

## HIS GOOD ADVISER

By MILDRED CAROLINE GOODRIDGE.

"Blunderhead!" angrily expostulated the bookkeeper of Ransom & Co.

"Look before you leap, Danny," in sweet solacing contrast followed the tones of the office stenographer, Nellie Deane.

"What! I could. Guess I'll go stumbling through life just this same old way!" groaned Danny Skiles. "Wish you was my sister. I'd get out of here if it wasn't for you—yes, I would."

The electric button on the desk of the stenographer sounded an appeal just then. It was from Mr. Ransom's office. Hastily Nellie swept into a drawer—or rather fancied she swept into it—several pages of a letter she had been writing to her sister. One of the sheets, however, had slipped unnoticed over the edge of the desk and had fallen among a vast litter on the floor beside it.

Danny had precipitated the overflow of the waste paper basket only a few seconds previously. He had stumbled over it in the exercise of that extraordinary ability of his to deserve the common nickname of "Blunderhead."

Danny was simply chronically irremediably clumsy. When he raised a window he generally smashed it. When he moved a chair he usually tipped it over. When he ran to attend to some urgent office call he stumbled over a rug or the linoleum.

"That's that bookkeeper!" muttered Danny with a dagger look at crusty old Collins. "As to Sweetie—that's what I call her and that's just what she is—if I ever amount to anything it will be her kind ways to me that did it. She's pretty as a picture and good as gold. Yes, and I'll bet the boss knows it!" chuckled Danny wisely.

"If the boss," young Alden Ransom, knew it, however, he had spoken no word to convey the impression to his really competent stenographer. It was true that many times, even as late as now, when Nellie sat in his private office taking dictation, it had been a relief from business cares and a note of pleasure to look at the delicate expressive face of the young girl and appreciate her buoyant accommodating ways and quick intelligence. If there was the dawning of love in the companionship, however, it was the part of Nellie herself. It is fact, she had just written the fact to her sister. And because she felt a growing fondness for her kindly indulgent employer she had decided to sever a tie that it might be difficult to break, later on by leaving the pleasant employ of Ransom & Co.

Meanwhile Danny had gathered up the letter on the floor of the main office and was cogitating over the great precept of wisdom that Miss Deane had sought to inculcate.

"Look before you leap," Danny repeated. "The action of that girl is a good adviser and I'm going to adopt that as my motto."

Danny picked a sheet of paper from the waste paper basket, folded it, took a stub of a pencil from his pocket and proceeded to diligently and laboriously place the appealing action upon its surface. He stowed the folded paper in his pocket as if it were some valued talisman and an unfailing remedy against.

More than once during the rest of the day Danny consulted his creed. Then that night when he went to bed he found he had learned his motto by heart and took out the sheet of paper to place it in a bureau drawer when he chanced to open it.

"Whe!" he ejaculated as he perceived the inside of the sheet. "Why, it's part of a letter written to me by Nellie to some relative or friend and—willikens! she's in love with the boss!"

Yes, that was certain. Miss Deane had written to her sister that Mr. Ransom had attracted her as never any man before. But she realized that guilt between them, showed due humility in not construing his little acts of kindness into any marked attentions and was going to seek another position.

"Why, if she leaves Ransom & Co. I'm lost!" wailed Danny. "Say, it could marry the boss! Wish I was a matchmaker. What'll I do?"

This was as to the letter. Danny decided he would think things over before he said anything about it. Then came the crisis of Danny's life, and the "Blunderhead" of the office situation became a star character and hero.

Danny earned only four dollars a week and had to pay some board at home at that. This did not admit of any banquet. The week before he had bought a small bunch of violets to place on the desk of Miss Deane. She had scolded him severely, but

Danny was proud to think he could spend 50 cents to show his devotion to the kindest friend he had ever known.

For the present week, therefore, Danny was to take a more adroit approach to the bill of fare than from four to seven cents. One evening he had to remain at the office overtime to stamp some mail. Six o'clock found him hungry with one-half an hour's work undone. Danny went out for a bite. As he passed down a court running along the side of the building where the office was located, he noticed that the light in the room of the boss had been extinguished and the boss himself was just approaching his automobile, the only one in the solitary court.

Then there occurred something that made Danny think of a rapid moving picture show. It was all done so quickly. Three men had suddenly leaped from a dark doorway. One sprang to the chauffeur's seat. Two others advanced upon Mr. Ransom. They threw a long coat over his head, lifted him into the machine, stifled his cries and away dashed the auto.

"Kidnaped! Just like in the movies!" gasped the petrified Danny. In a flash he was after the speeding machine. As he ran an inspiration came to him. He drew out his big jackknife that was his constant companion, caught at the knob of the baggage box and clung there.

The automobile followed the court then an alley and then curved into a public street. It was here that Danny got ready for his fight.

He made a desperate lunge at the nearest rear wheel. Blade-deep through outer and inner sheathings of rubber went the knife. There was a hiss, then a frightful report. The chauffeur caught the warning sound. The auto sidled on a maniacal slant. The driver sprang to the police, the car was surrounded and "the boss" was rescued.

Mr. Ransom took Danny back to the office with him after the police had secured the kidnappers, who it appeared had set in motion the first section of a deep blackmailing plot.

"There's something else," said Danny, when the greater part of his story had been told—"there's Sweetie." "Ah! what about Miss Deane, now?" questioned the young business man, with every token of deep interest.

And Danny proceeded to tell her story. His eye sparkled as he knew what he had long hoped—that Miss Deane cared particularly for him. And then rather amusedly he read the scrawled words Danny had written: "Look before you leap."

"Mr. Ransom," observed Danny fervently, "that's a motto, but you don't have to look before you leap if you're thinking about Sweetie. She's all gold, just like yourself!"

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## WHO DID WRITE SHAKESPEARE

Not Shakespeare or Bacon, but John Trussell, is the Latest Theory Put Forth.

Another theory as to the identity of the ideal personality around which Shakespeare wrote many of his sonnets is advanced in a volume in which nobody would expect to find it. The volume is a cheap reprint of a sixteenth century devotional work, "The Triumph Over Death," by the Venerable Robert Southwell, a Jesuit priest.

The editor, J. W. Trotman, propounds the startling theory that Southwell, the friend and confidant of Shakespeare, was the author of the sonnets. The beautiful youth of the sonnets was a Jesuit, tortured by the Pope, imprisoned in the Tower for three years and finally dragged on a hurdle to Tyburn and hanged.

But neither Shakespeare nor Bacon, or Trotman, holds the last of the sonnets and plays. According to him they are the work of John Trussell, a member of a family resident for centuries at Billesley, near Stratford-on-Avon, and mayor of Winchester, where he made such a farming operation as Queen Henrietta Marie after her marriage there with Charles I. that she declared she was as pleased as if he had given her 10,000 crowns. His poem, "The First Rape of Fair Helen," his champion plays, is no less Shakespearean than any of the others. As only one copy of his list, and one has not had access to the private library in which it is preserved, one is unable to express an opinion on the point. It is evident that Mr. Trotman has prepared agreeable exercise for the wits of the critics.

Learn to Write Well. First legibility; second, neatness, should be the endeavor in handwriting and let the "character" and the "individuality" take care of themselves. If you wish to have a signature hard to forge, that is another thing; but one's every-day handwriting should be plain and as good-looking as one can make it. The art of writing a neat, legible, well-punctuated, correctly expressed and spelled letter should belong to every high school graduate, much more to every college graduate; and the thanks of the community are due to those who are testing and trying to improve our methods of education; but they must remember that the letter-style is properly more loose and conversational than any other, and therefore should not be criticized in just the same way.

Probable Duration of Sun. Adopting the well-known hypothesis of Helmholtz, which attributes the production of the heat emitted by the sun to its contraction, an idea can be formed of the sun's duration. If one gives to the sun a co-efficient of expansion intermediate between that of mercury and that of gas, one arrives at the conclusion that it has taken one million to three million years for the sun to contract to its present radius; in particular, it would have taken ten thousand years to contract from infinity to a radius twice its present radius. Finally, the sun will take 200,000,000 years to contract from its present radius to half that radius, and even then its temperature at the surface will be 3,000 degrees—Scientific American.

But a short time ago she had a violent attack of coughing. Her mother gave her cold tea and lemon. The coughing stopped. Everybody waited anxiously expecting the hiccupping to return. But it did not.

The Reason He Does Not. "I am quite sure that I can stop drinking when I have had enough." "But you never seem to do it." "I know it. You see, the trouble is that I have had enough I don't know it."

Dangerous Hiccups. Two unusual cases of suffering through hiccups are reported. In one, a man had an attack of hiccups which lasted for nine days before he obtained relief. A little girl had a much worse attack which lasted between three and four months, and was the result of a fright. Doctors had been unable to end the paroxysms, and many times it was thought the child would die. She had swayed away alarmingly, and hope for her recovery was abandoned.

## STORE MANURE FOR GARDENS

Best Practice is to Place Fertilizer in Oblique Corner—Spade and Turn Frequently.

A common practice is to manure the garden every year, late in the fall, or before planting in the spring, no further attention being given. This practice, however, is not the best.

The manure for the garden should be kept in a large box with a lid, or so screened that flies cannot enter it. Manure heaps are the natural breeding places of these pests and if they are allowed to remain near the house, uncovered, will prove a great nuisance.

A good plan is to use a very close wire screen nailed to a frame with hinges for the top. The manure should be spaded often on the top, so that the flies cannot enter. The sprinkling pot may penetrate to all portions of it.

If kept in a box a spout should be placed in one corner, at the bottom, so that the water may drain into a sunken barrel.

This will supply liquid manure which can be used at all seasons when vegetables and flowers are growing.

The manure in the box should be worked over once or twice a month, working the bottom to the top so that the entire mass may rot.

Manure may be kept in this manner if the boxes are placed at the farthest point in the garden from the house, and if surrounded with vines their presence will never be noticed from the dwelling.

BAD WEED IN THE PASTURES

Burdock is Typical Back Yard Plant, But is Found in Fence Corners and All Waste Places.

Burdock is a biennial plant with a large, deep tap root. The leaves, which are large and generally fuzzy beneath, and the leaf stock is hollow. The first year the plant merely develops a leaf and root system. The second year the branched flowering stalk is sent up, sometimes six feet high. At the ends of the branches purple tipped flower buds are formed.

The burdock is especially bad in sheep and horse pastures, as the burr gets into the wool of the sheep and manes and tails of the horses. Burdock flowers in July and August and seeds in September. It is a typical back yard weed, but is found in fence corners and all waste places.

Continued cutting will exhaust the plants, and, in time exterminate them. The process may be hastened by cutting off deeply below the surface and

When fowls are on a range they secure much more food than when they are in a pen. As so many do, is to put them in bad condition, says an Ohio man in Ohio Farmer. Of course, in the winter season corn may be used, but farmers and poultrymen should understand that when the birds are in a range they become quite fat and has all opportunity for securing more food than she needs.

The fact that a hen may not appear fat may be all a delusion, for the fat is all internal, which is the worst. Sometimes a hen will be fat and chickens are affected, it is a sure sign that there is something wrong with the food. It is true that the seeds of some weeds may be at fault, but usually the cause is high feeding. The hen does not need a lot of corn, but she does need a lot of food. You get your hens too fat, and the consequence is they never lay.

The remedy is to put the birds up and give nothing for 48 hours. Then give one ounce of lean meat or green bone to each hen each day, for ten days—no other food—and then feed a variety twice a day. Avoid giving condition powders of either a stimulant nature or of a laxative nature. If any medium is used, an astringent, which works on the muscles of the relaxed rectum, is the best. Give the fowls plenty of exercise and green food. Aim to keep them just a little hungry.

GOOD HINTS ABOUT FENCING

Of Importance to Note Shape of Fields Because It Has Much to Do With Material Needed.

When building fences note the shape of the fields, because it has much to do with the amount of fencing and material required to inclose or reconstruct it.

Thus a square ten-acre field is 40 rods each way, and will therefore need half a mile of fencing.

A ten-acre field four times as long as wide is 80x20 rods, and will consequently require 200 rods of fence, or 40 rods more than before, so that a square field needs less fencing than a long one of the same size. This is a point not often thought of by a good many.

Fighting Hog Cholera. While the matter of fighting the disease of hog cholera successfully is a matter largely of cleaner and more sanitary hog houses and hog yards, and of a larger use of pastures and forage crops during the growing season, the presence of the disease germs generally through the hog producing sections, requires also that we must exercise care also along other lines.

Some Essentials. The essentials of success in farming seem to be: Good soil well maintained, good crops, the result of good seed and good tillage. Certainly expense must be as low as is consistent with doing these things. All of which are necessary to profitable farming.

Fatal to Nursery Trees. Hot time and sulphur dip is fatal to young nursery trees. Better have your nurseryman guarantee to send you trees that do not need dipping. But then—all guarantees are not good.

Swelled Head. The man who feels that he is bigger than his job is generally mistaken. If he were he would quickly get a job that would fit him.

"Early and often" is the successful corn grower's cultivation motto.

Watch the Sheep. This is the time to watch the health of the sheep, and more especially the lambs.

Summer Diet for Pigs. In summer the animal heat is kept up with but little effort, and in consequence a lighter diet should be fed to pigs. The food should be thinned down with some good sweet whey, kitchen slops or waste milk. The pigs will drink this with a relish, and it will be better for them in every way than thick, heavy food.

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## TREAT HOGS FOR PARALYSIS

Unbalanced Ration, Inbreeding and Parasites Have Each in Turn Been Assigned as Cause.

(By GEORGE H. GLOVER, Colorado Agricultural College.)

Partial or complete paralysis of the hind legs of hogs is seen so often in these herds that a common cause has been suspected but not definitely determined.

Inbreeding, parasites and an unbalanced ration, have each in turn been assigned as the probable cause of this particular form of paralysis, and now it is quite generally attributed to a lack of phosphate of lime. This salt in a form that can be appropriated may be deficient in the ration or not properly appropriated by the tissues of the body, or again, it may be because of a drain on the system for phosphates to nourish the growing fetus or the young afterbirth.

It is a well-known fact that there is a deficiency of phosphate of lime in the bones and other tissue of pregnant animals and in those that are suckling their young. This is especially true of the sow. But this condition is not

A Fine, Healthy Specimen.

confined to pregnant animals. In one instance a herd of 44 hogs, of both sexes and ages, ranging from ten months to two years, nearly all of them were affected with partial or complete paralysis of the hind legs. The ration had been largely raw potatoes.

They appeared to suffer no pain, the condition was quite normal. A balanced ration would probably have prevented this condition. The following treatment has been recommended and should be helpful in these cases: One tablespoonful of cod liver oil, 15 grains phosphate of lime and three drops of fluid extract of sassafras mixed with the food twice a day.

VERTIGO AMONG THE POULTRY

Only Fowls Which Are Well Fed Suffer From Such Ailment—Aim to Keep Hens Little Hungry.

When fowls have what is known as "twisting neck," or show signs of vertigo, the cause is usually pressure of blood on the brain. The muscles that form the muscular coat of the small arteries on the brain are relaxed and the pressure of the blood becomes too great. Such fowls are nearly always apparently healthy, and, in fact, should show good condition, as only birds that are well-fed suffer from such ailment.

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## NEW BISCUIT DAINTIES

RECOMMENDED AS VARIATION FROM STANDARD RECIPES.

Appetizing With "Filling" of Stiff Orange Marmalade—Nut-Drop Confections Popular With Every-body—Ginger Biscuits.

Light, flaky, biscuits, temptingly browned, always receive a smiling welcome at the table. But have you ever tried any variations of your standard recipe? I have experimented and have concocted some goodies that displease the cake, writes a contributor to the housewife.

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## WESTERN CANADA'S

NATURAL RESOURCES

PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS, COAL AND FARM LANDS.

The developments that have taken place recently in the oil and gas fields of Western Canada have but added another to the many previous evidences that have been produced, showing the great wealth that has been an unknown asset for so many generations.

The latest reports from the oil fields at Calgary show that there is a production there that would appear to equal the best paying fields on the continent. Experts have been on the ground for some time. It is said that one of the wells is able to produce 2,000 gallons an hour. If this is so there are but about a dozen wells in the world of greater production. During the past week discoveries of surface indications have been made which show that oil exists over a considerable portion of Alberta and Saskatchewan while in Manitoba there have also been showings. At Battleford, Saskatchewan, a few days ago discoveries were made which led to the filing for leases on twenty thousand acres of land, all having strong surface indications. Companies were formed to carry on immediate work, and in a couple of months, or probably less, the story will be told whether oil exists in paying quantities.

But there are also the coal deposits and the natural gas