

**SORTING PEARLS.**

The Gems Vary Greatly in Size, Shape and Quality.

When the pearls are taken from the dead fish they are first sorted according to size. This is done by passing them through a set of ten small brass sieves, called baskets, with meshes of varying sizes. Pearls of the first class that are perfect both in sphericity and in luster are called *ant*. Those of the second class, that to the average observer seem equally without flaw, are *antari*, and most of the pearls we see in the west and on general sale come under this head. Of the third class, *call masaku*, are those that are somewhat irregular in shape and a trifle off in color, but that are valuable for use in clusters and are largely used by eastern artificers in mountings of various sorts. *Kural* is the double of twinned pearl, which, when of good luster and sufficiently freakish shape, is sometimes enormously valuable. In this class the most wonderful specimen on record is the great Southern Cross pearl, which is in reality nine pearls naturally grown together and forming a perfect cross an inch and a half long. It was found off the coast of Western Australia in 1874. Many seed pearls and rejections, called *valdivu*, are generally ground into *achunam*, and used as an ingredient in a favorite sweetmeat. From China also comes a heavy demand for seed pearls, and in India bushels of them literally are used in the decoration of idols and sacred images and of weapons as well.—Everybody's.



**Nervousness in Children.**

A nervous child is greatly to be pitied, not so much because of its present condition, although that is distressing enough, as on account of what the future has in store for it.

A nervous child suffers, no doubt. It is peevish, easily frightened, restless, inattentive, incapable of entering with enjoyment into the sports of its companions, soon tires of its games, and is often quarrelsome. But it is in adult life that the real suffering comes. Ineffective work, sleepless nights, racing headaches, the formation of drug habits, alcoholism, early physical breakdown and even insanity are the dangers to be dreaded for the future of some—fortunately not all—children with weak and unstable nervous systems.

There is always a cause for this nervous condition in children, and the cause can often be removed if it can be discovered. Hereditary doubtless plays an important part in many cases, but not so often as is commonly believed, and even when there is an inherited taint, other factors which perpetuate or increase the trouble almost always exist, and can often be overcome. A careful examination of a nervous child will usually bring to light some physical defect, the curing of which will free the nervous system from strain.

These physical defects may be anywhere in the body, but are usually found in one or more of three locations—the eyes, the throat and the bowels. The eyes are most intimately connected with the brain; indeed, they may be said to be actually part of the brain, and a defect of vision inflicts constant and innumerable blows on the brain which irritate it, and this irritation is transmitted to the entire nervous system. The eyes of a nervous child should be examined and spectacles worn if called for.

"What a pity to put glasses on a child!" Yes, but what a greater pity to let a nervous child grow up into a nervous man.

A child who is a mouth-breather is almost sure to have enlarged tonsils or adenoids. This condition interferes with natural breathing, which prevents the proper aeration of the blood; and impure blood cannot properly nourish the nerve-cells. Further, enlarged tonsils or adenoids are often slightly inflamed all the time, which causes the absorption of septic products which poison the whole system.

Finally, constipation is a most potent influence in the causation of all sorts of nervous trouble. The treatment of this condition, not at all uncommon in children, in spite of their activity, does not consist in an occasional dose of castor-oil. The root of the evil must be sought, and it must be corrected by a careful regimen and the inculcating of habits of regularity.

How long after marriage does the average wife begin to find fault with her husband's table manners?

Cooks may come and cooks may go, but the eating habit goes on forever.



**Ancient Agriculture.**

Why agriculture, the first industry to be learned and so obviously the most fundamental, was the last to be developed is one of the most baffling mysteries of history. One marvels at it as fresh as one stands before a certain glass case in the Egyptian quarter of the British Museum, wherein is a little group of farm utensils—a fractured wooden plow; a rusted sickle, two sticks tied together with a leathern thong and several tasses that had hung on the horns of oxen. To be sure, these implements were used 3,000 years ago—they were found in the tomb of Seti I.—but one remembers that when Egypt was using these bread tools, no better than those of the barbarians about her, she had a most elaborate government, an army and navy and art and literature.

The records and relics of other nations down through history show the same strange incongruity. For thousands of years the wise men of the world absolutely ignored the problems of the farm. A farmer remained either a serf or a tenant. He was a stolid drudge—"brother to the ox." Even the masterful old pilgrim fathers had no plows at all—nothing but hoes and sharp sticks—for the first twelve years of their pioneering. And therefore for thousands of years there was hunger.—Journal of Agriculture.

**Milking by Hand and Machine.**

After a test of milking machines for a period of more than a year, Prof. A. L. Haecker, of Nebraska, has made several conclusions. Heifers in their first lactation, apparently give better results by machine milking than do aged cows that have been accustomed to hand milking for one or more years. Some cows are not adapted to machine

on to the jack. Then put your weight on it and swing it off the wagon, placing a small jack under the front end.—C. Z. Rux, in Farm and Home.

**Dandelions and Milk.**

A Belgian investigator has been looking into the correctness or incorrectness of the somewhat popular belief among farmers that dandelions increase the yield of milk, and that in consequence they are rather desirable forage than otherwise. He claims that this belief is incorrect and is founded wholly on the false analogy suggested by the milky juice of the dandelion. Furthermore, he asserts that dandelions in large numbers have a deleterious effect on the quality of butter and is one among the causes which make it difficult to get butter of a fine flavor and good keeping qualities in spring and early summer. Hay which has large quantities of dandelions in it has a similar effect, he says, and he advises farmers to weed their pastures whenever it is practicable to do so.

**Restriction of Fertility.**

Prof. Spillman says it seldom pays to turn under a crop of cow peas in the green state. It is better practice to make hay of them, feed the hay and put the manure back on the land. As is the case with all legumes, the roots of the cow pea crop add a great deal of nitrogen to the soil, and have a marked effect on fertility. If a heavy green crop of cow peas is plowed under in the autumn it is best not to plant the land until the following spring. A very good plan for bringing up the fertility of a wornout field is to sow rye in the fall, plow this under in the spring, harrow thoroughly, let the land lie a month, and then sow

**POPULAR BREEDS OF CHICKENS AND DUCKS.**

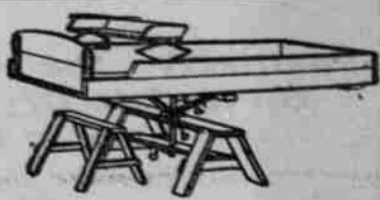


One of the most popular breeds of chickens for general utility is the White Wyandotte. The birds of this strain are smaller than the Plymouth Rock, but are equally rapid growing. Good layers and fine market fowls. Pekin ducks excel all other breeds both for eggs and flesh. To raise ducks successfully and make a profit both from eggs and young ducklings, the stock birds should be young—as far as possible March hatched birds, and never more than two years old. The Light Brahmas are the oldest and perhaps the best known of the feather-legged chickens. Size is the quality that recommends this breed. Where large and slowly maturing fowls are desired the Light Brahma has no superior.

milking. Alternate hand and machine methods of milking have a detrimental effect upon the flow. Manipulation of the udder is absolutely necessary in some instances before all the milk can be drawn by the machine. One man operating one machine can milk about the same number of cows in an hour as one milking by hand. Two men operating four machines can practically do the work of three men milking by hand. Two operators with four machines milked twenty-four cows in an hour. It is necessary to thoroughly wash and boil the milking machine parts after each usage in order to produce milk with as low bacterial content as that resulting from careful methods of hand milking.—Denver Field and Farm.

**Lifting the Wagon Box.**

I constructed a wagon bed jack that is one of the handiest devices on the farm where there is only one man to put on or take off a grain rack or wagon box. The construction is very simple. Make a carpenter's jack, only



ONE MAN CAN HANDLE IT.

a little stronger to suit yourself. Then bore a hole, b, in the center for a 2-inch gas pipe to act as a king bolt. Then take a 4x4-inch, 3 foot 6 inch long crosspiece and fasten it to the gas pipe, c, and brace it with 4x4 inch braces, a. The height is 3 feet 6 inches and width 4 feet.

When taking off the grain bed place the jack a little better than half way to the rear end, then remove the rear end of the wagon first and swing it

cow peas. Cut the peas for hay and sow rye again. A few seasons of such treatment will restore fertility to the soil. Fortunately, both of these crops will grow on very poor land.

**Early Tomatoes.**

A truck gardener tells that this is the way he raised early tomatoes: He took a dry goods box 2 by 3 feet and 8 inches deep. In each corner of the box he set a piece of 2-inch pipe, so that he could water the plants from the bottom, pouring in the water and letting it permeate through the soil, which was composed of a sandy loam put into the box after the bottom had been covered to the depth of 3 inches with well rotted and sifted stable manure. The seeds were planted and lightly covered and the soil kept moist, but not wet. In one week after planting the green tops appeared, and in three weeks they were transplanted into a similar box, being set an inch deeper than they grew in the first box. They grew in the box in sheltered places for three weeks, when they were ready for the garden.

**In the Feed Lot.**

Wheat bran is preferable, however, because it is less bulky.

Cow pea and alfalfa is an excellent substitute for wheat bran for the dairy cows.

Corn makes fat, while alfalfa is rich in flesh-forming and bone-building materials.

In feeding pigs shorts or alfalfa beats wheat bran when used as one-quarter of the ration.

Hogs will not as a rule relish alfalfa hay in the winter unless they have previously been matured on the young alfalfa.

It is a mistake to believe that alfalfa is purely a fattening ration, especially for calves. On the contrary, it is a growing ration.

**PRODUCTS OF FLORIDA.**

Oranges Not the Only Fruit Grown in That State.

Florida is nearly as large as all New England, and of course there is a great diversity of employment, says Outing. In the northern counties corn, wheat, oats, peaches, pears and apples dominate; in the center we find most of these products growing side by side with oranges, lemons, loquats, sweet potatoes and cassava; and in the southern counties we are among pineapples, avocados and other strictly tropical fruits and vegetables. The trucking region is therefore closely associated with orange growing and other citrus products. You cannot drive anywhere about Sanford without coming upon yards that are filled with these golden fruits. Grape fruit hanging six inches in diameter and in huge clusters bends its trees over sometimes to the very soil. Peaches are as common as oranges and when you get a little nearer the hilly or sloping lands to the west large peach orchards stand in January and February bursting into bloom. In March you will find a few ripe fruits, but the remarkable crop comes not earlier than April and May. The mulberry fills up March and is the first one of the southern fruits to ripen. You will find it everywhere; varieties that do not seem to have found any place in our northern gardens as yet. The fruit is from one to two inches long and three-quarters of an inch in diameter. Nearly every bird in the heavens and every animal on the earth likes the mulberry, and for my part a mulberry pie is the only rival I have yet found for a blackberry pie. My whole being turns into a poem when I think of it. You should have just pulp enough not to let the juice run away and the pie show no signs of stinginess.



"Does Mrs. Peck's husband command a good salary?" "He earns a good salary. She commands it."—Boston Transcript.

"A case of love at first sight, eh?" "No, second sight. The first time he saw her he didn't know she was an heiress."—Boston Transcript.

"Green—Smith asked me to forget my troubles this morning. Brown—What for? Green—He wanted me to listen to his."—Chicago Daily News.

"He is going into politics; he thinks he's a politician." "What does his wife think?" "She's too much of a lady to tell."—Boston Traveler.

Mrs. Wiggs—John, what is an absolute vacuum, my dear, is something that exists only in your mind.—Chicago Daily News.

She (on the Atlantic liner)—Did you observe the great appetite of that stout man at dinner? He—Yes; he must be what they call a stowaway.—Sacred Heart Review.

"In short, sir, we go in far too little for what Matthew Arnold calls sweetness and light." "I don't see that—Sugar and Oil are the two biggest trusts we support."—Life.

"Are there degrees of rank in the servants' hall?" "To be sure. Maids who have charge of dogs won't associate with maids who look after children."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Your glasses," she said, "have made a great difference in your appearance." "Do you think so?" he asked. "Yes. You look so intelligent with them on."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"How do you know your husband is not a good poker player?" "Because," answered young Mrs. Torkins, "no good poker player could be as popular as he is with other poker players."—Washington Star.

"This," remarked Mr. Cane, "is my photograph with my two French poodles. You recognize, eh?" "I think so," said Miss Softe. "You are the one with the hat on, are you not?"—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Master—John! Servant—Yes, sir. Master—Be sure you tell me when it's 4 o'clock. Servant—Yes, sir. Master—Don't forget it. I promised to meet my wife at 2:30, and she'll be provoked if I'm not there when she arrives.—Answers.

At a party, while a young lady was playing with peculiar brilliancy of touch, a bystander bachelor exclaimed: "I'd give the world for those fingers!" "Perhaps you might get the whole hand by asking," said the young lady's observant mamma.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Gunner—You can't get the best of those blamed baggage-smashers. I labeled my trunks "China" and thought they would handle them with unusual care. Gayer—And did they? Gunner—No, but blamed if they didn't ship the trunks all the way to Shanghai and I haven't seen them since.—Chicago Daily News.

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY**

An American company is successfully operating a mica mine near Kodarma, India, on the East India railway, about 250 miles from Calcutta. Seven hundred hands are employed under a practical American mica man.

Contracts have been let for Winnipeg's new municipal electric power plant, to cost approximately \$1,014,700. The Winnipeg Electric Railway Company has three times offered to sell its Lac du Bonnet plant to the city.

Preliminary work for the construction of India's large new steel plant near Kallimati station is making good headway. The plant on the Ramrana manganese property has proved to be of the highest value. A forty-five mile railway is already under construction.

The output of the British shipbuilding yards amounted in 1898 to only about 900,000 tons of merchant steam vessels, or little more than half of the preceding twelve months. The number of British ships now laid up at home and foreign ports is estimated at 1,000,000 tons.

John Brown was executed at Harpers Ferry on Dec. 2, 1859. It was shortly after 11 o'clock in the morning. Two thousand Virginia soldiers were ranged around the scaffold when he was brought from his prison house and placed in a wagon which was to convey him to the scene of the execution.

The curator of the museum at Brussels has just been pursuing an interesting claim in the Belgian courts. In May last Mme. Bouriant, the widow of an Egyptologist, offered to the museum two scarabs with inscriptions, which the lady claimed related to a voyage on the coast of Africa referred to by Herodotus. The curator purchased the scarabs for \$2,000, and, as may be imagined, they created a great deal of interest in the learned world, the final judgment of which was that the so-called antiquities were forgeries. M. Capart, the curator, has sued the widow for the return of the purchase price and the courts have decided in his favor.

From the War Department comes notice of an interesting relic formerly the property of President Lincoln. Upon the occasion of his memorable visit to Gettysburg the President cut with his own hands a cane, which he afterward presented to his War Secretary, Edwin M. Stanton, by whom it was naturally highly prized. This cane is now in the possession of Mr. Jahncke, president of the Jahncke Navigation Company of New Orleans, who married a granddaughter of Secretary Stanton. It has a gold top with an engraved inscription, which was probably placed on the treasured souvenir by Secretary Stanton.—National Magazine.

Few Swiss scholars have had a more brilliant career than the new principal of the University of Lausanne. Dr. H. Charles Louis Blanc was born in Lausanne, fifty years ago and began his studies at one of the primary schools in the city. At nineteen he took his degree in science, afterward going, as so many Swiss scholars have done, to Germany, first to Stuttgart, then to the University of Fribourg-en-Brisgau, where he won his doctorate in philosophy with honors. Since then he has made his mark as a zoologist, and now enjoys a European reputation. He has had a hand in research work and in superintending zoological museums in Switzerland and in Germany.

There is at present an interesting exhibit in No. 6 tank at the Brighton Aquarium, says the London Globe. It is something like a dogfish, only much larger, while in the matter of sheer ugliness it stands unrivaled. Its technical name is the toper shark. It is six feet long and weighs from eighty to ninety pounds, while its mouth looks large enough to take an elephant single handed. The shark came into the possession of the aquarium in rather a curious manner. A man named Lane of Brighton was fishing some two miles off the Palace pier with a long line, when he felt a vicious tug at his hook. He quickly "hauled in his slack," and then the toper came to light. Mr. Lane at once hurried ashore and placed the toper in his new home.

There was recently introduced in the House of Representatives a bill for the purchase of the house in Tenth street, Washington, in which Abraham Lincoln died on April 15, 1865. The bill proposes the acquisition of the two adjoining houses and the entire collection of the Oldroyd relics of Lincoln, of which there are some 3,000 pieces in the building. There is also included a library of a thousand volumes all relating to Lincoln and the civil war. In one of the rooms is a "black locust" rail split by Lincoln in 1830, and taken from a fence around his old home, and the walnut cradle in which his children were rocked. The bill contemplates the purchase also of the two adjoining buildings on each side, with the understanding that both are to be torn down and the ground beautified by lawns and shrubbery. The Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics is the largest in the world.