

Setting Hens.

This is the season when hens run mad and will not be comforted unless they can hide away somewhere and sit day and night on a wooden nest egg or an old door-knob.

Several men were discussing this question in a grocery store one evening recently. A man who owns a large flock of Dorkings remarked, "Not even an act of Congress can break up a settin' hen."

"Ever tried jammin' 'em under a barrel an' pourin' water on 'em?" demanded the man on the sugar barrel.

"Yes," said the Dorking man, "I've poured water on 'em 'till they grew web-footed, like a blamed duck, and afterward found 'em in an old coal hod settin' away on lumps of coal."

"Tie a red rag round one wing," said a man who was eating cheese and crackers. "That'll fix 'em."

"Might's well offer 'em a chromo," said the Dorking man. "I tied a whole red woolen shirt on one last spring, and dog my cats if she didn't make a nest of it and set three weeks on the buttons!"

Then the grocer said it was time to close up, and each man girded up his loins and slowly filed out. — *Detroit Free Press.*

Longevity of Opium Eaters.

It is a singular fact that the use of opium does not, like that of alcohol, shorten life. This is a fact rather startling to the mortalist. Schlegel speaks of a woman who lived upon opium from her 49th to her 70th year, and Dr. Shaughnessy, of Calcutta, who made the subject a study, says: "The longevity of opium eaters is proverbial. John Randolph died at 60, Coleridge at 62, Hoel at 66; DeQuincy lived to be 72 years of age, while Lamartine died at the advanced age of 77. Morewood, in his sketches of Persia, relates that the Khan of Schiraz took opium enough at a time to poison thirty persons, yet he lived to be 96 years of age." — *Cincinnati Enquirer.*

CURIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC.

In spite of the bious opposition of the *London Times*, the British Association for the Advancement of Science will meet in Canada next year.

MILK of improved quality has decreased the death-rate among children under 5 years of age in New York from 52 to 46 per 1,000, says the *Medical Record.*

CAREFUL experiment has shown that trichinae are not killed by keeping the meat inhabited by them in salt for fifteen months. Mice fed with such meat became infected with the parasites.

THEY are raising a row with a young man in New Jersey who was engaged to marry thirteen different girls. It's getting so a man can't have any fun at all in that State.

THE old proverb, "Where there's a will there's a way," has been revised to suit the situation. It now reads: "When there's a bill we're away." — *Chicago Tribune.*

CO-OPERATION is a very economical move, but it doesn't work well when two women, who are joint owners in a fine hair switch, both want to go out upon the same day.

"THOUGH a comma is a slight thing, it has its uses. Punctuation would have been neglected long ago as a serious incumbrance if men of letters had not come to the conclusion that they could not write intelligibly without paying due attention to it."

A REMARKABLE proof has lately been given by M. Janssen of the great purity and dryness of the atmosphere on the high desert-plateaus of Algeria. At Mecheira, a military station there, at which he spent a month, devoting his attention specially to the atmosphere of Venus, he was able to see the satellites of Jupiter with the naked eye; and to apply an eight-inch telescope, magnifying 150 times, to the study of the lunar craters illuminated merely by earth-shine, the moon being four days old. Thus favorably placed, and using highly dispersive and perfect spectroscopic apparatus, he is obliged to confess that, relying on spectrum-analysis alone, there must be more reserve than has been shown about affirming the presence of aqueous vapor in the atmosphere of Venus. Any optical evidence of it in the spectrum is very slight.

Sunlight Not White but Blue.

Since the time of Newton it has been assumed that all the radiations of the sun were to be found in the spectrum, and that these reunited make white light. There is also a tacit assumption that white light is pure sunlight. Some of the early experiments at Allegheny have been mentioned which showed that the light, as we receive it, has been somewhat altered by the sun's atmosphere. The change is an absorption of rays from the blue end of the spectrum. It follows that our sunlight is more red and less blue, and far less intense than it would be if the solar atmosphere did not intervene. But we are concerned with something nearer home. Our own atmosphere repeats the performance, strangles many rays at the blue end of the spectrum, and comparatively few at the red end. What does this mean? Let us shake hands with our friend who wears green goggles. We, too, have all our lives seen things in a false light. If we could place ourselves outside our atmosphere—say on the moon—we should find that sunlight is not white; that the sun itself is really blue. To the inhabitants of other worlds than ours, the sun may be a blue star. — *Scientific American.*

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