## HUMOROUS.

—What is popular opinion to-day may become unpopular opinion to-morrow.—Texas Sifter.

—If the earth is so very old, as some scientists contend, why does it continue to run around so much at nights? —Texas Sifter.

—"Dorothy has wonderful self-control." "Why do you think so?" "She could tell lots of things that happened 30 years ago, but she never does."—Chicago Record.

—Mrs. Kingsley—"I declare, to this day my cook can't tell a piece of cut glass when she sees it." Mrs. Bingo—"She has been with you for some years, hasn't she?"—Detroit Free Press.

—"I don't object so much to being put off," said a bill collector recently, "as I do to the old gag you are giving me about wanting to keep the bill in order to see if it is correct."—Atchison Globe.

—Crummer—"Yokes seems to be very angry at the deacon." Gilleland—"Yes. You see he got mad at him and called him a fool and the deacon in replying addressed him as 'brother.'"—Truth.

—Philanthropist—"You say you have not a thing in the house to eat, and no means of getting anything; but I notice you have three fine looking bicycles. Money enough ought to be raised upon them to keep you in food for a long time." Applicant—"How do you expect we can bear up under our privations unless we have our wheels to occupy our minds?"—Boston Transcript.

## SHREWD OFFICE RATS.

**Take Advantage of a Law of Physics to Escape Capture.**

The employes of the Jersey City Printing company have for a long time been troubled by rats. The rodents are of unusual size, and are extremely bold. They are boldest after dark, and think nothing of running over the feet of the employes.

Several cats were placed in the building, with the hope that they would exterminate the rats, but the latter made it so warm for the cats that they were driven away.

Various schemes have been worked to entrap the rodents, but with little success. Finally Engineer August Krone hit upon a scheme that for a time bade fair to be just the thing. He screwed an old zinc oil-tank about three feet in height, and then fastened on the edge a two-foot piece of board. Then he arranged the board so that it would swing up and down, with one end inside the tank. He placed a piece of bologna sausage, fastened with a rubber band, on the edge of the tank, and half filled the vessel with water. A few pieces of cheese were placed along the other end of the board to coax the rats on.

The trap was set where rats are thickest, in the basement, and in a few minutes a rat climbed upon the end of the board, which protruded outside the tank, and rested upon a support. The rodent ate the cheese, and then went for the bologna. As it reached the bait, the other end of the board tipped up, and the rat with a squeak, fell into the water and was drowned.

"Oh, that's the drick," said the engineer, and his assistants said August had a great head.

Within ten minutes six more rats walked the plank, and then there was a remarkable display of rat's cuteness.

Two rodents climbed the pile of papers, and while one stood on the safe end of the board the other carfully made its way to the tempting bologna, and devoured half of it. The rats then changed places, and the other rat ate the rest of the bologna and half the rubber band.

The engineer scratched his head, and the other spectators said something about people going to a lot of trouble for nothing.

During the afternoon no more rats were caught, but a lot of cheese was eaten by them. The engineer solemnly avers that he saw the rats not only balance one another on the board while the tempting bait was devoured, but that the rodents actually engaged in a game of see-saw, simply for amusement. August still has faith in his patent rat trap, but nobody else has.—Newark Advertiser.

**Vitality of Toads.**

We have all read of the discovery of toads "in solid stratas of stone," where food and air sufficient to sustain life could not have possibly been had. We have not only read these stories, but the majority of us have put them down as Mulhatton yarns, which were written by someone who did not expect them to be believed. Now comes the scientist M. Victor Lagroche, who says that he has imprisoned toads in masses of mixed plaster of Paris and found them "well, fat and hearty after a lapse of eight years." He argues that if such creatures can live for years without air or light they "can continue to live on in definitely."—Chicago Chronicle.

**Discrimination.**

The young man with longish hair was gazing abstractedly out of the car window when the fatherly old gentleman came along looking for a seat. Having settled himself in comfort, he engaged his neighbor in conversation.

"Been on a long journey?" he asked.

"Not very."

"On business?"

"No, sir. In pursuit of my profession."

"Oh! Excuse me. Might I ask what the difference is?"

"My business, sir, is selling things in a hardware store; but my profession is acting."—Washington Star.

**Explained.**

Ned—Why, I never saw a lovelier girl than Miss Atherton, and she seems to be very fond of you. What do you mean by saying that there are weighty objections to your marriage?

Jack—Have you seen her father?

"Why, no."

"Well, he weighs 240 pounds."—Somerville Journal.

# FARM AND GARDEN.

## NEAT CATTLE QUARTERS.

**How to Improve Old-Fashioned Dairy Barn Tie-Ups.**

The cattle quarters in most of the barns some time built are objectionable for the following reasons: The old, stiff stanchions are generally in use, depriving the cows of proper comfort. The platform on which the cattle stand is not high enough to keep their flanks out of the droppings, nor is there a gutter in the rear to hold the solid and liquid manure, the floor usually being so open that all the liquid runs to waste—the best part of the dressing. There is also no walk behind the cows, but one must pick his way through the manure—a filthy condition of things

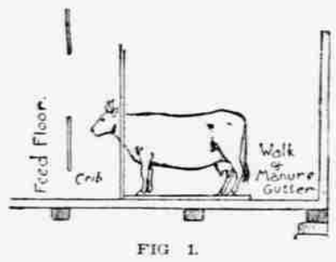


FIG 1.

It is useless to talk to the average farmer whose barn is in this shape of what ought to be done, if "what ought to be done" involves the building of new cattle quarters. It is, therefore, more sensible to plan how these old "tie-ups" may be made more serviceable, with some simple interior alterations. With this end in view, two illustrations are given herewith, the first showing the arrangement of the old-fashioned cattle stalls, to be found so frequently at the present day, and the other a remodeled version of it. In the latter it will be seen that the platform has been raised and moved forward, bringing the cattle's heads up to the side of the feeding floor, a part of the partition being hinged to let down, so as to form a crib for hay. Uprights four or more inches apart

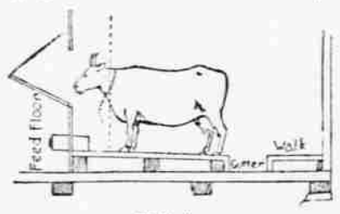


FIG 2.

keep the hay from coming down under the cattle's feet. Chains for the neck take the place of stiff stanchions. A raised walk in the rear is added, room being afforded between this and the platform for a manure gutter, which should be lined with cement. A feed box for grain, roots or ensilage slips in from the feeding-floor like a draw, and can be removed when empty. This plan looks to the saving of all the manure and to the greater comfort of the cows and those who have to care for them, while the changes that would have to be made to secure these advantages would be inexpensive. With the changes suggested ought to be mentioned also the need in the average old-fashioned barn of more windows to let in light and sunshine.—N. Y. Tribune.

## ABOUT MILK FEVER.

**Useful Hints on the Subject from the Rhode Island Station.**

Bulletin 6 of Rhode Island station, is an illustrated pamphlet on milk fever. This is a brain disease, caused by too much or too little blood. Many cows, it says, inherits a predisposition to milk fever, the Jerseys being especially liable to it. Over-feeding and want of exercise are frequent causes of the disease. The symptoms are chill, twitching of muscles of head and face, stoppage of milk and urine, "padding" with hind feet, staggering, grinding the teeth, and sometimes violent tossing of head, and bellowing. Treatment: Put the cow in a warm place, wrap the body closely in a sheet wrung out of cold water, and wrap several blankets over the sheet. Blanket the neck, and rub limbs with wisps of straw. After perspiration starts change sheets every half hour. Make the bowels act by injecting eserine under the skin, or giving the following: One ounce powdered nux vomica, two ounces tartar emetic, 18 ounces glauber salts, 4½ pounds fine salt—all boiled ten minutes in two quarts water, and give one-fourth of the entire quantity every half hour. If cow is down, keep her propped up on brisket. If she bloats, puncture the paunch from above the hollow just in front of "haunch" bone. When sheet and blankets are removed, cover her with a dry blanket to prevent chill. Squibb's fluid extract of ergot is a good preventive and cure.

## DAIRY SUGGESTIONS.

A good dairy cow should be trained to stand quietly in milking, so that the milker can readily use both hands.

It is less work to wash the buttermilk out of the butter when in a granular form, and it can be done more effectively.

The rate of consumption of cheese in America is about three pounds per capita per annum.

Let one person do the milking, if possible. Cows get used to a milker, and almost invariably "hold up" their milk when a new milker comes. Too frequent changing of milkers has ruined many a cow.

Practice and chemistry agree that good clover hay is the best roughness which can be used in the dairy; but, remember that poor clover hay is poor cow feed. The leaves are lost when tumbled about too much after it is dry.

Don't hire at any price a man who has a bad temper; he will ruin your cows. Don't hire one who is not a good milker; he will dry off your cows. Don't employ a man or boy who is not willing to learn to carry out your instructions. —Rural World.

## COUNTRY AND CITY.

**The Farm Laborer's Lot Is Not So Bad as Many Imagine.**

Those who work by the month on the farm are apt to regard their circumstances with disfavor when they hear of the wages which labor of no higher grade commands in our large cities. But they will find, if they investigate the matter, that the farm laborer is usually as well paid as his city brother, and oftentimes a great deal better. In the city of Pittsburgh at present all the carpenters and artisans of a similar grade that are wanted can be had for two dollars per day. Many cannot find work at that. All over western Pennsylvania good "common" labor can be had at prices from one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents per day. Those who have contracts for public works, such as railroads, pipe lines, etc., are overwhelmed with applications for work.

Wages like $1.50, $2, or $2.50 per day look pretty big to the man who the year round makes but 50 cents in cash, but they are not so big as they look. They are often inconstant. A good many skilled laborers can work only a part of the year, but rent and other living expenses must be paid all the time. The city laborer must pay cash for everything, including many things which the farmhand is either furnished or permitted to raise for himself free of cost. Unless a workman of the two-dollar grade has constant employment in a city like Pittsburgh he is very likely to find the balance on the wrong side at the end of the year. If he has a family to support he must often live in cramped quarters, and must raise his children amid surroundings unfavorable to their physical and moral development. Contrast this picture with the man on the farm, who, if he has a family, is often furnished a house at little or no cost, is permitted to raise his vegetables, dairy products and meat, and is paid wages besides. Or with the single man who is kept and if economical has most of his wages at the end of the year. The country laborer who investigates the matter thoroughly will be very slow to change his certain employment and inexpensive living for a place where the reverse is unfortunately too common.—National Stockman.

## EARLY STRAWBERRIES.

**Some of the Varieties Which Have Given Satisfactory Results.**

The very early strawberry fighting for life amid the quickly alternating extremes of heat and cold of early spring is apt to be generally inferior to varieties ripening later and under more favorable conditions. Laboring under so many disadvantages from weather it must have all the advantages that soil can give to attain any degree of excellence. With all these advantages many more early strawberries prove failures than any other kind. After many years' experience and the testing of many hundreds of varieties, I find that the Murray and the Improved Westbrook are the best. I have tested them fully. Both ripen their fruit before Crescent—or such varieties called early—begin to ripen at all. As experienced growers know, this is very early indeed. Both are very prolific, of the most perfect and brilliant red, and about the finest and best shippers I ever saw. Their size is good averaging with Crescent. Being pistillates they should have Meek's Early planted every fourth row as pollenizers. Eleanor I have not fully tested, but experienced and reliable growers pronounce it the earliest and most valuable berry known. But like all very early varieties the above must have rich soil and clean culture. One hundred bushels of cotton seed or half a ton of cotton seed meal, or 250 pounds of nitrate of soda, or 25 good loads of stable manure, 300 pounds dissolved bone or acid phosphate and 250 pounds sulphate of potash, or 100 bushels unleached wood ashes per acre, thoroughly plowed and harrowed in make splendid crops of them on almost any soil. Ripening so early and being so firm and highly colored they command very high prices.—O. W. Blacknall, in Prairie Farmer.

## HANDY BARK SCRAPER.

**Every Wide-Awake Orchardist Should Make One at Once.**

Hundreds of old orchards have the tree trunks covered with loose, hanging bark, that serves as breeding places for borers and other injurious insects. Such old loose bark should be carefully scraped off. A most convenient implement for this purpose is the shank of an old, worn-out hoe. Cut off as shown in the cut, and sharpen to an edge.

TOOL FOR SCRAPING BARK.

With this an entire tree, even to the smaller limbs, can be scraped in a few minutes. One sees hundreds of old neglected orchards about the country that ought to have the trunks of the trees thoroughly scraped, the "suckers" and superfluous limbs removed, the remainder grafted to good fruit, and the sod broken about the roots and fertilized. With such treatment, these old orchards would soon be paying a profit instead of producing, as now, barely enough fruit to pay for gathering.—Country Gentleman.

**The Best Apple Variety.**

The Baldwin is the most profitable apple of the eastern states, but it is a disappointment in the west, being generally a quickly decaying fall apple, though last season, in common with all other varieties, it kept much better than usual. A seedling of the Baldwin, as good in all other respects and a better keeper, would be a decided acquisition. Babbitt, said to be a Baldwin seedling, is considered by those who have examined it, to be such an apple, but it has not been widely tested yet. —Rural World.

## EDUCATIONAL ITEMS.

Subscriptions to the fund for the new museum of science and art for the University of Pennsylvania have been received to the amount of $180,000.

The statue of Cardinal Newman which the University of Oxford declined to receive has been set up on a vacant plot of ground adjoining the cardinal's house at the Brompton Oratory.

The duke of Bedford has placed at the disposal of the technical instruction committee of the Bedford county council a farm of 275 acres, 149 of which are arable land and the rest grass. Twenty boys receive free scholarships by the county council, entitling them to two years' board, residence, and instruction in the science and practice of farming.

Official information has been received in Washington by the Franco-American committee, organized for the purpose of securing fuller privileges for American students in the educational institutions of France, that in all probability the faculties of letters will soon be open to Americans, as freely as the other faculties that have already been opened.

Awkeanpr Hazunobr, the principal of a college for the blind in Odessa, Russia, is making a tour through this country to examine the methods of teaching used in the schools and colleges for the instruction of the blind. He says that Russia has nearly seven times as many blind among her population as the United States.

To maintain the Boston public library cost, during 1895, a little more than $219,000, and for the present year $225,000 has been appropriated by the city council. Of this $219,000, about $103,000 went for salaries, $27,000 for new books, $14,000 for bookbinding, $5,300 for periodicals, over $6,000 for coal, and $3,300 for transportation between the central library and auxiliaries.

## FASHIONS IN MEN'S NECKWEAR.

The favorite colors for winter cravats will be deep reds and greens, the two often mingled in brocaded materials.

Bright pale green, ripe gooseberry and coronation red, mauve and heliotrope, orange and yolk-of-egg yellow for neckwear are all patronized; likewise such colors striped with white or black and bright plaids.

Frenchmen are going in for the extravagantly high collars that the royal princes have brought into fashion in London, turned down at the points. They are also exhibiting a very gaudy taste in cravats.

First-class houses in Paris no longer sell made-up ties, although the tradesmen whose customers are of all sorts and conditions are obliged to furnish them, as it requires a certain amount of leisure and some skill to tie a cravat properly.

Beetroot and ripe gooseberry—the former is in reality only a deeper shade of the latter—will be fashionable for gentlemen's neck handkerchiefs, silk underwear and hose, whereas white, striped and checked with porcelain blue or bright pink obtains for cambric pocket handkerchiefs and shirt fronts. —Dry Goods Economist.

## PESTS ON THE WING.

Mud wasps manifest great ingenuity, not only in building their nests, but in placing them in localities where they will not be injured by rain or predacious animals.

The wasp, like the bee and almost every other insect, is infested with parasites. Wasps have been captured which had two or three dozen parasites clinging to their bodies.

The eye of a fly is so constructed as to bring the entire horizon within his circle of observation; a fact which explains the extreme alertness of these insects in escaping attack.

The common cheese fly is only a tenth of an inch long. It deposits about 250 eggs in the cracks of cheese, though, if not able to find this substance, it readily selects another.

The wasp is an insect highwayman. Wasps have often been observed to rob bees while these industrious workers, laden with the fruits of an expedition, are returning to the hive.

The bite of the mosquito would scarcely be noticed, were it not for the fact that the insect injects into the wound an acrid juice, which causes the itching and painful sensation.

## THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, September 14, 1896.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CATTLE—Native Steers | $3 35 | @$ | 4 65 |
| COTTON—Middling | .... | @ | 8¾ |
| FLOUR—Winter Wheat | 3 25 | @ | 3 65 |
| WHEAT—No. 1 Hard | .... | @ | 68½ |
| CORN—No. 2 | .... | @ | 29¼ |
| OATS—No. 2 | .... | @ | 20 |
| PORK—New Mess | 7 50 | @ | 8 25 |
| ST. LOUIS. | | | |
| COTTON—Middling | .... | @ | 8 |
| BEEVES—Steers | 2 40 | @ | 4 45 |
| Cows and Heifers | 1 80 | @ | 2 50 |
| CALVES | 4 00 | @ | 7 25 |
| HOGS—Fair to Select | 2 65 | @ | 3 35 |
| SHEEP—Fair to Choice | 2 25 | @ | 3 00 |
| FLOUR—Patents | 3 00 | @ | 3 20 |
| Fancy to Extra do. | 2 30 | @ | 2 90 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Red Winter | 59½ | @ | 60 |
| CORN—No. 2 Mixed | .... | @ | 19 |
| OATS—No. 2 | .... | @ | 16½ |
| RYE—No. 2 | 27 | @ | 28 |
| TOBACCO—Lugs | 3 00 | @ | 8 00 |
| Leaf Burley | 4 50 | @ | 12 00 |
| HAY—Clear Timothy | 6 00 | @ | 10 00 |
| BUTTER—Choice Dairy | 9 | @ | 12 |
| EGGS—Fresh | .... | @ | 10 |
| PORK—Standard Mess (New) | 6 15 | @ | 6 25 |
| BACON—Clear Rib | .... | @ | 4 |
| LARD—Prime Steam | .... | @ | 3½ |
| CHICAGO. | | | |
| CATTLE—Shipping | 3 50 | @ | 5 30 |
| HOGS—Fair to Choice | 2 50 | @ | 3 40 |
| SHEEP—Fair to Choice | 2 25 | @ | 3 00 |
| FLOUR—Winter Patents | 3 25 | @ | 3 40 |
| Spring Patents | 2 15 | @ | 3 45 |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Spring | .... | @ | 57½ |
| No. 2 Red | 61¼ | @ | 61½ |
| CORN—No. 2 | .... | @ | 29½ |
| OATS—No. 2 | 15¾ | @ | 15⅞ |
| PORK—Mess (new) | 5 70 | @ | 5 75 |
| KANSAS CITY. | | | |
| CATTLE—Shipping Steers | 3 00 | @ | 4 80 |
| HOGS—All Grades | 2 75 | @ | 2 22½ |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Red | .... | @ | 56 |
| OATS—No. 2 | 15 | @ | 17 |
| CORN—No. 2 | 18¼ | @ | 18½ |
| NEW ORLEANS. | | | |
| FLOUR—High Grade | 3 10 | @ | 3 10 |
| CORN—No. 2 | 27 | @ | 28 |
| OATS—Western | .... | @ | 25½ |
| HAY—Choice | .... | @ | 15 00 |
| PORK—New Mess | .... | @ | 6 62½ |
| BACON—Sides | .... | @ | 4⅝ |
| COTTON—Middling | .... | @ | 8 |
| LOUISVILLE. | | | |
| WHEAT—No. 2 Red | 60 | @ | 61½ |
| CORN—No. 2 Mixed | 22½ | @ | 23¼ |
| OATS—No. 2 Mixed | 16 | @ | 17 |
| PORK—New Mess | 6 50 | @ | 6 75 |
| BACON—Clear Rib | 4½ | @ | 4⅝ |
| COTTON—Middling | .... | @ | 8¼ |

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