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Central Pharmacy.

The most peculiar thing about a weather prophet is his ability to make himself believe a prediction after he has missed eleven in succession.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

A California woman, Miss Mabel Adams Ayer of San Francisco, has succeeded in training a number of butterflies. Sugar and water are the inducements and the little winged pets go through quite a few performances.

Edwin H. Conger, United States minister at Peking, is said to expect to return home the middle of next year, not to return to the orient. It has been intimated that he may be appointed to represent the United States in Mexico.

The senate of the fifty-eighth congress will go down in history as having witnessed an unprecedented number of members accused of crime. Three senators have been indicted for the use of influence to control governmental action, for which they are accused of having accepted compensation. These are Charles H. Dietrich of Nebraska, Joseph R. Burton of Kansas and John H. Michell of Oregon.

Wills Proved by Testator.

An important change in the probate of wills has been suggested to the Indiana commission appointed to revise the laws of that state. The innovation contemplates the proving of a will while the testator is living, in order to prevent a contest after his death. The proposed act provides that a person may, after giving notice to his heirs, go into court and have his will established. The document may be either probated openly in court, with its provisions made public, or it may be proved without the contents being known by the document being authenticated by the signature of the judge and the seal of the court. The proceeding is in no sense compulsory. The legislation is favored by lawyers, who believe that the sanctity of wills would be preserved if they could be proved in the presence of the testator.

Half a dozen veteran congressmen were telling stories in a committee-room the other afternoon when one of the number recalled how "Dave" Henderson of Iowa escaped being fined \$5,000 while the Miller tariff bill was under discussion. It had been difficult to maintain a quorum and the house directed the sergeant at arms to compel the presence of absent members. One by one they were brought in and on one pretext or another were allowed to go unpunished. At midnight Henderson was brought before the speaker. He declared he had no excuse to offer, whereupon another Iowa man moved that he be fined \$5,000. Half a hundred seconds were immediately heard. Speaker Carlisle put the motion and about 200 voices yelled "aye." Then the speaker called for the noes, and Henderson in agonized tones alone responded. "The noes have it," gravely said the speaker, "and the gentleman is excused."

Growth of Independent Voting.

Upon one thing the country is to be congratulated. It was on both sides chiefly a campaign of appeal to the mind and convictions of the voters, and there was greater indication than ever before that the American citizen is thinking for himself and acting with freedom from party trammel and prejudice. However true it may be that in a country like ours two permanent and well organized parties are necessary, it cannot be too boldly said that even more necessary is the freedom of intelligent voters, not merely to fluctuate between parties, but to vote according to their convictions from time to time, about individual men and particular measures. In a recent campaign, the freedom of the voters expressed itself in their action regarding a public measure—namely, the monetary standard. In the election of last month, on the other hand, the freedom of the voters expressed itself preference for a man. It was not that the voters were repudiating Judge Parker, for whom they entertained a courteous and kindly feeling (except as this feeling may have changed on account of his charges at the end of the campaign), but rather that they were endorsing Mr. Roosevelt and his administration. Judge Parker early on election evening sent the President the following well-expressed telegram:

"The people by their votes have emphatically approved your administration, and I congratulate you."

This, of course, was the true way to interpret the result. It was an endorsement of the President, and a vote of full confidence in his public views and official policies. Further than that, however, the vote was an enthusiastic tribute to Theodore Roosevelt, the man and the citizen. If there had been nothing else to turn the scale, that very considerable element of the young voters casting their first ballot in a Presidential year would have assured the result. The President's hold upon the young men of the country is not confined to any one class. Strong as it is in the schools and colleges, it is probably still stronger on the farm and in the workshop.—From "The Progress of the World," in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for December.

Sand Will Do It.

I observed a locomotive in the railroad yards one day. It was waiting in the run house where the locomotives sit. It was painted for its journey, it was coated and fully equipped. And it had a box in the fireman's filling full of sand.

It appears that locomotives can not always get a grip. On the sand under the wheels, because the wheels are not slipping. And when they reach a slippery spot their traction is lost. And to get a grip upon the rail they sprinkle it with sand.

It's about the way with travel along life's slippery track. If your load is rather heavy you're a ways slipping back. So, if a common locomotive you completely outfit yourself in starting with a good supply of sand.

If your track is steep and hilly and you have a heavy load. If those who've gone before you have the rails quite slippery. And if you ever reach the summit of the upper table land.

You'll find you have to do it with a liberal use of sand.

If you strike some frigid weather and discover to your cost. That you're liable to slip on a heavy coat of ice.

Then some prompt decided action will be called into demand. And you'll slip "way to the bottom" if you haven't any sand.

You can get to any station that is on life's rail road.

If there's fire beneath the boiler of ambition. And you'll reach a place called "Flashtown" at a rate that would melt a lead.

If for all the slippery places you've a good supply of SAND.—Richmond (Ind.) Register.

Gigantic Corn Crop.

The state of Iowa has raised this year 300,000,000 bushels of corn. Talk about gold mines! We would like to know if this is not one? This crop is worth, to sell by the bushel, not less than \$100,000,000. Fed out, as most of it will be, it is worth more than \$125,000,000. It would require 450,000 freight cars of a capacity of 666 bushels each to transport it. These cars, if connected, would reach a distance of 3,500 miles. But only a small part of it will seek a market in this way. It will go to market in refrigerator cars or fine creamery butter, in stock cars filled with fat steers and hogs. It will go to market in egg cases and Christmas turkeys, as syrup, cornstarch and other forms. It would, if made into whisky, keep the people of common wealth drunk for forty years. It will pay mortgages, beautify homes, educate the boys and girls and all of a plane of living among its producers hardly reached by any other people of the world. And most of it is stolen from the sun and the sun left none for the poor. Corn in Egypt was all right in its day, but corn in Iowa beats it. Any county in the state could feed all the tribes of the Hebrews. The work is about done. Cover the corncribs, put away the throw boards, go out and size up the bursting cribs, then go in the house and watch mother take a golden brown johnnycake from the oven and set it before you for the evening meal; then return thanks that your lot is cast in the great corn belt of Iowa.—State Register.

Winter Feed For Poultry.

The approach of winter calls for a few thoughts regarding the proper food our fowls will need for egg production. Hundreds of methods are advanced, and the majority of them have merit, says M. K. Boyer, in Poultry Journal. There are several well-balanced commercial foods upon the market that are excellent. But it is not always convenient to secure foods, therefore, we can recommend the following bill of fare: Buy twenty-five pounds each of bran, middlings, corn meal and ground oats; also fifteen pounds of meat scraps or ground meat and five pounds of oil meal. Mix all thoroughly and place in a barrel for use. If your flocks consume a bucket of mash at a meal, let half that amount be cooked clover hay, and the other half ground feed as above. Mix the grain and hay thoroughly while hot. Feed for breakfast warm.

Now for caution: Do not feed all the fowls on eat for breakfast. Give them just enough to partly satisfy them, otherwise they will not exercise until they again become hungry. We make it a half meal that is, half the quantity we would give were it a night feed.

We prefer a morning mash to that given at night, for several reasons: First. The food is in such a condition that it is quickly assimilated and therefore will do the most good. Second. It being soft food, it quickly digests and thus, when fed at night, leaves the fowls with empty crops before morning, causing more or less suffering from cold, which is not the case when the crop is full of grain. We have tried the different methods, and found the morning mash to be superior. About noon we throw a "half-feed" of wheat or hulled oats among a lot of litter in a scratching shed, for five days in the week, and on the remaining two days we give green cut-bone.

At night we give all the grain they will eat up clean. We use a mixture of equal parts of wheat and cracked corn, and add sunflower seed, barley and buckwheat when we can get them. Grit and cracked oyster shell are constantly within reach.

After fully twenty years experiment we have found the above bill of fare excellent for laying stock. Green food is scarce in the winter and therefore cut clover hay comes in an excellent substitute. Cooked vegetables are also good, so long as they are not fed to excess. They are generally of a fattening nature, and also cause considerable bowel trouble. It is better to cut up the vegetables to the size of corn and feed raw.—Farmers Tribune.

BEDS AND BEDDING.

Something That Should Always Get Careful Attention.

No part of housekeeping should be more sharply looked after than that which leads to do with beds and bedding. Everything about a bed should be aired thoroughly every day, and everything should be kept up to the top notch of cleanliness.

Mattresses should be dusted daily, for dust seems to go to them and cling to them as if by some curious law of attraction. They should be thoroughly gone over—taken apart and cleaned inside and out, that is—at least once in three years, often if possible. Every good housekeeper cleans bed, springs and mattress as regularly as any other part of her house, but comparatively few realize how important it is to have their mattresses opened and cleaned periodically.

Yet dust and dirt sift through ticking and collect in an alarming way. Men who manipulate those cleaning machines—"tickers"—say that dust from a single mattress filling comes out in thick clouds during the operation of cleaning.

Blankets should be aired as persistently as mattresses—aired and shaken vigorously every day.

The best kind of blankets to buy varies with the buyer. All wool are usually considered the best, but blankets with a cotton warp and wool "filling" stand home cleaning better than those made of all wool.

A WIFE'S ALLOWANCE.

The Method Which One Woman Says Solves the Problem.

Much has been written about the wife's allowance, but I believe that my husband has found the simplest solution of the problem. He is a professional man, so his income is very irregular, and no regular sum is set aside for household expenses. The money is all placed in the bank in his name, but the bank officials have orders to accept my check for any amount he has on deposit. Whenever any money is needed for household or personal expenses I simply draw on the deposit, marking the checks with "H" for house or "P" for personal expenses. When any article costing a considerable sum is purchased it is paid for with a separate check, and the check so marked. He does the same, and no questions are ever asked as to what the money was used for. The only account we keep of expenditures is the canceled checks which are returned each month by the bank. We have always lived within our income and saved something each year.—Good Housekeeping.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Kerosene oil and a soft cloth will take mahogany furniture in fine condition.

An alcohol lamp or a heating contrivance on a gas jet is handy in the bedroom.

To make a low room look higher let the curtains hang to the floor. Short curtains make the room look lower than it is.

Fine tablecloths should be frequently changed, so that they do not become much soiled, thus preventing the necessity of rubbing them to remove soil and stains. This rule holds with all fine linens.

When dusting use a slightly damp cloth, for it will gather up and hold the dust far better than a dry one. This plan, however, should not be followed in the case of black polished furniture, as the damp cloth frequently gives it a smeared appearance.

A Soft Egg.

Miss Farmer's book, "Food and Cookery for the Sick," gives directions for preparing a soft egg which have been tried and found to be excellent. Her directions are: Break an egg into a china cup and place the cup in a pan of hot, not boiling, water. About 175 degrees F. is the proper temperature. As soon as the white of the egg begins to cook stir away from the sides of the cup with a silver spoon. When the white is of a jelly-like consistency, break the yolk and mix it with the white. Add salt and butter and serve in the cup in which it was cooked.

How to Test Coffee.

Genuine roasted coffee of no matter what brand is not so light in color as cold water, nor will the bean lose its smooth surface or hard, tough consistency when subjected to a soaking of any duration, whereas chicory and other imitations become soft and spongy when soaked and render the water muddy, so that it is only necessary to give the suspect a bath to determine its genuineness, says Good Housekeeping. Of course the bean must be tried before grinding and the water must be cold; otherwise the test will not be conclusive.

Good Clothes.

A desire for good clothes these days is no longer regarded as vanity. It is an indication rather of common sense. Almost every woman nowadays, no matter what her station of life, considers it a duty to be neatly and attractively dressed. In fact, well made and modish clothes are quite as essential to the business woman as to the girl of fashion, for frocks offendments are an outward expression of an inner grace. As an index of character clothes count for much.

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