The St. Tammany Farmer

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PASSING OF THE FIRESIDE.

The kettle never simmers on the hearthstone any more,
We have given up the sacred fireside;
The kitten never sleeps before the back log on the floor,
And the spinning wheel has stopped since grandma died;
But the poet, in his fancy, sees the "family circle" yet,
And blithely sings the glory of his dream,
While the artist takes his pencil and is happy to forget
That the fireside has given way to steam.

The boiler and the furnace are in no dress sublime,
The scornful bard refuses to ennoble them in rhyme,
And the artist never turns
With his brush to such concerns;
They have spoiled the family circle of "the splendid olden time."

Still, the preacher gravely preaches of the "sacred fireside,"
Forgetting that long since it ceased to be,
Forgetting that the people he is preaching to abide
Where janitors are lords of all they see!
Ah, the fireside is only a blind mantel on the wall,
The logs that used to crackle blaze no more;
No more fantastic shadows over old rag carpets fall,
The hearthstone's but a grating in the floor.

The good old ways are ended and the charm of them has fled,
No "fireside" remains to lure us now;
No more, alas! does father have to clamber out of bed
To light the logs while mother tells him how.
Little Willie doesn't have to carry billets in at night,
Or, caviling, chop kindling nowadays—
Stay!—that's but the steam pipe thumping—'tis no time for flight or fright—
We have given up the old poetic ways.

Oh, a fancy screen is standing as an ornament before
The walled and plastered place that was the fireside of yore—
The wind is howling "Woo-o-o-o!"
But no flames leap up the flue.
And the hearthstone's just a grating in the floor.

—S. E. Kiser, in Chicago Record-Herald.

How Janet Taught Him Spelling

By L. M. BURNS.

HERMAN always went first to his cousin Janet. He was a buoyant youth, whose woes and joys were much alike, but Janet was serious-minded. She did his worrying for him.

This time he found her packing her books. Vacation was almost over.

"Well?" she said. She liked to talk to Herman, but not when there was an unfinished task in hand. That was the difference between the two—she focused her energies upon one thing, accomplished it, and was happy; he diffused his over a dozen, accomplished nothing, and was happy also. "Well, what is it?" she demanded.

"I'm superseded," he confessed, dolefully.

"What? O Herman—discharged?"

Herman made a gesture. "Ah, Janet, you have such a—a direct manner of speech! Why, even Mr. Steinmetz didn't use that word! 'Mine young frent,' he says, 'you will pe a prite young yentleman when you learn petter how to spell, but yoost now, you make us reediklus.' And he showed me a letter he'd got from a firm he'd been complaining to about a lot of damaged goods. They'd got tired, I guess, and written with a good deal more humor than Mr. Steinmetz could appreciate—he's not a witty man—all because I spelled 'shipment' 's-h-i-p-m-e-a-n-t,' and 'a dozen white collars' 'a dozen white c-o-l-o-r-s.'"

"O Herman!" groaned Janet.

Herman laughed. "You taught me how to spell 'meant' yourself," he argued. "You ought to take it as a compliment that I applied the lesson."

"And 'a dozen white colors!'" she sighed, despairingly. "Why don't you learn? I'll do anything to help you! You never can make a success while you spell like that. Oh, I know—but it isn't enough to be the fastest typewriter in town—it's accuracy they want, a thousand times more than speed! You must learn, Herman! I'll send you lists of words from your letters, and lend you my old speller. Will you study it, Herman?"

Herman's eyes were twinkling as he took the book. "I will, faithfully, religiously, as I would my catechism," he said, with a laugh. "It shall be my proud duty to report to you every week my progress."

Janet's eyes dropped in disappointment. "No need," she murmured. "If you learn to spell, your letters will show it."

Herman smiled. "I'll be on hand at train-time to-morrow with—a box of chocolates?"

"No, thank you!" said his cousin, decidedly.

"Flowers, then?"

"You'd better save your money."

Herman laughed outright. "Didn't I mention it? Why, so I didn't! I've got another position, with Span & Co. They fairly jumped at me."

"You'll lose it," she said, prophetically, and he laughed again.

Herman did lose it, and for the same old reason. Janet had felt ashamed of herself when she came to thinking over the interview. She might have been more hopeful, more sympathetic. She tried to make up for it in her letters to him. Perhaps it was, as he had so often explained, a physical failing; some people are form-blind, just as others are color-blind, and with such orthography is doubly difficult. She tried to shut her eyes to mistakes, and to believe that he was improving. She sent him lists of words, and forbore to criticize. But as time passed, and the old errors recurred again and again, his light-hearted epistles that had once given her such keen delight became merely a source of dread and dismay. Her eye ran on from one mistake to another, losing sense and substance. When by any chance he fell into the correct spelling of a word that she had listed, she felt it like a personal victory, but every repeated blunder was a Waterloo. She waited feverishly for the inevitable.

Scarcely two months had passed before it came. Herman was sobered a little when he wrote of it, but not enough to affect his literary style. He was "superseded" again, he said, and was hastening to claim another good, bracing sermon from his dear cousin Janet. He had about come around to the standpoint of the fatalist—nature hadn't created him with a predilection for spelling, therefore it was useless to try to spell.

Janet read with mingled emotions. She knew it was not lack of ability—indeed, if he had had a slower mind there would have been more hope for him. He had never felt the need of working hard, and the lack of discipline was telling in every way. One part of his letter was really pathetic—not from its wording, but because it was so true—where he compared himself to a nice little stream of water that was mostly noise and sparkle. The Bible has a different way of putting it—"Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel!"

But Janet did not think of that. She had forgotten for the moment that no one may ever excel save by his own effort, and she was reproaching herself bitterly for his present failure. She was conscious that he had always looked to her to supply a certain force undeveloped in himself. The appeal ran through the letter she was reading, masked under his habitual drollery, of course, but to her the earnestness was apparent, even through the nonsense.

"I may never win the degree of Ph. D., he wrote, whimsically, "but I am hopeful that my name may yet cut loose from its suffix N. G. I ought to have an equal chance with these fellows in books. They never make heroes of themselves from inner necessity, you'll observe. I have your life and letters for my inspiration—they are inspiring, chum! And if I ever compile a dictionary, swim the Hellespont, or otherwise distinguish myself, it will be because my cousin Janet has kindly — although perhaps unconsciously—assumed the role of guardian angel to me."

Only—alas, poor Herman!—he spelled it angle!

The tender sympathy dropped out of Janet's face. It is not recorded that angels indulge in sarcasm, but it is doubtful if even a celestial being would care to be described in

"WILL YOU STUDY IT?"

geometric terms. The letter she wrote "raised a blister," as Herman afterward confessed.

"What is a guardian angle?" she inquired, sweetly. "I've searched my geometry from cover to cover, and asked all the girls, and thought of all the angles I've ever heard about—right, acute and the rest—and there isn't one I could possibly be unless it's the one they call obtuse. Do write and tell me what it's like, and where I can find it. 'Guardian angle!' It sounds terribly learned, and yet poetical, too. Do they teach about it in trigonometry?

"I quite expected that you would be 'superseded' again, and now that you have the leisure, I am not going to do anything that will interfere with your learning how to spell. This is the last letter you will get from me till you have mastered the art. At Christmas, if you wish, I will examine you from the speller I lent you, and also from those lists of words. If you pass the examination we will resume our correspondence, and if you don't we will not. I am quite in earnest. From this judgment there is no appeal.

"Witness my hand! Your cousin, Janet."

Herman must have known that when Janet wrote like that there was no appeal, and he made none, but got to work.

As for Janet, she was in the dark as to the movements of her cousin, and not a little frightened at what she had done, until she heard that he had refused a third position. She took that as a healthy sign. Her knowledge of him told her that the next one he accepted he would be prepared to keep—and he was.

At Christmas time the whole family assembled to hear the spelling lesson. She gave Herman 500 words, and he spelled them with a certainty and independence which showed that he had mastered something else besides orthography. Four hundred and ninety-nine were right—it was a record to wonder at. But when she gave him "angel," he smiled in his old exasperating way, and spelled it "J-a-n-e-t."—Youth's Companion.

Practical Use.

"Oh, for some more ancestors!" sighed the new wife.

"That's all right," assured her husband, "we have enough to enter the exclusive set."

"Bother the exclusive set! I want a few more portraits to hide those grease spots on the parlor paper."—Chicago Daily News.

Ought to Know Herself.

He—These intellectual women make me tired. After all, nothing takes the place of beauty.

She—But suppose one has neither beauty nor intellect? What can be done then?

He—Now the idea of your asking such a question!—Town Topics.

Cheap Sort of Bluff.

Mrs. Subbubs—I see your husband goes out behind the stable to smoke. Don't you allow him to smoke in the house any more?

Mrs. Baklots—Oh, he can smoke anywhere he likes, but just now he is putting up a bluff that he has sworn off.—Town Topics.

HOUSEHOLD

UNFRIENDLY COMMENT.

There Are Many Reasons Why People Should Refrain from Criticising Absent Acquaintances.

In conversation, unfriendly comments regarding the absent should always be avoided. In social life it is well to shun ill-natured gossip. Make it a rule, and let it be strictly observed, not to say anything about the faults of another unless there is absolute necessity for you to do so. This necessity may arise, and your own judgment can guide you about the matter. It is always rash to talk of the faults or evil doings of others. Why, indeed, should you do so? You know yourself that you have faults, few or many, and that there are many things you may have done which you prefer should not be discussed. Well, then, exercise the same charity to others that you would have extended to yourself.

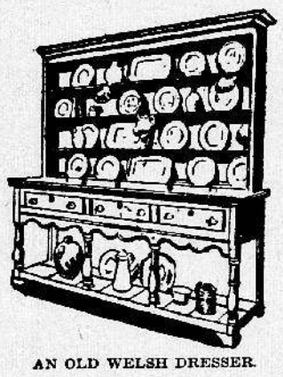
Another thing to bear in mind is that, if you talk of what is to the disadvantage of another, what you say will doubtless be repeated. Of course, you may preface your remarks by: "This is quite between ourselves," "Pray do not repeat it," etc. But why should you imagine that the person to whom you are talking will be silent about that which you promised to keep to yourself? She may forget her promise, or may not consider it very binding.

Then, too, when things are repeated they never lose in the telling. Something is taken from, or added to, the original story, and if repeated several times, it loses very often most of its original character. The most terrible mischief is caused by gossips of this kind. Friends are separated, relations are estranged, quarrels are fomented, and "bad blood" is aroused, simply because something said, perhaps thoughtlessly, on the impulse of the moment, is repeated. —N. Y. Weekly.

OLD WELSH DRESSERS.

In Great Demand at the Present Time by Lovers of Rare Old and Artistic Furniture.

The oak dressers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries have a fine simplicity of their own. Those of Wales and Yorkshire are specially in request among the old furniture lovers of to-day, and charmingly decorative these old pieces are as a mounting for choice silver and china, while at the same time admirably serving the purpose of a sideboard. The statement often made that Chippendale was a designer of sideboards is inaccurate. When Chippendale published his work (1754 to 1762) built-in cupboards with doors flush with the wainscoat of the walls were still in fashion and gave ample room for the storage of wine and table appointments. As, with the change in the style of decoration, they gradually disappeared the mahogany sidetable came into use. Cupboard room was provided by a separate pedestal placed at each end of it and a brass-banded celleret below. A brass rail at the back of the table often held branches for candles and gave a support to pieces of plate. A tall urn



AN OLD WELSH DRESSER.

was placed at the top of each pedestal, one for hot water for the servants' use, the other for drinking water. Sheraton, Hepplewhite and Adam combined with various pieces into one, producing the graceful style of sideboard with which the taste of the present day has made us familiar. The sideboard table, however, was also retained in large houses, where it served as a carving table, by which name it is now frequently known. Can it be possible that Hepplewhite, by suggesting in one of the minutely drawn plans of a room, a large mirror hanging above the sideboard, foreshadowed the time when the mirror became a part, and often the salient part, of a piece of furniture cumbersome and heavy in proportion to the unnecessary weight it had to support? At this stage, at any rate, we may leave it, with a mental sigh of relief that this style was only transient and that we are reverting to forms in which the "stately sideboard" is more worthy of its name.—Chicago Daily News.

Best Medicine for Children.

Happiness is the best medicine for children, says the Ledger Monthly. Try to make your little ones happy; impose no burdens on them; see that they have opportunity for active, outdoor sports; play with them yourself; tell them stories; take them to see some of the wonderful sights of the city—and almost anything is wonderful and full of interest to children; give them a plenty of plain, simple, well-cooked food; put them to bed early; let them sleep till they wake up, and dress them with an eye single to their comfort, and you will probably have little occasion for doctor's stuff.

Mother of Six at Twenty-One.

Mrs. Susanna Pennock, of St. Louis, is only 21 years of age, yet she is the mother of six children—three pairs of twins. Her mother bore 24 children, and among them were six pairs of twins. Mrs. Pennock's sister, a resident of Georgia, has been blessed with five pairs of twins, and each of 13 of her other sisters has had three pairs.

INFLUENCE OF WOMAN.

It Brought About the Transformation and the Re-Transformation of Nelson, the Haughty.

Nelson has lived with a Washington family for several years, and he has proven himself so well contented with his own views upon all subjects that he has always been upon the point of immediate dismissal and has always just escaped it by reason of his genius for polishing silverware and his elaborate politeness when answering the doorbell.

"Really, Nelson is too hard-headed for anything," the mistress of the mansion would say. "I must send him away."

"Now, mamma," her daughter would reply, "you know Nelson is too fond of his own way to go unless he wanted to, even if you did muster up courage to discharge him."

And so instances of Nelson's calm setting aside of all authority save his own sweet will continued to multiply.

Suddenly, however, a change was noticeable. Without warning Nelson became meekly, even weakly affable and yielding, even to the point of consulting the head of the family

"DAT'S ALL RIGHT," SAID NELSON

in cases where consultation was unnecessary. The daughter of the family opined that he had experienced religion; the son declared that he had received ghostly warning as to his immediate demise, but the mystery remained impenetrable until one evening when Nelson asked permission to go home earlier than usual saying that his wife wanted him.

"Why, Nelson, I didn't know you had a wife."

"Oh, yessum, I gotter wife, but yuh see, we ain been livin' togethah; she went south with er family an' I went tuh Florida tuh wait in er hotel an' we got los' from each othah, an' she thought I was daid an' married ernothah gemman. Now, she done fine me ergin an' she done lef de othah gemman an' come back tuh me. She's a powerful ha'd woman tuh please, M'ria is, an' dat othah husban' she done lef he was a mighty fine man, an' I gotter wuk mighty ha'd tuh keep up to his level 'deed I has, ma'am, an' M'ria she ain't ergoin' tuh lemme fergit it."

The effect of Maria upon her liege was most pronounced as time went on. Nelson no longer firmly waved away orders and conducted his department on the most despotic plan; the cook began to impose upon him and the mistress of the mansion even ventured to scold him. His politeness deepened and willingness to remain after hours, if only he had the authority of the head of the family for doing so, became one of his most pronounced characteristics. In fact, Nelson was now a jewel without a flaw.

But all this was quite too good to last, and one day the mistress of the mansion was sadly surprised to find Nelson once more setting aside her orders with calm faith in his own superior judgment. "Why, Nelson, what is the matter?" she said. "I distinctly told you that I wanted the hall rugs beaten to-day and the hangings put up, and instead of that I find you cleaning all the silver."

"Dat all right'm, dat's all right," Nelson made unabashed reply. "I jest had tuh clean dis heah silver to-day, an' I says tuh mys'f, I says: 'Nelson, people doan always know what's bes' foah theyselves an' yuh gottah do yuh duty. Now, thaihs that M'ria. I done met dat aih othah husban' o' huhs what she done mahried when she thought I was daid, and' he's a low-down, no ercount cullud gemman, he is. I tells dat M'ria I doan wan' tuh heah no moah foolishness out o' huh, an' aftah this she gottah do what I tells huh an' behave huhse'f."

"And what did Maria say?" queried the mistress of the mansion, hopefully.

"She didn't say nothin', ma'am; nothin' at all. That woman knows she kain play no moah tricks on me, no, ma'am."

And after that not even the cook rebelled against Nelson.—Washington Star.

Model for American Women.

The model that should be held up to American women of to-day is not the Amazon, glorying in her martial deeds and powers; not the Spartan, who made female perfection to consist in the development of physical strength at the expense of feminine decorum and modesty; not the goddess of impure love like Venus, whose votaries regarded beauty of form and personal charm as the highest types of womanly excellence. No, the model that should be held up before you and all women is Mary, the mother of Christ. She is the great pattern of virtue, and all that goes to make the perfect woman alike to maiden, wife and mother.—Cardinal Gibbons, in Ladies' Home Journal.

The New Password.

Gazzam (after he has succeeded in waking his wife)—Open the dorsh!

Mrs. Gazzam (head out of second-story window)—Are you sober?

"Yesh."

"Then say, 'reciprocity.'"—Harlem Life.

Doing His Best.

Bridget—An' phwy do yez be lavin' th' cover off th' brine barrel?

Patrick—Hist, darlint. Th' dochtur do be sayin' you nade salt air.—N. Y Weekly

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

HONEYCOMB BUILDING.

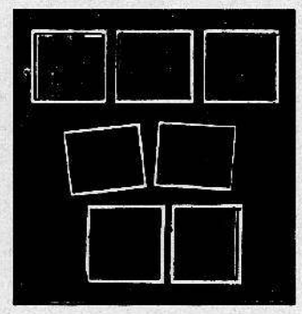
New Light Thrown on a Subject of Paramount Interest to Professional Beekeepers.

In a recent bulletin C. P. Gillette, of the Colorado station, calls attention to the fact that experiments have shown that it requires about one pound of wax for every 25 pounds of honey that is stored in the comb. The food which is necessary for the formation and secretion of wax in the body of bees is, for the most part, honey, and it probably requires several pounds of honey as food for worker bees to enable them to produce one pound of wax. The bees which are engaged in the secretion of wax are thereby prevented from collecting honey, and must feed upon the honey collected by other workers. Where comb honey is being produced for market it becomes, therefore, a problem of considerable economic importance to determine to what extent and in what form wax should be furnished the bees for their use in building comb.

According to the present practice of bee raisers, wax is furnished to the bees in only one general way, and that is in the form of artificial comb foundation. There are, however, many types of foundation, some with a midrib only and others with cell walls of greater or lesser length outlined for the bees. The keeper has, therefore, the practical problem of determining the kind of foundation to use, whether with or without cell walls and of what weight.

Prof. Gillette's investigations indicate that it is a mistake to use deep cells in artificial foundation unless their walls are made of the thinness of natural cell walls. The only cell walls which were brought to the thinness of natural comb were those built on foundations with a light base and with little wax in cell walls.

Comparisons of the weights of natural comb and comb built on artificial foundations showed that the thin



ATTACHING COMB STARTERS.

and extra thin suprefoundations are far the best for the production of comb, which will compare in quality and lightness with natural comb. It seems certain that heavy foundations result in combs heavier than the natural comb and that the increased weight is due to thicker midribs and thicker cell walls, but more to the latter than to the former. Where the cell walls are very high they were not thinned down in the process of comb building.

Experiments were tried with a number of methods of using foundations in sections. The different methods of attaching starters are shown in the figure, a to g. No appreciable difference was noted in comb produced by using starters in the way shown in a, c and d. The chief advantage of using a long narrow piece, as seen at e, was that it had a tendency to induce the building of worker comb throughout. It had, however, the advantage that its large size and short line of attachment rendered it easy to be torn loose.

Perhaps the best results were obtained by the use of a long narrow piece at the top of the section, as shown at f. The use of small pieces of foundations in the lower corners, as shown at c, gave no beneficial results. The use of short strips in the middle of the bottom of the section, as shown at b, resulted in the somewhat firmer attachment of the combs. Comb built upon foundation is always tougher and more waxy than natural comb, and the bases of the cells are darker in color.

Since a thick comb has but one midrib, and the walls of the cells are heaviest nearest the midrib, it is evident that a thick comb will contain relatively less wax and more honey than a thin comb. In order to secure comb honey, therefore, with the least possible amount of wax, it is necessary to have it built in sections that will permit the greatest thickness of comb.

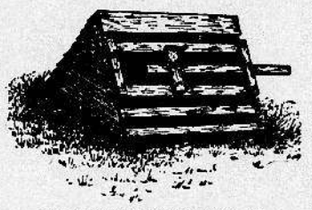
Clearing Up Roadsides.

For the time spent and outlay of money nothing so adds to the appearance and value of a farm as a well-kept roadside. It speaks well for the farmer who owns it and keeps it in trim, for it shows his artistic taste, progressiveness and energy. Early spring is the best time for clearing the roadsides of bushes, briars and weeds, which should be cut, piled and burned. Where the rains have made the roadside rough and uneven, plowing and grading would add to its appearance, but should the road be several feet lower than the surrounding fields this would involve too much labor. If grass seed is to be sown, sow early in the spring. Rail fences are unsightly, but a wire fence adds to the appearance and does not obstruct the view. For shade trees maples are most beautiful and satisfactory, and nothing adds so much to the beauty of the farm, and comfort of the traveler along the road as a thrifty shade tree. These can be set out at long distances apart. Some seven years ago a progressive farmer acquaintance planted maple trees upon either side of the road that ran past his home. The trees have made rapid growth and shade the road, reminding one of a city street. These improvements cost but little.—Prairie Farmer.

THE A-SHAPED COOP.

Suitable for Localities Where Neither Cats, Rats Nor Other Animals Menace the Chicks.

A common form of coop for hen and chickens is shown in the illustration. This coop is easily made. By it the old hen is kept in restraint while the



COOP WITH SLIDING SLAT.

chicks have their freedom, being able to go in and out under the slats. This is suitable for localities where cats, rats and other animals do not menace the chicks.—Farmers' Review.

WANTS TO KEEP BEES.

Advice to a Farmer Who Is Desirous of Taking Up Beekeeping as a Side Issue.

A reader wants to know what it takes to commence with, and about how many colonies one person can attend to, giving the business about half of his time.

How to begin beekeeping, depends to some extent upon the amount of knowledge one may have of the business before he begins. If he is strictly an amateur, and has no knowledge of scientific beekeeping, he should study the subject some before going into it. One may begin successfully with one or two colonies, and with the assistance of books on the late management of bees, soon learn the entire business, and this would be a proper way to start.

There are plenty of good works on bee culture that give all the details in their management; besides a number of monthly and weekly bee journals that will keep one posted on the latest discoveries and improvemnts. With a thorough study of some good text book, and a few colonies of bees to practice on, to prove to yourself the truth of what you read, you can soon master all there is to it.

On the other hand, if one has a knowledge of the business to some extent, he may start in with more bees, but unless he is an expert, it is not safe to go in too deep. Failure would be sure to follow one who would buy out some large apiary, and start it without experienced help, if he had but little knowledge of the business himself. The matter of starting with bees with the intention of going into it extensively, depends somewhat upon your locality as a good honey producer or whether or not many bees are there kept. Localities may be overstocked, so that the crop of honey cannot reach a profitable basis. But this is rather the exception in most localities.

One can easily attend to 100 colonies and give them half his time.—A. H. Duff, in Rural Voice.

CLOVER FOR POULTRY.

For Egg Producing at All Seasons of the Year This Crop Certainly Has No Equal.

Experience has demonstrated the value of clover for egg producing time and again. Clover has just the material in it to form egg shell, and hence it becomes an essential part of every ration fed to the chickens. It may not be generally understood that there are nearly 30 pounds of lime contained in each thousand pounds of clover. The chickens fed daily with clover will consequently prove better egg layers than those denied it. The clover hay should be given to chickens in winter in quantities sufficient to satisfy them, and to make them eat more it is desirable sometimes to prepare it in various ways. Cook and chop it up and mix it with meal or other articles. This will sometimes induce the hens to consume a great amount of clover each day. Cut up into short lengths and mixed with warm mash, and then fed only as fast as the chickens will clean it up each day, is probably the most economical way to feed the clover. Some cut the second crop of clover and place it in the poultry yard for the chickens to eat and scratch over at pleasure. This of itself is all right, but it is rather wasteful. More than half the clover will be lost, and the chickens do not actually eat much more than the leaves. The stalks contain most of the lime, and these should be prepared so the chickens will consume them. Of all foods that can be raised on a farm for poultry, clover is not only the best, but probably the cheapest, and a field of it is as essential to success as a pasture field is necessary to the success of dairying.—Annie C. Webster, in Massachusetts Plowman.

A Unique Egg Producer.

Something more likely to meet a hen's taste than "red albumen" is described in a Chicago letter. What was a scourge in Nebraska has now become of value in a commercial way. A machine was invented to kill grasshoppers called the "hopperdozer." It does the work all right, but heretofore the grasshoppers have been wasted. Now the killed grasshoppers are left in wind rows in the field, where they are dried after an exposure to the sun and reduced to powder, after which they are pressed and converted into solid bricks. These bricks are shipped to poultry raisers, who find it good food for hens, as it is great encourager of egg production. It is not necessary to grind these bricks, but merely to break them into pieces and soften with water. The hens like them exceedingly well and thrive on the diet.

Producing Poultry Breeds.

Any farmer may make a new breed if he has the patience to select carefully of the best, note their characteristics, discard all undesirable specimens and work on until his object is accomplished. It is, however, always in order for him to select his next year's stock from the best of those he has. The farmer of the present day has a great advantage in having the pure breeds ready established as a foundation upon which he can improve or build something better, hence his labors will be easy and light compared with the difficulties in the way of the pioneer breeders who produced the breeds we are familiar with at the present day.—Farm and Fireside.

MORE SCIENCE NEEDED.

To Make Wheat-Growing a Success Cultural Methods Must Be Studied Carefully.

The question of wheat growing must ever remain a large one in American agriculture. There are many localities where other crops can be grown more profitably than wheat, and in such localities it is evident that wheat growing should be abandoned except as an incidental crop. But we have, especially in the west, vast stretches of land that can be used only in the growing of wheat. Wheat is a money-grain. It always has a value that may be determined by a little figuring. It can always be disposed of at once.

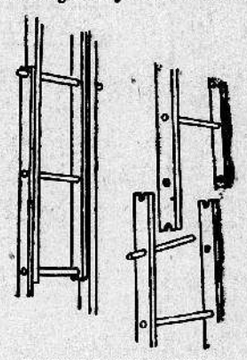
In the great semi-arid region of the west the attempts to grow wheat have been marked by both signal successes and signal failures. We cite the wheat crop of Kansas this year. It is certainly a money maker. When we consider that wheat was grown—much of it—on low-priced land, we can see what it means to the farmers there. A man has perhaps purchased land at five dollars per acre. He has failed with most crops on that land. But now comes a crop that in a single year enables him to wipe out the mortgage. This phase of the situation will always induce men in those regions to try wheat growing.

It only requires the application of science to make wheat growing a success nearly every year in what we call the semi-arid region. This is shown by the fact that some Russian farmers that settled in McPherson, Ellis, Graham, Harvey and other counties of Kansas have had good crops of wheat every year, even when their neighbors have failed signally. These Russian farmers came from regions where wheat growing is carried on under harder conditions than those that exist generally in the lands under discussion. Cultural methods and varieties of seed must be more systematically studied.

CONVENIENT LADDER.

Its Designer, an Indiana Farmer, Considers It Superior to Other Similar Contrivances.

A ladder which can be changed from a step ladder to a straight in a few moments is something which every farmer should have. The idea is explained in the accompanying cut, the two parts being shown one above the other ready to be put together. The upper round of the wider ladder should be run through the slots in the smaller one. The slots should be two and one-half inches long and just as wide as the



HANDY FARM LADDER.

round. The notches in the end of the inside ladder should rest firmly in the second round of the wider or outside ladder, and the notches in the end of that one on the projecting ends of the round of the narrow one. The sides are made of 1¾x3½ inches, bass wood or poplar. When put together as a long ladder it is nearly as strong as if made of one piece. It takes but a moment to pull it apart enough to shut it up for a step ladder; is handy for picking fruit from trees, etc.—J. L. Vestal, in Epitomist.

GENERAL FARM NOTES.

Salt put on manure heaps will tend to prevent firefranging.

Look over the implements to see if repairs are needed. Then repair them, and not wait until they come into use.

Is your cellar properly ventilated? Most cellars are damp and the air impure and are not healthy. The family lives over the cellar usually and should not be required to breathe impurities.

A farmer who kept 40 head of cattle and 40 horses used well-cured corn fodder chaffed and fed with grain ground and mixed with it and claimed it was worth as much as the corn itself.

Wheat bran is valuable not alone for its nutrition. It is an excellent alternative for stock fed on meadow hay. For milch cows it should be made into a mash.—Agricola, in N. Y. Tribune-Farmer.

The Beet Sugar Industry.

The industry is becoming widely diffused, being already initiated in 11 states by 41 factories. Under any probable conditions, that portion of our supply from Europe must decline. Either the beet-sugar industry will be rapidly extended here, or the supply will come from the cane sugar of Cuba and Hawaii or other tropical regions, where the industry is now firmly established and profitable. Our cane production of the Mexican Gulf coast region is increasing, and will probably increase, though its production costs more and is less certain than in the tropical islands, where the industry promises a new and rapid advance.—Country Gentleman.

Convenient Bushel Crates.

A bushel contains 2,548 cubic inches and can be made by constructing a box or crate whose inside dimensions are 14x14x13 inches. Such crates contain a bushel when level full. For the end pieces select one-inch pine boards, 13 inches wide, and saw them in 14-inch lengths, cut hand holes parallel with the grain of the wood near one edge. This may be done with an auger, the roughness being cut down with a chisel. Next, saw good, strong, four-foot lath into 16-inch lengths. Nail six of these to the end pieces to form the bottom and five to form each of the sides. These crates are inexpensive, durable and easily made.—National Stockman.