

Downers Grove Reporter.

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DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS.

We gather from the cable dispatches that the young czar of Russia is not contemplating an early abdication in favor of popular government.

A BILL giving women full suffrage has passed the Australian parliament. We are destined to hear more of "the Australian system" in this country, and from a new quarter.

Now is the time to get out of the country. The steamer rate to British ports has been reduced to \$10. There are a great many people who ought to take advantage of this magnificent opportunity.

One infers that the real reason for the extensive invitation at the latest White house dinner was a pressing necessity of securing enough people to seat between the Chinese minister and the minister from Japan.

Swiss firms have entered into a contract with the Japanese war office to supply a sufficient number of watches for one to be given to every soldier who has served in the campaign when the mikado reviews his victorious troops at the close of the war. The watches, which will take the place of war medals, are to cost \$1.50 apiece.

THERE will be a fourth trial of the Sage-Laddaw case, and again the millionaire's three-dollar trousers with the seat blown out of them, will be held up to amaze a wonder-wounded world. It is believed in financial circles that Mr. Sage would give as much as three dollars and forty cents to recover those historic but disfigured breeches and see them once more securely bestowed in one of his safe deposit vaults.

A WRITER in an Eastern journal recalls the climatic changes which were brought about in Europe by the destruction of the ancient forests that once covered it from the Baltic sea to Calabria. He argues that the climate of North America is undergoing similar changes, and quotes from our meteorological records of the past ten years to prove his statements. Our summers are drier and longer, and our winters wetter and warmer in some sections. The summer rains are scarcely sufficient to fill the pastures and the ponds that were once well watered, while long and hard frosts are getting to be rarer than formerly. The rivers that now freeze only on the banks having been at one time bridged with solid ice.

THE Boston children's hospital was unfortunate enough to be visited by three outbreaks of diphtheria last year, so serious indeed that applications for admissions had been refused. Recently the disease again appeared in the institution, and anti-toxine was freely used. All the patients were given an injection of the serum, and further admissions were allowed on condition that each child should be treated upon entrance. The result was that all the cases of diphtheria were cured, that no fresh cases had occurred among the children, and that there has been no need, as there was before, to close the hospital. This experience, vouchsafed for by good medical authority, is strong testimony to the value of the discovery.

THERE is nothing more remarkable in the history of the colonization of Africa by European powers than the foothold Italy has gained on that continent. To-day she has possessions extending hundreds of miles along the Red sea and the Indian ocean, besides exercising a protectorate over Abyssinia. Just as Great Britain did in India she has formed a local fighting force of friendly natives, but has also sent out contingents of her own, and is about to send more to strengthen her military operations. In July last she gained decisive victories and during this month has not only defeated the Mahdists, but a force of discontented Abyssinians. She has done much to break up the slave trade in those regions, and this, of itself, may be looked upon as a gain to civilization.

WITH many spinsters the subject of matrimony is a tender subject. There are few of them who care to have the fact advertised that they are still in the enjoyment of single blessedness. With an old bachelor it is a matter of supreme indifference as to whether or not the world knows he is still heart and fancy free. Why, then, should the whimsical edicts of society so arrange matters that the handle almost universally applied to a man's name should carry with it no possible hint as to whether the wearer is married or single, while the handle to a woman's name is forever advertising a single or married state. If "Master" gradually merges into "Mr." when eighteen or twenty years are acquired by a young man, why should not "Miss" gradually merge into "Mrs." at the same age?

A MOVEMENT has been started in Newfoundland looking to annexation to the United States. This may be a good thing for the Newfoundlanders, who are in hard financial lines, but this country has about all the poor that it can conveniently care for.

THE Western society which is debating the question of whether the size of the head is a certain indication of brain power is respectfully invited to take a bird's-eye view of a poker in a mud puddle or an elephant on a

CURIOS OCCUPATIONS.

Queer Ways Whereby Women Are Enabled to Earn Their Livings.

Curious occupations for women crop up in these days, when any talent, from that of sharpening a lead pencil to teaching Greek, seems to find a money equivalent from some circle of patrons. A novel way of earning a living is afforded a certain number of young girls in one or two places in the east end of London. Their sole duty is to test eggs by holding them between the eye and the light. From skill and experience they are able instantly to determine their condition in this way. Another woman, also English, is a purveyor, or provider, for a consideration, of appropriate names for children. For the modest sum of 25 cents she procures in the newspapers her willingness to select a suitable name for any baby of high or low estate. All that the proud parents have to do who wish to take advantage of her professional assistance is to forward with the requisite fee such particulars as to their position in life, temperament, color of the baby's eyes, the month of its birth, and one or two more of like import, and by return mail the applicant will receive a name which, it is stated, "is warranted to give satisfaction."

MAN'S STATURE.

Prof. Donath Is Convinced That the Human Race Is Deteriorating.

Prof. Donath of Budapesth has been examining the statistics of European armies with a view to ascertain whether the human race appears to be improving in a physical sense or deteriorating. The conclusion he arrives at is that men are decidedly deteriorating. Statistics from Russia he has been unable to obtain, but his conclusion is supported in almost every other case by those from the other countries where military service is compulsory. In the Austro-Hungarian army the number of men rejected as not coming up to the regulation standard of height has increased during the last ten years by no less than 76 per cent. The standard has been lowered in Germany, so that a comparison can not fairly be made, yet in spite of this, in the same period, the number of men rejected as too short has risen from 7 to 16 per cent. Taking a period of sixteen years the increase of men below the proper height in France has been from 6 to 12 per cent, and in Italy, within ten years, the same increase has been from 7 per cent to no less than 23 per cent. Switzerland alone is an exception to the rule. Prof. Donath, it is necessary to add, takes the figures as he finds them, and has taken no steps to find out whether, with the great increase of the armed forces of Europe, there has not been a growing tendency to let men off if it can possibly be managed.

THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER.

Labourers Does Not Believe Prayer Will Be Answered.

Henry Labouchere has been pitching into an English parson, who held that prayer might be used as a preventive for sea sickness, and narrated an incident of a sailor who had a long voyage to make and asked the congregation of the church at his home to pray for him, and so entirely escaped the sickness, though he experienced a great deal of rough weather. Says Mr. Labouchere: "Far be it from me to raise any doubt as to the efficacy of prayer, or to ridicule any man's belief in the results of his own supplications. Yet I cannot help observing that those who thus boast of miraculous interpositions of providence for their private comfort and convenience, brought about by the intercession of themselves or their friends, are treading on very dangerous ground, and doing much to bring their religion into ridicule, if not contempt. Is this worthy man prepared to guarantee that any one who prays in the right spirit may be delivered from sea sickness? If not, what is his illustration worth? For every such illustration of an answer to prayer a thousand illustrations of the failure of prayer might be produced. Speaking for myself, I am the worst of sailors. No one ever prayed more fervently to be spared from sea sickness than I do every time I step aboard a ship. Not an occasion, however, can I recall on which a miracle has been wrought in my favor. Nature always takes her course."

Relied on His Wife's Judgment.

A man who has returned within a short time from Samoa, and who saw much of the Stevens family, while there, adds another to the many comments upon the devotion of the novelist to his wife and his complete reliance on her judgment. He never undertook any trip or excursion, however unimportant, without deferring to her opinion, and if she held the slightest dissenting notion he promptly relinquished the idea, as he said she was his best doctor. Mrs. Stevenson was very careful in looking after his health and zealously guarded him from over-fatigue.

The New Law in Order.

"The income tax law isn't complete yet," said the populist. "It must be amended to be perfectly just to all. Every man is allowed to deduct \$4,000 from his income, and pays a tax on the balance. But some poor devils have only \$2,000. They can't deduct \$4,000 from this, and as all men should enjoy the same privileges, I am going to propose an amendment requiring the government to give enough income to all men to do it."—Harper's Bazar.

Back with Rich Tropics.

Last spring we made notice in these columns that Mr. Henry A. Salzer of the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., America's leading seed growers and merchants, was in Europe in search of rare seeds and novelties for the American farmer and citizen. Judging from their new catalogue, his trip was an eminently successful one. It is brimfull of rare things. Of especial merit we name the Bismarck apple, bearing the second year; the Giant Flowering Star Ploxy, the German coffee berry, and for the farmer, the Victoria rape, Germanica, Veitch, the Lathyrus silvestris, the Giant Sparrow and Giant Incarnate clover, Saucine, and dozens of other rare things. This wide-awake firm is in the van, and their catalogue, which is sent for 5c postage, would be cheap at \$1.00 per copy.

FOR WOMAN AND HOME.

FIRESIDE READING FOR FRIGID WINTER DAYS.

Some Pen and Ink Sketches of Wearing Apparel for Women and Girls—Hints About Conducting the Household—Minor Notes.

ET A WOMAN wear black and white if she wishes to be stylishly gowned, remarked a fashionable modiste the other day. "There is a certain chic air about the combination which is most attractive."

The exponents of fashions in millinery echo her sentiments. A new bonnet, considered highly correct and valued at \$20, is made of nothing but lace and jet. The lace is round point and is arranged in double wing like hoops at the front, with coils of exquisitely cut jet appearing at the sides. Resting against the hair in front is a curious jet ornament. The bonnet seems to have no foundation, but on close inspection a narrow twist of black velvet may be discovered. This costly little bonnet is suitable for any dress occasion.

A Question of Beauty.

Yvette Guilbert declares that English women are "doll like" and lack le charme by which, I take it, the clever Parisienne means that beauty du diable which stands French and most southern women in good stead when they lack the beauty of line and color, which is the more frequent prerogative of northern women. But Yvette should remember that each nation—as most, too, each period—has its own ideal of beauty. I am not at all sure that the Milo Venus would be voted perfectly beautiful in London to-day, and I am quite sure she would not in Paris.

Gowns for Summer Days.

Like a breath of summer are the new cotton fabrics which are appearing in the shops to cheer womankind during these disagreeable winter days.

FRENCH BALL GOWNS.



There is a great variety of materials displayed, beautiful to look upon and not too expensive to own.

A charmingly fresh looking dimiti may be bought for 15 cents a yard, while the organdies, which are the work of artists, sell at only 20 cents a yard. They are of web like texture and are scattered with exquisitely colored clusters of flowers. Occasionally the pattern is one large single blossom. The organdies are made up of silk or satin. They are trimmed with lace or Dresden ribbons matching in design and color the flowers of the organdie.



OF FLOWERED ORGANDIE.

A quaint and charming way of making a summer gown is shown in the illustration. The material is white organdie flowered with pansy blossoms. The gown is made over white satin, though a much better effect is attained if the foundation is violet silk. Valenciennes lace is used as the trimming and the quaint kerchief is of white mousseline de soie, edged with a narrow

frill of lace. The gown is all in one and has the effect of a princess frock.

The Calling Costume.

She was a Murry Hill young matron and she gave her Fifth avenue modiste carte blanche in envolving a calling costume for her. The illustration shows what a modiste of distinction can do when the sordid subject of money does not have to be considered.

An exquisite piece of cafe-au-lait moire scattered with indistinct blossoms in a faint shade of old rose was the material chosen for the gown. The plain skirt hung in broad organ-pipe plaits at the back and was finished at the bottom with a band of dark coffee-brown velvet. There were two fancy waists made to be worn with this skirt. One was of cafe-au-lait chiffon over rose silk and trimmed with rose velvet and the other was a creation of



MOIRE AND VELVET.

cafe-au-lait velvet, white chiffon and Valenciennes lace.

The wrap, which formed a conspicuous part of the costume, was a much flaring affair of cafe-au-lait velvet studded with fine jet beads. It was finished with a deep flounce of creamy Russian lace and ornamented by conventional designs in jet-tinted spangles.

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Homestead—Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

Care and Management of Poultry. (Condensed from Farmers' Review: a ten-graphic Report.)

At the Champaign County, Ill., Farmers' Institute, D. P. McCracken made some interesting remarks on the care and management of poultry. In substance he said: The care and management of every kind of stock is largely a bugbear unless the man that undertakes them has a love for the business. For instance, my father says that no chicken is worth more than 25 cents, but we find him paying \$10 for a parrot, \$25 for a pup, and \$300 for a driving horse. What I am getting at is that a man must have some love for a hen if he would keep poultry. I have seen a woman go out of doors in winter, call a flock of poultry from the trees, fences and like places, and feed them enough table scraps to make them lay eggs, were they housed as well as the farm wagon. I raised 1,000 birds in 1888, using sixty-four hens, and sold them for 40 cents per chick on the market. The entire cost of those chicks to me was 16 cents each, delivered on the market.

Q.—What objection is there to the poultry going to the corn crib? I say give them all they will eat and the best.

A.—When I came in you were discussing feeding steers, and the drift of the talk was that animals had to be fed for a purpose. When we want to raise a better fowl for the table we should feed her corn, but not if we want to get eggs.

Mr. Swiger—I feed my cattle near the house, and my hens go to the feed trough and get all they want. As a result we have the fattest hens and the fewest eggs in the county.

Q.—Have you had any experience with incubators?

A.—I have had a little experience, but not much. I bought one and ran it for three years and got 45 per cent in chickens hatched. We did not handle it very well. Some of my neighbors have raised as high as 90 per cent, but they lost a good many after they were hatched.

J. C. Ware—Poultry has been one of my hobbies for a good many years, not only for profit, but for enjoyment. We as farmers hardly realize the importance of the poultry question. We sometimes find that we have fed our steers all winter and lost money, while our wives have fed a few dozen hens and come out ahead. The poultry business is far greater than we have any idea of. When Ohio was the third pork producing state in the Union, her poultry brought more money than her pork. Any farmer's wife that admires any one breed, should select that breed and keep only that. There will then be a uniformity in the flock that can be got in no other way. A good flock of any breed will add as much to the appearance of the farm as anything I know of. It is a great mistake not to give the poultry interest the attention it deserves. We do not build such poultry houses as we should have. We ought to build them in all ways suitable. It does not pay to have them roosting around the barn, or laying eggs under the barn. Keep them as carefully as you would any other stock and then feed them. I have built three different hen houses in my experience. I am very well satisfied with the present one. I have my roosts over an incline. The droppings fall on this incline and run down into boxes below it. That adds to the capacity of the hen house for back of that incline is the place for the nests. To keep vermin out I saturate the roosts with kerosene. Mites do not stay on the hens during the day. Some say barn sulphur to keep out lice, but I know that it will not work. I treat them once and will give you my experience. I put a great deal of sulphur in six pots and burned it. I did the work thoroughly, but it did not kill the mites.

A Farmer—I have a recipe for mites. Take half a bushel of lime and slake it. Then mix with it 25 cents worth of sulphur, and add to that three ounces of carbolic acid. The whole should be allowed to become as dry as dust. Then go into the hen house and throw it around and get out as quick as you can. (This would appear to be a rather dangerous proceeding as the person doing the work might inhale the dust.—E. R.)

Mr. Ware—I do not think there is anything better than whitewashing the hen house, but generally the work is not done well. I have an easy way of doing the work. I put my white-wash into my sprayer and put it on that way. The work is soon done and the whitewash will go where you can't get it with a brush. If you do it that way once, you will do it again, but when you put it on the old way you are not likely to soon again undertake the job.

Q.—Are your chickens ever troubled with roup?

Mr. McCracken—I have had no trouble with the roup, at least for twelve years, since I stopped dampness and draught.

Q.—What breed of chickens would you recommend?

A.—I have tried twenty-two varieties, and while I don't think the corn crib is the breed, I think that care and management are almost the breed. Light Brahmas are good, for they are rustlers, and while they don't mature so fast as some others, they give good results.

Mr. Ware—I think roup is due to dampness. I set some hens in my cellar, and they died largely from roup. It is a very contagious disease. In order to get winter eggs the birds must be brought to maturity early in the season. The light Brahmas will lay as many eggs as the smaller breeds will, but they do not get to maturity so early.

An Eighty Acre Dairy Farm.

A. N. Hyatt writes as follows to Farm and Dairy:

You ask my opinion as to "How many cows can be profitably kept on an 80-acre farm adapted to dairy purposes?" In this great dairy country it runs from fifteen to twenty-five. Many keeping twenty or more get larger yields and more profit from a cow than those keeping less. The late Hon. Hiram Smith of this county said he should never be satisfied until he kept one good cow for every acre of tillable land. I think he got up to nearly one hundred cows on his 200 acres, but some dry years he bought considerable feed. I have kept ninety-two head, including horses and young cattle, and sold some feed, on my 216 acres. I understand that horses are to be kept to work the eighty acres, and calves raised to replace old, dead or disabled cows. I will tell you how twenty cows were kept on an 80-acre farm, that gave four tons of milk each that netted \$1 a hundred pounds. These cows were dry two months in midwinter. The farm furnished all the feed for the stock except some three tons of oil meal, and old cows, calves, potatoes, hogs, pigs, etc., were sold that brought over six hundred dollars. He planted fifteen acres corn, fifteen of oats, had twenty acres of pasture and woodland, fifteen of meadow, twenty-five in roots, five in potatoes. He sowed five acres of stout growing oats thick on ground specially prepared, to feed green. He sowed two acres of turnips broadcast (weeds having been nearly annihilated) the last of May, to feed with tops in August and September. He planted five acres of sweet corn and ten of field corn in check rows, and the last of July sowed in turnip seed. He had one half acre of carrots, one and one half acres sugar beets, one acre swedes, two acres mangolds, three acres more of turnips. He cut his oats quite green and took care of it as he would his hay. Straw and stalks were all sweet and under cover. He cut and wet (mixing in sliced roots, oat meal, corn and cob meal, and a little of meal and salt) most of his feed in winter. He prepared his box of feed some twelve hours before feeding it. The first four weeks his cows were dry they were fed the mixed feed minus the oat and corn meal, but as calving time was approaching grain enough was added to give them a fall order. None were milked before they calved. All had some of the first mess and ate of the placenta if they wished. The calf was generally left with the cow until she had cleaned—four to eight hours. Salt was never forgotten and he never forgot that cows dry or nearly dry were not very tender creatures, and that the air of no stable was ever so pure but it was purer outside. He allowed his dry cows to go eight or ten to a spring in the hollow rather than to give them their water in the barn yard. The weather had to be severe for them to stop at the water in the yard. If all herds were like this one, one cow doctor in Wisconsin would be plenty. No garget—no nothing to distress or annoy—in this herd. It is needless to add that he was as much a Christian among his cows and calves as at church or Sunday school. Do unto others as you would be done by, he believed, and he included even his pigs. But the maximum number of cows that can be profitably kept on an 80-acre farm adapted to dairy purposes is more than twenty or twenty-five, when we become exact and high class farmers. My neighbor, the late Hon. Hiram Smith, declared the time would come when one good cow would be well fed from every acre of land—on our best farms. An official statement from the British parliament tells of a man who had four acres who raised in one year forty-two bushels of wheat, 250 of potatoes and ten of barley, and kept two cows and four pigs. The cows were kept good and nothing bought during the year. They reported that five persons and two cows were sustained on three acres of land. He had one half acre of pasture, one half acre and eight rods in wheat, one quarter acre in oats. The rest was green feed for the cows—cabbages, clover, mangolds, turnips, etc. During the winter he fed roots and straw and they did very well. The committee further stated that thirty cows, five horses, a bull and four calves were fed all summer from a 10-acre pasture of clover. The field was irrigated with liquid manure diluted with water, and each cow gave an income of \$50. Of course the clover was cut and fed. So we see it is difficult to say how many cows can be kept well on an 80-acre farm. If I could be kept along as was Adam or Methuselah, in good shape for business, I would see if I could not yet keep 216 cows on my 216 acres.

FOULS AT THE BARN.—We can learn a lesson by observing the fowls in the barn and stable. Why do they love the barn? First, a barn is usually warm and comfortable, and next, the hens find plenty of scratching and pecking in the refuse hay and hayseed. The same thing can be given them in the hen house. Have it warm and closed at night, but something like an open shed during the day, so that the sun can send his warmth upon them, and provide some chopped hay, or find refuse for them to scratch in, and the result will be that the hens will be more contented, and will not fail to do as well as these that seem to lay at the barn.—Ex.