**New World Of Light**—One of the youngest persons ever to wear spectacles is 11-month-old Johnny Peoples, seen being fitted with special glasses at an eye hospital by nurse Madeline Dorey. Born blind, Johnny underwent a series of four operations for the removal of cataracts, and saw for the first time when the glasses were put on him.

# THE FARM FRONT

H. H. McKinley operates a meat market and restaurant down in Indiana — but what he says might strike right home to some of us living north of the border as well. McKinley buys his animals locally and kills all his own meat. He claims that farmers are their own worst customers when it comes to buying the fat and finish they strive to put on their stock.

* * *

"About half my business is selling beef in quarters and halves to farmers who want it for freezers or locker storage," he says. "They like a lean grade of meat that would only grade commericial to good. They don't want choice or prime. Too fat, and they hate to see the fat wasted. This is funny, when on their farms they feed their stock to put on fat."

* * *

Worth thinking over, isn't it? And not only in regard to beef.

* * *

When you buy new fencing, keep in mind that the price of the wire is only a small part of the price—is the good advice handed out by J. F. Schaffhausen, writing in "The Country Gentleman." The big cost is posts, labor to set them and erect the wire, staples and annual maintenance.

* * *

This means that to get the lowest fencing cost per year you should begin with wire that is strong enough for the job and properly galvanized. Also, you need treated posts, placed properly, braced where needed, and on them the wire must be stretched and stapled correctly.

* * *

After the fence is in place, it needs at least one annual inspection so that staples that have pulled loose can be renailed, broken strands repaired, and weak or broken braces corrected. Clean fence rows are an asset, but don't burn the brush and grass away. Heat may destroy the galvanizing on the wire and permit rust to develop.

* * *

Corner posts are the critical ones from a maintenance standpoint. For most farm uses, an 8-inch diameter corner post is needed. It should be set in concrete to a depth of 3½ or 4 feet to reach below the frost line. The post-hole can be 18 inches square on top and flared out to 20 inches at the bottom. The concrete mix best suited to the job is made from 1 part cement, 2 parts coarse sand and 3 parts coarse gravel. Use seven gallons of water to each sack of cement.

* * *

The best corner brace for a wooden fence is a thrust post between the tops of the corner post and the second and third post from the corner. These two brace posts should not be over 10 feet apart. The first one may be 6 inches in diameter and the other 4 inches. The thrust posts should be at least 4 inches in diameter. To complete the corner assembly, apply a wire tension member from the bottom of the corner post to the top of the second post, and another from the bottom of the second post to the top of third one.

* * *

This tension member can be made up of No. 9 galvanized wire wrapped so there are 3 strands on each side of the posts. As each strand of wire is wrapped around [illegible] staple it to the post. When [illegible] the post separately. [illegible] wires are in place, use a short piece of pipe to twist them and create a tension great enough to pull the tops of the posts until they are leaning slightly in the opposite direction from which the fence is stretched. Then, when the fence is tightly stretched, these posts will be plumb. Leave the pipe in the wire to permit adjusting this brace on your annual rounds.

* * *

A line post which is not performing its full function is a weak link and should be replaced at once. Rotted and weather-cracked posts that no longer hold staples should be cut out and replaced. Since the ground may be frozen when you make your fence inspection, digging holes for new posts may be difficult. It's easy, however, to drive a steel post, and the fence can be attached in a few minutes. So carry a supply of steel posts on your fence round and drive them 2 feet down into the ground along the fence line where you find you need them.

* * *

Broken strands in a woven-wire fence may be fatal to the life of a fence unless they are promptly repaired. If you do not already have a good wire splicing tool, acquire one. If you do the job with a pair of pliers, the chances are that the galvanized coating on the wire will be removed.

* * *

If you are making use of an occasional steel post alongside wood posts to provide spots for grounding fence wire against lightning, check to see if both the woven wire and the barbed wire are well grounded. Animals often drift into the wind into a fence corner, where they huddle. The weight of their bodies occasionally disconnects insecurely grounded wires.

* * *

Persons climbing over a fence can cause considerable damage. Wires are stretched or staples are torn loose; braces are cracked and nails pulled out. Prevent this damage by constructing stiles in the places along the fence line where the traffic is not heavy enough to warrant the use of the gates.

* * *

Large gates usually present a problem. The light ones are easy to operate, but can be broken when livestock crowd against them. Heavy gates, on the other hand, often sag and are hard to operate unless they are well designed and properly hung. Plank the fence for 12-feet on both sides of the gate if large herds of cattle will be passing through. This will reduce damage to the fence.

* * *

If the passage is used frequently by trucks or tractors, you may want a cattle guard instead of a gate. To build one, dig a pit 18-inches deep, as wide as the lane and 5 or 6 feet long. Place an 8-inch-wide reinforced concrete wall around the pit. Form a ledge in the walls at the sides of the road to support pipes, rails or timbers flush with the lane. Now divide the pit into three parts and build two additional walls to support the guard rails at the intermediate points. When the concrete hardens, place the rails 6 inches apart. Use 2-inch steel pipe to support cars, tractors and light trucks. For supporting loaded trucks, you will need discarded railroad rails or small I-beams.

* * *

To control goats or sheep, V-shaped wings sloping from the ends of the pit to the fence or gate should be provided. These animals will cross over if even a2-inch-wide smooth passage exists.

# SPORTS &

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

The late and still lamented Ring Lardner wrote some of the greatest sport yarns that ever saw print. But one of the things which differentiated him from most of his tribe was that he never choked up or grew misty-eyed over the characters he was describing—a decided contrast to some of our modern sports chroniclers who would have you believe that, even though some of our baseball, prize-ring and race-track heroes may be a trifle rough on the outside, they're solid 24-carat gold at heart.

* * *

Read such of Lardner's stories as "Champion," about the great prize fighter who was a louse at heart, or baseball tales such as "Alibi Ike," and you'll see better what we're trying to get at. Ring called them as he saw them, and he saw them more clearly than most; and we'll never forget his comment, when baseball's biggest scandal broke in 1919 and folks were going around saying that the Chicago Black Sox, in addition to being crooked, had been a pretty poor bunch of ball players to boot.

* * *

"I don't like what the Sox did any better than anybody else," quoth Lardner, or words to that effect, "still, that isn't going to make me say that Eddie Cicotte didn't have a swell fast one, or that Shoeless Joe Jackson couldn't take a sweet cut at the ball."

* * *

So it is only fitting that one of Ring's sons—John, to be exact—should do a grand job of debunking one of sportdom's greatest myths in a recent magazine article. This is the myth that the game of baseball is a strictly United States product—that it was, in fact, invented practically in its entirely, and including its name, one summer's afternoon at a place called Cooperstown, N.Y., in the year 1839.

* * *

Upon this myth has been built the Cooperstown "Shrine of Baseball," to which certain of the game's "immortals" are elected at regular intervals. As a producer of baseball ballyhoo and material for after-banquet speeches in the off season, Cooperstown has probably been worth all it cost, and more. The whole trouble is that the records go to prove (1) that the game wasn't invented at Cooperstown; (2) that Abner Doubleday had nothing to do with its invention, or the drawing up of its rules, and (3) that the name baseball was used for a somewhat similar game in England years before it was ever heard of on this side of the Atlantic.

* * *

For example, in the year 1700, the Rev. Thomas Wilson, of Maidstone, England, was writing some of his memoirs of the century just ending. "I have seen Morris-dancing, cudgel-playing," he wrote, "baseball and cricket and many other sports on the Lord's Day." (We wonder if they took a vote about it first, as happened recently in the Queen City of Toronto).

* * *

More than that, a far greater and better known writer than the Rev. Mr. Wilson also made reference to baseball by that name. She was Jane Austen who, in her novel, "Northanger Abbey," wrote, "It is not very wonderful that Catherine should prefer cricket, baseball, riding on horseback and running about the country at the age of 14, to books."

* * *

It wouldn't be fair to quote the article at any great length. You'll find it in the May issue of TRUE MAGAZINE, and it's well worth looking up. But, as John Lardner figures it, the whole thing seems to stem from a controversy between A. G. Spalding—the man who did more to put the game on a solidly profitable commercial basis than anybody else—and one, Henry Chadwick, sometimes called the "Father of Baseball."

* * *

Chadwick, although a real lover of and authority on baseball, was English by birth. He believed that the game derived from the British sport of "rounders." Al Spalding would have none of such heresay.

* * *

"I claim that baseball owes its prestige as our national game to the fact that as no other sport, it is the exponent of American courage, confidence, combativeness, American dash, discipline, determination, American energy, eagerness, enthusiasm, American pluck, persistency, performance, American spirit, sagacity, success—it would be as impossible for a Briton, who has not breathed the air of this free land as a naturalized citizen; for one who had no part or heritage in the hopes and achievements of our country, to play baseball, as it would be for an American, free from the trammels of English traditions, customs and conventionalities, to play the national game of Great Britain."

* * *

And so, Mr. Spalding appointed an investigating committee to go into the matter. And—sure enough—they investigated and discovered that baseball was the sole invention of little Abner Doubleday and his playmates.

* * *

However, as we said before, we haven't the heart—or the space—to spoil your pleasure by quoting more of a grand sports article. Look it up yourself. But try and do so right soon. Because, any day now, we expect that the real, genuine, blown-in-the-bottle truth is going to burst upon us. Then we'll learn that baseball wasn't invented by the English, Irish, Scots or the Americans. Who else but a Russian—name of Ubumski—could have been responsible for such a grand and glorious institution. Just today Stalin's boys have revealed that the art of printing was a Russian discovery, and we're prepared for anything now.

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