it with our attention.

There is another point of view from which the cook may be brought to the aid of the practical physician. Supposing that experiment were to show that drugs which now are used only in formally prescribed mixtures or pills were capable of introduction into the more welcome output of the domestic kitchen—how grateful an assistance might we obtain. It is often difficult when a medicine has to be taken frequently and over long periods of time to be sure that the patient does not grow careless or forgetful. If, however, instead of taking his draught before, or his pill after, his daily meals, that draught or that pill were, without altering the taste of the dish and without losing its own efficacy, combined with the patient's dinner instead of preceding or following it, we can imagine a far more certain acceptance, on his part, and the physician's orders would be more constantly carried out by connivance on the part of the cook than they are with the operation of the chemist. Such a relegation of the dispenser's duties to the hands of the chef can only be achieved by familiarity on the part of the medical man with the work of both of his subordinates. With the work of one he is, perhaps, fairly cognizant; with that of the other we

strongly recommend him to become more intimately acquainted.

Pointed Paragraphs

Chicago News: The wages of sin are not regulated by an earthly trust.

Many of the flights of genius are from a high bluff downward.

Too many things are done well that are not worth doing at all.

It's usually the man that shakes the tree that gets the least fruit.

Nothing so effectually cures a man of the flattery habit as marriage.

Just when a girl thinks she is marrying happily all her relations shed tears.

White lies require a great deal of white-washing to keep them from turning black.

A spinster who is willing but unable to catch on says that marriage is a failure.

No matter what a man has done the world soon forgets him unless he keeps right on doing.

Every man's reputation would be above par if he could get credit for his good intentions.

It has been said that short accounts made long friends—but there are notable exceptions to the rule.

The individual who gets the hardest knocks in early life is apt to be fairly well content with his lot in after years.