OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Famous Portia of Paris

Mlle. Miropowlski, the famous woman lawyer of Paris who has gained special eminence by pleading in criminal courts, is shown in our illustration addressing one of the regular weekly meetings of the Paris bar. She also has lectured in London and has been entertained by the judges there. Mlle. Miropowlski believes women are of especial use at the bar in cases affecting children, and would like to see mixed juries, but does not think the time ripe for the appointment of women judges.

WINE FOR FOWLS

M. Joubert, professor at the agricultural college at Fountainebleau, claims that he has discovered a new and simple method of making hens lay. He feeds them with wine in addition to their ordinary food. The professor has not allowed his discovery to be made known lightly. He has been experimenting with fowls of all kinds for several years and finds the same result in every case. In each case he experimented for the four winter months with two sets of 12 fowls of the same breed, adding bread soaked in wine to the food of one of the two sets of 12. In every case after six separate trials the wine fed hens laid more eggs in the proportion of 20 eggs a month or thereabout.

SMALLEST COW IN WORLD

A restaurant keeper in Paris is the proud owner of the smallest cow in the world—so far as is recorded. The little animal is just over two feet in height and is five years old. She gives good milk, though naturally not in great quantity, and besides attracts many customers to her owner's cafe.

HEAD DRESS OF TEHUANAS

The head dress of the Tehuana Indian women whose home is upon the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico is of remarkable design and not lacking in attractiveness. It is called a huipil and is an elaborate lace affair resembling in some respects an Elizabethan ruff. It is worn on special occasions and in different shapes. Sometimes it is not flared out from the head, but is worn hanging down the back. The Tehuana women perform the business functions of the tribe, many of them being small merchants in town upon the isthmus. The men live in idleness. In this respect they are like Burmese women and there is a striking resemblance between the Burmese and the Tehuanas. The daily costumes of the Tehuana women very much resemble that of the Burmese women. They are truly oriental in their fondness for brilliant colors.

CURIOUS AUSTRIAN CUSTOM

"Flogging the dummy" is a curious custom kept up by the villagers of Austria. A dummy is dressed up in grotesque fashion and is called the "Lazelwife." It is taken from house to house by the troupe of grotesquely dressed musicians and before each house it is flogged. Then the band plays and the householders emerge with cakes and wine for the crowd.

HOUSE OF DIAMONDS

About 20 years ago the diamond merchants of Amsterdam held their market as best they could. The merchants would meet in a cafe, or sometimes in the street, where, drawing their gems from their pockets, they would compare them, chaffer, and conclude their contracts. Those days may be termed the patriarchal age. In time the merchants saw that their precious goods were worthy of a more dignified procedure. They rented premises, which they named "Beurs voor den Diamanten." Business prospering, Amsterdam absorbed about two-thirds of the world's commerce in the precious stones, and the syndicate determined to build their own hall or exchange, and this the minister of the interior has recently opened on the Weesperplein.

NEW MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

A new stringed musical instrument is reported to have been devised by a Japanese violin maker in the city of Nagoya. The invention is named the reikin, and seems likely to supersede the samisen. It has the shape of a guitar, save in the neck, which is the only part resembling a samisen. There are four strings to it, and by manipulation of the keys the instrument can be made to do the work of several samisen. The inventor has played his reikin in an orchestra of Japanese instruments, and showed that it is a success in every way.

HOW THE ELEPHANT TALKS

Elephants are said to make use of a great variety of sounds in communicating with each other, and in expressing their wants and feelings. Some are uttered by the trunk, some by the throat. The conjunctures in which either means of expression is employed cannot be strictly classified, as fear, pleasure, want and other emotions are sometimes indicated by the trunk, sometimes by the throat. An elephant rushing upon an assailant trumpets shrilly with fury.

Fear is similarly expressed in a shrill, brassy trumpet, or by a roar from the lungs. Pleasure by a continued low squeaking through the trunk or an almost inaudible purring sound from the throat. Want—as a calf calling its mother—is chiefly expressed by the throat. A peculiar sound is made use of by elephants to express dislike or apprehension, and at the same time to intimidate, as when the cause of some alarm has not been clearly ascertained and the animals wish to deter an intruder. It is produced by rapping the end of the trunk smartly on the ground, a current of air hitherto retained being sharply emitted through the trunk, as from a valve, at the moment of impact. The sound made resembles that of a large sheet of tin rapidly doubled. It has been erroneously ascribed by some writers to the animals beating their sides with their trunks.

FIRST STOCKING FRAME

The first stocking frames are said to have been made by William Lee, curate of Calverton, in 1589, and were at first worked by him with the assistance of his sweetheart or wife.

Like most other inventors, he failed to receive a suitable reward for his labor and is said to have died at Paris in 1610, starving and broken-hearted.

The stocking weavers' company, established in 1663, for the next 90 years had almost a monopoly of the business, but Great Britain today makes nearly one-half of the stockings made in the world. Germany is a close second, being famous for the cheapness and excellence of her hose.

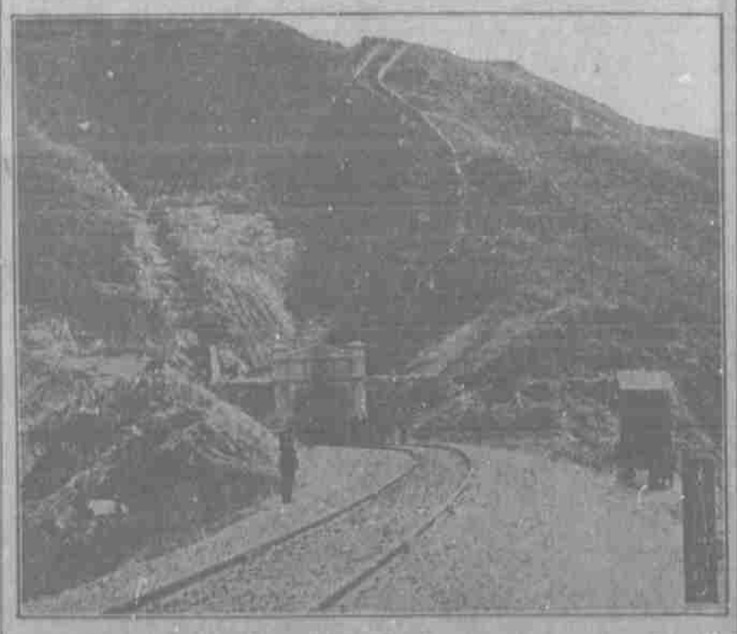
SLICE OF LARGEST TREE

What is believed to be the largest tree in the world grew in Southern California and stood over 300 feet high, measuring 90 feet at the base. The section here illustrated weighs 50 tons and is 56 feet in circumference. The concentric rings indicate that the tree began growing in the year 550.

BRIGHT MONEY IN STREAKS

A man who gives to his wife all the bright dimes and quarters and halves he gets says that bright money seems to run in streaks. Sometimes he gets a lot of bright coins for days and weeks in succession and then he may go a month and get not one.

Tunnel Under Chinese Wall



All things relating to China are interesting these days, and not the least interesting is the railroad from Peking to Kalgan, which was financed, engineered and built entirely by the Chinese. The line is 150 miles long and there are four concrete tunnels. One of these tunnels passes under the Great Wall, the entrance to it forming the subject of our illustration.

DRY FARMING SOILS

Addition of Humus Does Not Increase Availability of Water.

To Secure Greatest Benefit Barnyard Manure Should Be Applied in Small Amounts and at Rather Frequent Intervals.

That the addition of humus to the soil in the dry-farming regions does not increase the availability of water in the ground and that humus-bearing material—barnyard manure, straw, leaves, or other vegetable matter—should be added to the soil frequently in small amounts, are conclusions drawn from experiments recently conducted at the experiment station of the state of Washington, says the Country Gentleman.

The basis of the experiments was soil taken from the dry-farming zones, one cubic foot of which, without humus, weighed eighty pounds and was capable of absorbing and retaining, without drainage, 25 per cent. of its weight of water. Of the water, only 16.8 pounds could be taken up by plants, wilting occurring when a cubic foot of the soil held but 3.2 pounds of water. Seventy-six pounds of this soil was mixed with four pounds of humus, the soil being capable of holding 19 pounds of water, and the humus four—that is, 100 per cent. of its weight. A cubic foot of the humus-bearing soil retained 23 pounds of water, while a similar amount of soil without humus held but 20 pounds. Forty per cent. of the water held by the humus —1.6 pounds—and 3.04 pounds held by the soil were unavailable to plants.

Since in one cubic foot of soil without humus, containing 20 pounds of water, but 16.8 pounds were available for the growth of plants, in a tier of three cubic feet of soil 50.4 pounds of water were available for plants. To make this amount of water available in three cubic feet of soil without humus a volume of water a foot square and 12 inches deep was required, the amount available—50.4 pounds—being equal to 9.7 inches of the depth indicated.

With these facts in mind the next problem was to find how many inches of water would be available to plant growth when five per cent. of humus was put into a cubic foot of soil. In the humus-bearing soil, as stated, from 23 pounds of moisture retained 18.36 pounds were available for the use of plants. It was found that the soil containing humus absorbed a greater amount of water than did the soil without humus, two and three-fourths cubic feet of the former holding as much water as had been retained by three cubic feet of the silt. Since 18.36 pounds of water were available for the growth of plants in a cubic foot of the humus-laden soil, two and three-fourths cubic feet held 50.49 pounds of available water—or a volume a foot square by 9.71 inches deep. Hence, with no humus in the soil, 9.7 inches of the given volume had been available for plants, and with humus added in the amount indicated, 9.71 inches of the same volume were available.

Said Prof. Clark C. Thom, in discussing these results: "In all cases where humus is added to the soil water is held nearer the surface and is therefore more easily evaporated. Five per cent. of humus—which is as much as is likely to be added—does not increase the availability of moisture and is of no direct benefit in this respect; indeed, it may even be detrimental in that it holds the moisture nearer the surface, where it is more quickly evaporated.

"The beneficial results of humus are in creating a new supply of plant food and it is always advisable, even imperative, that humus be present in the soil. Clays are opened up by it, washing is prevented and nitrogen is supplied.

"It is a common experience among farmers who add great amounts of manure to their land to observe on the following year that the crop burns where the fertilizer was supplied. The reason for this is obvious. The manure they have added is able to retain its own weight in water, or practically so, and this amount it at once absorbs from the soil. Of the amount absorbed, however, only about sixty per cent. is available for the growth of plants, the rest being locked up. Hence the following year the soil is actually dried out by the manure, and burning results. But the second year will show benefits from the use of the fertilizer, since it has by this time stored up its 40 per cent. reserve, retaining this amount of moisture in excess of what would otherwise be present in the ground.

"It is thus made plain why farmers should not dump great amounts of barnyard manure on their land at intervals of from three to ten years, as some do. To give the greatest benefit the manure should be added in small amounts and at more frequent intervals."

Dry Farming Requires Work.

The man that supposes that "dry land farming is easy" needs to try it once, comments Rocky Mountain Husbandman. The man to follow the rules as laid down will be in the field day and night during the growing season, and in a real dry year he will have a dust mulch six inches deep.

Injury to Grass Crops.

Farmers frequently injure their grass crops more than they are aware of by sowing too much seed grain in the nurse crop.

PLOWING TO STORE MOISTURE

Surplus Water, Kept in Subsoil, Will Rise to Surface in Time of Drouth —Rain Carried Over.

Some men flirt with the weather—take chances with moisture conditions—and they wonder why they aren't more of a success on the farm. If they would save the extra rainfall a large quantity of water would be stored in the subsoil for immediate use in case of dry weather.

If a farmer doesn't practice moisture conservation and raises a good crop his neighbor across the road, saving the surplus rainfall, will have a larger yield. Reverse the moisture conditions—a dry growing season—and the chances for a crop favor the man who takes care of the water that falls on his farm.

Three or four inches of rain carried over from one season to the next means three or four hundred tons of water an acre in the subsoil—water enough to carry a growing crop through any ordinary dry weather. It is possible to carry even more than this from one year to another, says A. H. Leidigh, assistant professor of crops at the Kansas Agricultural college.

How can the rainfall be saved? Plow the field as soon as the crop has been harvested. If it is spring or summer follow the plow with a drag. The rains will soak into the soil instead of running off the surface or evaporating. Fall plowing should not be dragged, as there is danger of the soil either packing or becoming dry and blowing.

The extra expense of following such a plan ought not to cost more than a dollar an acre at most. Many places it could be done at a much smaller cost. It pays big interest on the investment even at the higher figure. While moisture conservation doesn't spell sure cure for crop failure, it is worth the effort.

EARLY CULTIVATION IS BEST

Applying Mulch to Soil Prevents Bed From Becoming Dry and Enables It to Absorb Moisture.

Shallow cultivation is the same in effect as applying a mulch to the soil, as it prevents the bed from becoming dry, and enables it to absorb all the moisture from light showers and dews.

For May plants such cultivation will be sufficient without watering, but others, notably dahlias, must have plenty of water. Soap suds from the wash are excellent for dahlias, and should be applied by the pailful to make sure of reaching the roots. This matter of watering, right down to the roots of the plants, is very important, and unless you can give enough to do that it will be better not to water at all, but trust to shallow cultivation only. Always use a watering pot, so that you can apply the water directly to the roots. Using a hose scatters the water too much. Water plants after sundown.

Almost everybody grows asters. A top dressing of well rotted stable manure will give nourishment to the plants, and also keep the soil around them moist. Liquid manure, not too strong, should be applied to the roots, but it should not wet the foliage. If this is done at intervals, large and well developed flowers will be the reward.

Sweet peas should be well cultivated. Bone meal, strewn along the rows and raked in, will help in promoting vigorous growth. Manure water is also very beneficial, but after using manure water one day use clear water the next. Sometimes in dry seasons the flowers look faded and do not show in their true colors. To remedy this fault mix soot and water together, to about the consistency of milk, and apply at the roots.

POULTRY NOTES

Ventilate the hen-house.

Use the drop-board scraper every day.

Have the floor clean and dry under the litter.

Geese must have a large range and plenty of water.

Idleness is not conducive to a high percentage of fertile eggs.

Breeding ducks should be fed twice a day, morning and evening.

Milk fed chicks have become a standard in fancy markets.

Warm the drinking water a little if there is any chilliness in the air.

Fowls that have had roup have a tendency to transmit the disease to their offspring.

Haphazard selection of the breeding stock is often directly responsible for poor results in hatching.

Unless all the elements for the formation of eggs are put into the hen's body she cannot be expected to lay well.

Ventilation, which means fresh air and sunshine, is of extreme importance all through the winter.

Chicks that fail to develop steadily should be punch marked so they can easily be distinguished when the time for selecting breeding stock arrives.

Granted that one has well bred stock, the next point that determines its profitableness is the care and management.

NO SYMPATHY THERE.

Henderson—I'm not living with my mother-in-law any more."

Henpeck—I don't blame her.

Mandy's Idea of It.

Mistress—What! Going to leave me to get married? Whom are you going to marry?

Mandy—Ah's done goin' to marry Ling Chung, the Chinese laundryman. He's a good man, he is.

"But, Mandy, think of what your children would be!"

"Yes, mum; Ah has. Ah knows de poor little things'll be Mexicans, but Ah loves him just de same!"