

THE FARMER AND HIS FAMILY.

The farmer's family consists of his wife, his children, and his employees. Of these, more important than all the rest is the wife. If there is or ever could be about a farm a being who is entitled to the utmost consideration and respect, it is the one who feeds this family and bears the children. If any one earns an easy time, or the easiest time possible, it is certainly she. And yet I do not believe that there is in all America a farmer so distressed as to willingly change places with his wife.

THE WIFE'S DUES.

The husband, to a great extent, does what he will, the wife, to a great extent, does what she must. The woman, when she marries, voluntarily puts herself in the power of her husband. It is her duty to protect and comfort, she is happy; if it is employed to oppress, she is miserable. It makes little difference whether the result is oppression, she is unhappy. The wife thinks continually of the happiness of her husband and family. She constantly sacrifices herself for their comfort and welfare. If she is repaid by the little attentions she receives before marriage it is all she asks. She seldom gets them, and that this is true is evidence of the meanness of men. Work does not hurt a healthy woman any more than it does a healthy man, and the girl who becomes a farmer's wife expects to work, but she ought not to work more hours than the man does, nor to work at all when unable to do so. She does both. There are very few farmers' wives who do not work hard for days when their husbands, feeling no more able, would lie on the bed and be waited on. Doubtless some of this is inevitable. Most of it is not. The farmer could make his wife as easy as he would like to make her. He thinks less of his wife than of his stomach, and in this American farmers are the worst offenders in the world. We consider the lot of the European wives who work in the field. They probably have an easier life than the American wives who kill themselves cooking and washing dishes while their husbands sit by and smoke.

To most men women are incomprehensible. The lot flowers and ribbons, and all things that are beautiful. They not only love them, but must have them or be unhappy. They like a friendly chat with a neighbor, and a horse to go and see. They are not in the least interested in the monotony of their lives. The farmer may care for none of these things. His work is not monotonous and his business takes him about. He comes home to rest, while his wife must go away to rest. These things she pays for, and if she does not get them she is cheated and yet cannot help herself. The wife studies her husband and knows him through and through. No weakness of hers is hid from her, and since she will not pay his debt to her in a manly way, she plays upon his weakness to get her due by indirection. Watching her time she cooks a good dinner and then asks for help to make her flower garden. The rest obtained by going away from home, and the pleasure of a flower garden, and neatness about the house, are part of the necessary cost of carrying on any farm. These and similar things are the wife's dues. This man owes them. If he does not pay, he defaults, simply because his wife is helpless. She gives her love and her life. She is entitled to affection in return, shown daily in the little things that make up her life. And how she repays such things! The wife will work herself to death for a kind word, and deem it happiness. As a pure matter of business it is as profitable to treat a wife well as it is to feed a steer well.

Men are accustomed to assume that they alone provide the family income. This is not true. In farmers' families it is true that the man usually provides the gross income, but the net income is what counts, and for this the woman is in great part responsible. Money saved by the wife is as much a contribution to family support as money earned by the husband. The wife's contribution to the partnership has upon the average as much pecuniary value as that of the man. In some cases it is more, and in other cases less. The man, being stronger, is not inclined to recognize this. The woman is entitled to control one-half the net family income, and the intelligent use of what she needs for enjoyment. She has the same right as her partner to take partnership funds for individual use.

EQUITY TO CHILDREN.

If a man has children he has a certain duty towards them. If unwilling to discharge that duty he should not marry. If he has a family and neglects his duty he is as much a defaulter as if he falls to pay money that is due. I have no occasion or intent to discuss the duties of parents to children except in so far as they are peculiar to the condition of the farmer. The farmer's children are more subject to illusions than those brought up in towns and cities, because they are brought less in contact with reality. Their imagination is stimulated by the unwholesome fiction which constitutes much of what is called literature in country homes, and their tendency is to acquire a distaste for country life and a longing for the imaginary ease of the city. This tendency is increased by the unquestionably authentic statements of remarkable successes achieved by American country boys who, with no special training for anything, found

their way to the city and prospered. It is the duty of the farmer to impress his children with the truth that the day when such things were possible to the ordinary boy is forever gone in this country. Ninety-nine out of every hundred who heretofore may try this route to success will fail. Every avenue to employment in American cities is now choked as completely as it has been for centuries in Europe. In every mercantile or manufacturing establishment those already employed are constantly on the watch for every opening in behalf of their own dependents and friends. There are twenty applicants for every place. It is also an age of specialization. The boy wanted now, who any is wanted, is not one who is willing to do anything, but one who knows how to do something. The farmer's duty, therefore, is to train his children to be either farmers or something else. Some trade or profession they must have, or they will be terribly handicapped in the race of life. City boys themselves understand this. Country boys do not realize it.

There are many things which are desirable in life, but out of school, shelter, and clothing are essential. These are easiest come by in the country, and country life will therefore always be easier than city life. The boys do not realize this, and it is a farmer's duty to seek to convince them. At the same time the city will always be recruited from the country, and of those who go to the city a certain portion will succeed.

SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO WORK.

But the best evidence of probable success in city life is unusual effectiveness on the farm. The boy who is most likely to be successful elsewhere. The shiftless boy may be a genius but is probably a defective one. The boys and girls, therefore, should be trained to work. The old-fashioned doctrine that boys were bound to work for their fathers until twenty-one years of age is thoroughly wholesome and useful. The children have duties to parents as well as parents to children, and children ought not to expect that their parents are evidently unable to bestow.

LEARN TO WORK BY WORKING.

A man's duty to his children is measured by his ability. He is not bound to impoverish himself or burden his declining years with debt, in order to make life easy for his children. The boy who attains influential position in life will do so by the qualities inherent in himself. All his father can do is to aid in preparing him for a useful career. When he does this to the extent of his ability he has done his duty. In so far as he fails to do what in reason he can, he fails of his duty. American fathers seldom fall in their desire or effort to do well by their children, but often do fall in good judgment. It is the nature of children to play, and it is proper that they should do so, but it is also essential that they acquire habits of work, and not only of work but of responsibility. The farmer has in this respect great advantage over the resident of the city. He always has light work for which he can make his children responsible. This should be begun at an early age and increase as his day grows older. Until, after fifteen years of age, the greater part of his time, when not in school, should be devoted to work. It is by work only that the habit of work can be acquired, and only by exercising responsibility, can a faithful and judgment be tested. When the circumstances of the parents permit, it may be well to give boys a pecuniary interest in what they do, but, so far as the boy is concerned, the value of it is mainly in giving him the experience of the utility of earning money and the importance of keeping it. The majority of children must look forward to a life of work, prudence and small reward. The farmer's son who remains on the farm will, as long as he looks forward to a life of independence—working on his own land. Not one in a hundred of those who drift off to cities can possibly achieve anything but a subordinate position in which he must do the will of another, so long as he lives. The farmer owes to the son the duty of making him understand this. Neither is a modest life an unhappy life.

EDUCATION AND GOOD BOOKS.

Aside from the common school the best education which farmers' children can have is good books. Of these, good biographies of successful men are undoubtedly the best. They supply the consecutive "story" which the young mind craves, and incidentally convey useful information. The daily paper in the farmer's house is a nuisance. Nine-tenths of what it contains is of no value to anybody, and a great part of it is positively injurious. Few young people take kindly to books of a purely instructive character, but those who do should be supplied with them. If there are signs of an especial bent towards any useful occupation, it should be encouraged, whether in boys or girls. The city youths have a great advantage over those of the country in the great libraries to which they have access. This deficiency of country life it is the duty of the farmer to supply to the best of his ability.

TRAIN IN HABITS OF WORK.

In short, the duty of the father as a farmer seems to me to be to get out of his children's hands the notion that city life is in any way easier than country life; to train them to habits of work and responsibility not beyond their strength and their years; and to the best of his ability to supply them with the means of getting useful information. When this is done, if there is anything in them of value it will develop itself. If there is not, that is the end

FARMERS' EMPLOYEES.

The farmer's employes will be mostly young men. Toward them his duty is to make their lives such as he would be willing that his own son should live. The old custom of farmers' sons "hiring out" to neighboring farmers seems to be gradually dying out. It was a good custom, and yet nothing that I can say is likely to revive it. Farmers' sons seem inclined to drift off to work among strangers and to spend what they earn in hunting for new jobs. In the end they tend to degenerate into the irresponsible and transient laboring class with which farmers and employers of unskilled labor have to deal. Away from the restraints of home and family influences, their tendency downward. What each farmer can do to check this, is to employ farmers' sons of his acquaintance so far as he can do so, and whoever he employs, to treat them with social consideration. The faithful young man who works on a farm is a better man for the farmer he works for. If he is not treated as such he will be discontented. There is no social distinction between the farmer and the farm hand. If one is artificially set up, desirable men will not be attracted to the farm, and the most promising opening for the son of the farmer himself be cut off.—Edward F. Adams in the Modern Farmer.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The relics obtained by the French scientific commission in its two years' excavation of the sites of ancient Persian cities seem to belong to a civilization much older than that of Chaldea. Under the ancient city of Susa were found tablets bearing pictorial characters and those are held by M. Jacques de Morgan, the leader of the expedition, to prove conclusively that the Chaldeans were not the inventors of printed language, but that it dates from a much earlier time. In the latest historical city, about 30 feet below the surface, were brick buildings, without trace of metal or writing. The earliest settlement was 30 feet lower, and contained rude pottery and flint implements; while in the second of the prehistoric settlements were an enormous number of the flint teeth of sickles, indicating an agricultural and grain-growing population. The sickles were modeled after the lower jaw of the ox, as in ancient Egypt, but all the flint implements were of a hand-made, showing no acquaintance with the wheel used in predynastic Egypt.

The highest point at which flowering plants have been found, according to a recent paper to the London Linnean Society, was in Tibet at 19,200 feet. Nine cities, was in Tibet at 12,200 feet. Nine higher. The plants were mostly of the order Compositae, and deep-rooting perennial herbs having a rosette of leaves close to the ground, with the flowers closely nestled in the center, are characteristic of these altitudes. In the Bolivian Andes Sir Martin Conway found two species of flowering plants at 15,700 feet and 29 above 14,900 feet, the latter belonging to 34 genera and 21 natural orders.

Nearly half a century ago the crumbling of ordinary white tin into powdery grey tin was noticed as an effect of intensely cold weather. The phenomenon has been lately investigated by E. Cohen and C. Van Eijk, who find that not only does cold produce this result but that hot weather tends to change the grey tin to white tin, the transition-point being about 70 degrees F. Either change becomes perceptible nearer the transition-point if chloride of tin and ammonium be present.

In a record of observations on the microscopic life of Arctic regions, Dr. Levis states that the air in numerous localities showed only a few moulds. In water from the sea-surface bacteria were always found, but in very small numbers—perhaps 1,000 to the quart; while water from glaciers, snow, streams, and melted snow showed no evidence of bacteria, but of very few. In water from the deep sea these organisms were more abundant than on the surface. With the exception of a single species of bacterium found in one hole in the ice, the intentional contents of the white bear, seal shark, elder duck and other Arctic vertebrates were absolutely sterile; but bacteria were almost invariably present in the lower marine animals. These observations on germs, interesting as of especial importance and interest, as they confirm the idea of Pasteur and a few others that bacteria are not essential to digestion.

In the epidermis of man and mammals Prof. L. Ranvier has recognized seven distinct layers, which are described to the Royal Microscopical Society as stratum germinativum, papillatum, granulosum, intermedium, lucidum, corneum and disjunctum. In the order of their development. The limits are well defined, each layer having distinct physical characters and chemical reactions. These layers are not formed by special elements, however, and a cell originating in stratum germinativum becomes changed and passes into stratum papillatum, and so on through the series.

Experiments have been made by Prof. Mosso at Geneva to test the food value of sugar in cases of exhaustions from hunger. His results confirm the theory that sugar is assimilated by the blood, and showed a rapid rise in temperature within ten or fifteen minutes after a small quantity of sugar was eaten by a long-fasting animal, the effect reaching a maximum in one to two hours. Sugar restored life to dogs suffering from loss of vital heat, when albumin could not save them.

The mixing of solid metals is one of the marvels of modern physics. After

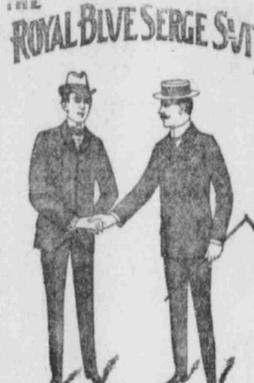
keeping a cylinder of gold and one of lead together for four years, at about 65 degrees F., Sir W. Roberts-Austen finds that the gold has slowly but surely made its way into, or mixed with, the lead.

Quartz crystal cannot be used like glass on account of the high temperature required to melt it. Lenses made from it by grinding, and in some apparatus have been drawn out while the material was softened by the oxyhydrogen flame. The late success in making thermometers and Geissler tubes has been reached after long experiment. The splintering of the silica when heated has been overcome by dropping red-hot pieces into water, and with the opaque, non-splintering material thus produced, Messrs. W. A. Stoneman and H. G. Lacell have been able to build up rods of small size by successively adding fragments to a minute spot in the silica kept fused by the oxy-gas blowpipe. Tubes are formed by blowing several of these little rods about a platinum wire, then causing the rods to adhere by manipulation in the blow-pipe flame, and finally withdrawing the wire. The tubes can be drawn out or enlarged by methods similar to those of glass-blowing, and it is believed that small flasks could be made if their value would justify the expense.

The width of a flash of lightning has been measured by George Rankin, of the Hamburg observatory. A photograph was secured last August as lightning struck a tower a third of a mile away, and from the distance of the tower and the focal distance of the camera objective it was possible to calculate the breadth of the discharge shown in the picture. It has been determined that the flash was one-fifth of an inch wide. Ramifications shown in the photograph on each side of the main discharge are attributed to the strong gale that was blowing, the phenomenon appearing like a silk ribbon with shreds floating in the wind.

In most egg-preserving processes the pores of the shell are imperfectly closed by mechanical means. Karl Reinhard, of Kaiserslautern, dips the eggs into sulphuric acid for a short time, chemically changing part of the lime carbonate of the shell into a dense coating of lime sulphate. This is claimed to keep out the air effectually, thus preventing spoiling for a long time.

A severe sprain will usually disable the injured person for three or four weeks. Many cases have occurred, however, in which a cure has been effected in less than one week by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm.



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