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'PHONE NO. 114

THE MISSING INGREDIENT.

An Inventor Left His Secret
Guarded Well.

By EVELYN WITWOTH.

(Copyright, 1919, by American Press Association.)

"Oh, father, I'm afraid that some day you'll blow yourself up."

"Never fear, sweetheart! There is but one thing combustible about these ingredients, and that I never put in till the last. And it must have been mixed with the others an hour before there can be an explosion."

This dialogue occurred in old Severance's laboratory between him and his daughter Fanny. She was his only child, and he had no wife, so that, being all he had to love in the world, she was his idol.

"Father," she said, changing the subject abruptly, "Will has spoken." She threw her arms about his neck and hid her face in his bosom.

"Has he, chick? I'm glad—for your sake, dearie—but for me?" He finished with a deep sigh.

"Oh, father, I will never leave you! We will always be together."

"Daughter," said the old man, "I, too, have something of importance to tell you. I have discovered a fulminate powder that will revolutionize warfare. It will treble the range of a cannon or a rifle. I have been offered \$100,000 by the government for my secret. Now that Will has spoken you may tell him that you will have a fortune for a dowry. He is a fine fellow and deserves it and you."

Peter Gower, a man of thirty-five, whom Severance used for an assistant, was eavesdropping outside the door and heard every word of the conversation. Although he had worked with Severance, he did not know that his principal had succeeded in his effort. Severance had made the crowning dis-



SHE READ IT AND STAGGERED.

covery while working alone at night and had guarded his secret carefully even from his assistant. Gower, like Severance, was a chemist, but was employed simply as an assistant and not entitled to any interest in his inventions.

From this time forward Severance was conscious that Gower was watching him in order to get the secret. The assistant knew the main ingredients of the composition, but the one substance without which the union was incomplete he did not know. One day while Severance was at work making the compound he saw reflected in a mirror before him Gower's face intent upon him. Severance put in all the ingredients, substituting for the uniting substance another than the correct one. An expression of joy came over the face in the mirror.

After this Severance conceived a dread of his assistant. One day he gave his daughter a bit of paper with a single word written on it and told her to put it away in a little trinket box she had and to be extremely careful as to its preservation.

One day Fanny Severance was startled by the sound of an explosion in the laboratory. Every drop of blood left her face instantly. Rushing into the laboratory, her worst fears were realized. Her father's body was lying on the floor so disfigured that he was scarcely recognizable. Gower followed her. He was pale and trembling.

"I've been fearing this for a long while," he said.

But the girl did not hear him. She had swooned. He carried her into the house and ministered to her till she came back to consciousness. Then he left her.

Fanny Severance and William Clarke, her fiancé, found themselves thus unexpectedly cut off from the dowry they had expected at their wedding. But the young man showed no disappointment to the girl he loved, and they were married soon after her father's death.

Gower put the laboratory in order, shut it up and gave Fanny the key. She saw no more of him till soon after her wedding. Then he called ostensibly to learn of her welfare, but really to see if he could get from her a bit of secret information. He had put together the chemicals necessary to the compound Severance had invented, had

put in the uniting substance he had seen Severance use, but notwithstanding that he had tried every known percussion substance he had never been able to get an explosion. Recognizing that he had been foiled and that a fortune had slipped through his fingers, he was about to accept the situation when it occurred to him that Severance might have left his secret with his daughter. After making formal inquiries he told her that her father had given him all the elements of his compound but one. If he had left her the name of this uniting chemical she might yet be rich, for he (Gower), having all the rest, with this could manufacture the powder.

When her husband came home that evening Fanny told him of Gower's call and what he had said. Later on, going to her trinket box, she noticed the paper her father had given her. Taking it to her husband, she told him of the circumstance attending her receiving it and asked him if he knew what it meant. The young man looked at the word written on the paper. It was a curious mixture of letters, spelling an almost unpronounceable word. Then suddenly an idea occurred to him. He told his wife that it might be the crowning chemical used by her father for his compound.

"Then," said Fanny excitedly, "all we have to do is to give it to Mr. Gower and we will yet be rich."

But William Clarke believed in the adage "Make haste slowly." He slept but little that night, thinking why, if this was the required substance, Severance had left it without the other ingredients of the compound. He must have had a reason for doing so. Clarke thought for hours upon this reason. Was it that Gower knew the other ingredients and in the event of the inventor's death could go on with the manufacture of the powder in case Fanny would give it to him. If so it meant that Fanny was the real possessor of the secret. But why had not Severance told her that what he had given her was the key and what she was to do with it in case of his death?

"Fanny," said the young husband the next morning, giving her the daily parting kiss, "go into the laboratory today and see what you can find there."

Fanny took the key to the building and, with a shudder, going into the laboratory, began to hunt—what for she did not know. There was a tiny safe in the wall that interested her. Remembering that she had father's keys in the house, she went for them and, picking out an odd looking one, slipped it into the lock. It fitted exactly, and, turning it, she opened the small door and took out several papers. Selecting one, she read it and staggered as if stricken. It read:

Suspecting that my assistant, Peter Gower, will murder me (he thinks he possesses my secret) I leave this paper in case anything happens to me. I dare not give the secret to any one, even to my daughter, now, but trust this action will insure it to her without the risk that would occur if it left my keeping.

On another paper was a list of the ingredients except one, which the writer said he had given to his daughter.

A horrible thought entered the young wife's mind. Her father had probably been murdered.

"Bless him!" she exclaimed, kissing the record he had made. "Had it not been for his care a murderer would have robbed me of my rights."

The hours dragged slowly till her husband came home, and she told him of her discovery. He read the paper and, taking his wife in his arms, said: "Sweetheart, it is our duty to avenge your father."

"How?"

"There are ways in which Gower could have contrived an explosion. He might have mixed substances that would require a few minutes or a few hours to unite chemically. He might have run a wire underground to the outside of the laboratory and ignited some substance within by an electric spark. He might have tossed a bomb at his victim's feet. Whatever his means, he doubtless removed all evidences of its character, for you left him to look up the laboratory."

"So I did," she said wonderingly. "But could I have done otherwise? I wouldn't have gone there myself on any account."

The next day Clarke took steps to renew the negotiations with the government broken off by his father-in-law's death. The matter dragged, as all matters connected with governments are bound to drag. But Clarke, who had more business ability than the inventor, started negotiations with another country and before long had two nations bidding against each other. The result was that he finally received five times as much as was offered Severance.

When payment was handed to Clarke it was in one check on the national treasury. He took it home and waved it triumphantly over his wife's head, exclaiming:

"There's your dowry!"

But the wife's joy was subdued by the sad memory of her father's death. "Alas, poor father!" she said, with tears in her eyes.

The next day Clarke did the more melancholy duty of handing the police the paper incriminating Peter Gower. A warrant was issued for his arrest, and as soon as he was taken an investigation of the laboratory was made.

A tiny hole was found under a workbench through which a wire might have been passed to the cellar. To lead it from there to the outside of the building no other hole was needed since it could have been passed through a window. This single hole was the only evidence against the accused, and it was not sufficient to convict him. He was acquitted of the murder by the jury, but not by the public. When freed he disappeared and has never since been heard from.

HUMANE LAMB DOCKER.

This Useful Implement Can Also Be Used For Removing Blood Warts.

Many really useful inventions that would benefit the breeder are never brought into common use because of the inability or indisposition of the inventor to acquaint the breeders with their merits. One of the implements that are prized very highly on farms and that comparatively few shepherds seem to be acquainted with is the lamb docker. The illustration gives a fair idea of it. The jaws have



THE HUMANE DOCKER.

a three inch face, the length from edge to rivet is about six inches, and the handles are eighteen inches long. These dockers can be purchased from houses that handle shepherds' supplies, but the local blacksmith can make one just as good and better. Those that are purchased are cast, and some day they will break, but these are made of half inch soft iron and ought to last forever. They must be used red hot, the hotter the better. An old tinners' firepot is a good thing to heat them in; but, lacking that, a corncoke fire is all right. The two great advantages in their use are, first, no loss of blood, and, second, the wound is left antiseptic and heals very rapidly. They have been used very successfully in removing large blood warts. The lamb hardly seems conscious of the loss of his tail when it is removed with these redhot pinchers and will go off to the rack and begin eating as if nothing had happened. All lambs should be docked, even those that go to market early, but only about half the tail should be removed. They look better, the quarters show up better, and the long tail is only in the way.

Exercising Horses in Winter.

No animal on the farm needs exercise as much as the horse to keep in sound health. The horse was never intended to be kept in the stable during the winter months, fed night and morning, oftentimes too liberally. The farmer needs and must have one team to do the winter work, which should be fed, stables cleaned and groomed, but the idle horses are better off if allowed freedom for exercise.

Give them plenty of shelter, and don't let them run out in blizzards or extremely cold weather. A healthy mature horse when not at work needs only enough food to keep in condition, or, in other words, enough to keep warm, and ample opportunity for exercise. The care of weanlings is another matter. They, too, need exercise and feed, including grain "to grow on."

Hog Pointers.

Fully developed breeding stock brings the strongest offspring.

The character of the feed determines the character of the meat.

At present prices hogs offer a mighty good market for corn.

The hog appreciates a clean, dry bed. Change the litter frequently.

Do not sell half fattened hogs.

Stirring the brood sow often results in stunting the pigs.

"Pigs is pigs" at present prices.

Hogs that are of uniform size and weight will fatten best.

Many a farmer wishes now that he had not sold his stock hogs off so close.

Field peas have been made to take the place of corn in the cornless sections.

DAIRY NOTES

Feeding Cows While Milking.

If cows are fed any kind of dusty feed while being milked it is a good plan to sprinkle it. This helps to keep the milk clean.

Keeping Milk Pans Clean.

The sticky substance in milk known as albumen can be rinsed off the milk pans with cold water, which should always be used first. Boiling water will cook it on.

Watering the Cows.

In many cases it is considerable trouble to provide tempered water for the cows, but it is well worth while from the financial standpoint, to say nothing of the humane side of the matter.

Use the Currycomb Freely.

A regular currycomb, such as you use on the horses, and a brush are just what you need for the cow stables. But don't put them on the shelf and leave them there. Use them every day.

What the Dairy Cow Needs.

It is better to allow dairy cows to have a short run in the sunshine rather than to stay shut up all day in a dark stable. What they especially need are plenty of pure air and a little exercise.

Making Good Butter.

To make the best country butter one must not let the cream get too sour nor skim sweet cream and put with the sour. Let it all ripen at once and the butter will be much better and keep better.

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