RELIABLE SEED CORN.

Care Should be Exercised by Merchants in Securing Supplies.

As a fodder crop the corn plant is an important one. For ensilage purposes a proper combination of stalk, leaves and ears is desired. Varieties that are suitable for ensilage are not, as a rule, the most profitable to grow for husking on the same farm or in the immediate locality. The largest yields of fodder are obtained from the later ripening varieties, and for ensilage the best returns are obtained from sorts that will just reach the glazed stage of ripeness before the time for early frost. Varieties that give the largest yield of good ensilage in Eastern Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces are among the best varieties for husking in South Western Ontario, and the best varieties for ensilage in the latter district are grown for husking in the great corn belt. It is not to be recommended, then, that farmers along the northern corn belt grow their own seed for ensilage corn. In securing their supplies of seed they become accustomed to depend entirely in their selection. A great deal, therefore, depends on the care exercised by seed merchants in securing their supplies of seed corn.

Owing to the male and female organs of reproduction being borne on different parts of the same plant it is difficult to keep varieties pure. The pollen is borne on the tassel and must come in contact with the silk before seed formation can take place. The pollen is carried chiefly by the wind. Even when planted two or three hundred yards apart, two distinct varieties become cross-fertilized, and in consequence, established types become broken down. The characters of a variety of corn cannot be preserved unless a system of continued selection of seed be followed and the seed be grown at least a quarter of a mile distant from any other variety or variety.

VARIETY NAMES

have become very much confused and are not a safe guide, unless the seed is obtained from a skilled grower of seed corn. Cross-bred seed corns sold under the names of favorably known standard varieties have been a source of much disappointment and loss to farmers. There are, in many instances, wide differences between two strains of seed which bear the same variety names. Under exceptional conditions Canadian corn growers succeed do better than in growing seed of the best known varieties from sources that have proved to be the most reliable.

The Growers' Association, recently formed by Prof. Robertson, is a step in the right direction for useful work in encouraging the production of high grade seed corn. There is no doubt, that the growers of seed corn may take up, that is, if they prove, more remunerative lines of seed corn of varieties suitable for ensilage in the northern dairy districts. Although there are seventy-odd in Ontario who are giving their attention to growing high grade seed corn, members of the association, nine of them are growers of seed corn. It is hoped that others will be induced to take up the work. According to the rules of the association seed corn growers are required to grow but one variety on a farm, and keep it pure by following a system of selection similar to the plan adopted by the Illinois Seed Corn Breeders' Association for advertising pedigreed seed produced by members. Herein is offered an opportunity for seed growers to build up a reputation as producers of high class pedigreed seed corn and other cereals. Because of the increasing demand and limited supply of reliable seed corn the production of pure bred seed of this important fodder offers special inducements.

KEEP BREATHING HEALTHY.

The Natural Cure—Habit Easy to Acquire.

Deep breathing cannot be practised too often in the open air, and the farmer and paper the air, the deeper one should breathe. It will seem a hard task at first, but one soon will find it pleasant, and the results will be apparent in straighter shoulders, better developed chest, clearer skin and sweeter breath. This method of breathing is the real elixir of life," and better than any youth restorer in the market.

In a short time you will be breathing properly, awake or asleep. It is to be remembered that deep breathing rests, cleans the lungs, and reduces weight.

It is a comparatively easy task to train children who have not acquired bad habits, whose clothing admits of perfect freedom, how to breathe properly. The habit of deep breathing is formed quickly, and normal conditions is maintained through life.

Those weak, who have cramped their lungs and relaxed all the breathing muscles, will find that the formation of a new habit requires persistent effort and practice, but when it is once established they will have health and vigor.

Pensacola, Fla., on Saturday, there was a fight between police and blue-jackets and some artillery-men. Private Banks of the 7th Company of Artillery was instantly killed and four bluejackets were wounded.

It is feared the Newfoundland seal-steamer Kite, with her crew of 25 men, has been lost.

A new and inexpensive process of preserving meat has been invented by a Berlin professor.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given $100,000 for a fund for the benefit of dependents of those, in the United States and Canada who lose their lives in the effort to save others, or for the heroes or heroines themselves if injured only.

KING OLAF

Or, Kinship Between Man and Horse

CHAPTER XVI.

The next morning Kate felt terribly stiff, and all movement was attended with such extreme pain that she could scarcely turn round in bed, and consequently, sorely against her will, was obliged to remain quietly there for the whole of that day, a proceeding she most highly disapproved of, and one which nothing but sheer necessity compelled her reluctantly to submit to. At about ten o'clock Colonel Clinker and Mr. McGrath had ridden up to Sport Lodge, on their way out to covert, in order to inquire after the invalid, and Mary Whitbread, at Kate's request, had gone down to the hall-door and given them the latest particulars.

"So Miss Brewser passed a fairly good night, upon the whole?" asked Colonel Clinker, with no little interest. "You say she's progressing?"

"Most decidedly. In fact she is better almost than could have been expected under the circumstances. But she is never one to give in. If you knew her as well as I do you'd say the same thing."

"Without possessing that privilege, I can fully endorse the statement. Miss Brewser has marvellous courage. Will you be so good as to tell her we called, Miss Whitbread, and hope before long to find her downstairs again. Come, Terry, we must be off, or we shall be late for the meet."

So saying the two friends had ridden away together, leaving Mary to convey to Kate sundry messages full of condolence and sympathy, which that young lady received with demure complacency.

"I thought he'd come," she remarked to Mary.

"Her whom? he?" the latter replied in astonishment. "Oh! Colonel Clinker. I suppose you mean. Really Kate, it is wonderful for you to speculate on the probable movements of any man, whether he comes or whether he does not come being generally a matter of supreme indifference to your humble."

"And pray did I say it was otherwise? I simply remarked that I thought Colonel Clinker would put in an appearance. After all it was purely a mere matter of form,—an act of the most ordinary civility."

"Certainly, Kate; only it struck me you began to display a little more interest than usual in this fascinating gentleman."

"You are crabbed, Mary," said she in reply, though the tell-tale blood rushed to her cheeks. "I don't care two pins about the man, and probably never shall."

The conversation dropped for the present, Mary Whitbread, who in her little way was not devoid of observation, took occasion to remark, although she wisely held her peace, the significance of that word "probably." Kate was accustomed to the most emphatic denials, and formed her own conclusions on the matter. Two days passed without anything taking place, but by noon on Sunday, in spite of Mary's protestations, Kate suddenly announced her intention of coming downstairs, vowing and declaring that neither could nor would remain any longer in her room.

"You are foolish, Kate. You know the doctor told you to keep quiet," Mary repeatedly, trying to dissuade her from such a step.

"And what if I did?" she retorted, "I am thoroughly sick of mollycoddling. The best way to cure illness is to defy it, and I will do it all the same. There's no medication in such cases. If I keep doing a thing you tell me I always do it. Indeed, what a weakness of character to allow oneself to be the victim of two-thirds of a—"

The young lady arrived in an uncommonly pretty and becoming tea-gown, the existing circumstances, a garment composed of cream lace, with cascades of lace, and descending the stairs without considerable difficulty. A recurrence of that old pain in her chest, took up a position on the drawing-room sofa.

"There, Mary, that's decidedly better!" she said, as soon as she was fairly established. "But oh dear! how my bones ache! Just as if I had been thrashed soundly from head to foot."

"You deserve a good whipping for your inprudence in getting up. However, I suppose 'a wilful woman maun have her way.'"

"Of course she must, and not infrequently it turns out to be the right way. Besides, you know, I must positively make haste and get well, if only on account of this forthcoming steeplechase. As it is I shall be terribly out of condition. It's just my luck, getting laid up exactly when I want to do a thousand-and-one different things."

"Kate, don't you think it would be an excellent opportunity for you to back out of this said steeplechase altogether? I hate the idea of your riding in it, and your fall will be a capital excuse."

"Yes, if I wanted an excuse, which I don't."

"Steeplechasing is such a frightfully dangerous amusement," urged the other apprehensively. "The very thought of your taking part in a race makes my blood run cold. Hunting is bad enough surely, but the cross-country business is infinitely worse."

"And what do you call hunting, you dear little ignoramus, but cross-country business? Do you imagine everybody sticks to the gates?"

"I know you don't, Kate, for one. I only wish you did. Then you would not be brought back in this alarming state."

"I don't see that it's so very terrible after all."

"Do you remember Mr. Gambetta's sensible utterance when he fought that celebrated duel of his, in the 'Tramp Abroad?' 'It is not death I fear, but mutilation.' Fancy if you were maimed or disfigured for life, the bridge of your nose smashed in, an eye gouged out, or all your front teeth destroyed. How would you like to show yourself then?"

"I needn't show myself. I could stop at home."

"You'd soon tire of that. Solitude is not much in your line."

"Well, then, I'd purchase a new nose, a new eye, and a new row of teeth. Perhaps they might even effect an improvement in my personal appearance."

"You are digressing as usual; but Kate, will you promise to give up the steeplechase, if only to oblige me?"

"I would do a good deal to oblige you, Mary, but I can't promise what you ask."

"Why not? Have you any particular reason for insisting?"

"People would think I was afraid."

"You do not generally show yourself so sensitive to public opinion as all that. Whose criticisms do you particularly fear?"

"No one's," said she, reddening in spite of herself. "But I have given my word, and don't intend to go back from it. Mary, my dear, don't worry me any longer about the matter, there's a good girl. Besides, to tell the truth, I'm looking forward to the whole affair tremendously; it will be great fun; and though of course I'm bound to pretend I don't care much one way or the other about the result, I don't mind telling you in strictest confidence I'd give anything for King Olaf to win. Wouldn't it be glorious, Mary?"

"Well, Kate, I really don't know. I suppose it would be better than losing. He has a very good chance, has he not?"

"Yes, according to Mrs. Forrester and Colonel Clinker, both excellent authorities. I'm not a bit afraid of King Olaf making a fool of himself, but I am of myself. I might cut a voluntary before the whole assembled multitude. Imagine what an awful fiasco; yet such unfortunate contretempts are by no means rare, and the best of riders not always invulnerable. I verily believe I should pack up there and then, and hide my diminished head abroad for the remainder of the season." She paused, as if contemplating the catastrophe conjured up by her lively imagination.

"Nonsense, Kate," said Mary encouragingly. "You are no more likely to disgrace yourself than anybody else—not so likely I should say, judging from the various representatives of female horsemanship I have beheld lately. However, since your self-confidence appears so deficient, why don't you get a man like Colonel Clinker, for instance, to coach you up a bit? Your determination to ride being inflexible, it is my duty to give you good advice. He knows all about horse-racing, and doubtless could impart many valuable hints."

"Perhaps so, but all the same I would not ask him for worlds."

"You need not ask him. He may probably offer to help you of his own accord. It struck me the other night at Mrs. Forrester's he was on the verge of making some proposition when you snubbed him as usual."

"Why do you say as usual, Mary?"

"Because I don't think you're particularly civil. You talk as if you had some sort of spite against him. Anyhow, if he comes here this afternoon and you happen to get on the subject, I can see no reason why you should not seek a little assistance from one so competent to advise."

"Has he not rendered assistance enough already, poor man, without being bothered for more? But what makes you think he will come today?" She looked away as she spoke, pretending to be busy curling and uncurling the ribbons on her tea-gown. She herself had speculated on such an event, hoping he might call, yet feigning complete indifference. Mary Whitbread turned her quiet eyes upon her as she answered—

"Because I feel pretty sure some of them will walk up this afternoon."

It was Kate's turn to stare now. "And why should you feel pretty sure some of them will walk up this afternoon?" she repeated with considerable vivacity.

"Because," and Mary blushed rosy red, "well, because, if you must know, I happened to meet Mr. Grahame this morning when I came out of church."

"Oh! you happened to meet Mr. Grahame, did you? How very singular!"

"I wish you'd be quiet Kate, or I won't tell you another word."

"Oh! there's more to come, is there? Go on."

"Mr. Grahame," resumed Mary with dignity, "walked part of the way home with me, and in the course of conversation intimated that it was his intention to honor us with a call this afternoon."

Kate looked at Mary with a mischievous smile. "So Miss," she said, "that is the reason why, although the morning was drizzly and the roads one sea of mud, you put on your best black silk frock. Mary, there are depths of artfulness hidden beneath that quiet exterior of yours which defy comprehension. First you insist on going to church in spite of a cold; secondly, you profess to despise the rain; and thirdly, you appear in your smartest clothes, though in an ordinary way you are an economically disposed little person. The only sad conclusion possible for me to arrive at is that these young men are turning your head. Did Mr. Grahame approve of your best black silk, or was he so absorbed in contemplation of the wearer as to be obvious of all such minor considerations?"

"Kate! I never heard anyone talk so much nonsense in all my life. I have only seen Mr. Grahame some two or three times."

"No matter, there's such a thing as love at first sight, and yours is just the sort of tender, romantic disposition that falls a victim to it; while, unless I'm much mistaken, Mr. Grahame possesses a somewhat similar nature."

"I can't answer for Mr. Grahame's nature, but I can for my own," retorted Mary, blushing and smiling, as if Kate's accusation were by no means altogether distasteful or even impossible.

The conversation was now brought to an abrupt conclusion by the ringing of the front-door bell, and by the sound of masculine voices outside, shortly followed by the appearance of Colonel Clinker, Mr. McGrath, Captain Fuller, and Mr. Grahame.

After the first exchange of civilities was over, the Honble Jack placed a chair close to Kate's sofa, and seated himself, as if he had a right to the principal position near her.

"Well, Miss Brewser," he said, "and how are you? Getting over shaking I hope, and beginning to feel more like yourself again."

"Thanks, I'm rather stiff, but, on the high road to convalescence, and very considerably improved since I last had the pleasure of seeing you."

"Ah! you were being dragged up the staircase then, with Miss Whitbread on one side and Dr. Baker on the other, while I looked on and felt myself superlatively de trop. After all, men are but clumsy creatures."

"You did not display much clumsiness throughout the afternoon. I don't know what I should have done had it not been for your help—probably remained lying on my back like a capsized turtle to this very hour."

He looked gratified. It was no small reward to find himself received so graciously by one whose moods he had already learnt were apt to be changeable and wayward. "I wish you would cease trying to thank me," he said. "I did nothing—at least, nothing that any other man would not have done in my place."

"It depends so much on the way things are done," she returned. "You must not destroy my gratitude by any disclaimer."

(To be continued.)

A man who never abuses his partner or his employer has the true Christian spirit.

You Can Overcome The Tired Feeling.

Instil New Vigor and Energy Into the System and Add New Flesh and Tissue by Using

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

When you join with nature and rejoice at the coming of spring? There are means at hand whereby you can overcome the feelings of languor and lassitude and make spring the time for renewing health and vigor, instead of giving way to weakness and despondency.

Everybody needs a spring restorative to enrich the blood and build up the system after the debilitating effects of artificial winter life.

Experience has proven that there is no preparation extant so well suited to these needs as Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

It is only reasonable that this great food cure, which has been endorsed by tens of thousands of people on this continent, should be superior to the prescription of an ordinary doctor, hastily written and hastily filled at the drug store.

Headache, sleeplessness, irritability, stomach troubles, loss of energy, ambition and the ability to apply one's self to the task in hand are among the indications of an exhausted condition of the system.

A month's treatment with Dr. Chase's Nerve Food will do wonders for you.

Besides the benefit you feel, you can prove that new flesh and tissue is being added by noting your increase in weight.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50 cents a box, six boxes for $2.50, at all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto. To protect you against imitations, the portrait and signature of Dr. A. W. Chase, the famous recipt book author, are on every box.

FOR FARMERS

Seasonable and Profitable Hints for the Busy Tillers of the Soil.

TESTING FARM SEEDS.

If a greenhouse is available seeds can be tested in it with but little trouble. Fine sand should be used in greenhouse tests. It should be sterilized before placing on benches and free from all foreign matter. The white glass sand gives best results. Ordinary drain tile 6 inches in diameter should be split lengthwise and laid open side up in a continuous line from one end of the bench to the other. The rounded sides can be set in sand so that they will stay in place. One line of such open tile should be laid for every foot in width of the bench. Fill the tile with clean, coarse gravel, level full, and stand a whole pipe upright at each end of the line resting on the gravel. Cover with sand at least 3 inches in depth. The moisture for this bed is then supplied by pouring water into the whole tile, whereupon it will quickly drain through the gravel in the open tile and be absorbed by the sand. The sand should not be saturated, but kept moist.

The seed should be planted in rows, bearing small label stake, with record written in lead pencil. The large seeds should be pushed in the sand, germ down, level with the surface of the sand. The small seeds can be sowed on the surface. Dry sand should be sprinkled over the top in a light layer, after the seeds are planted, and the seeds removed when sprouted.

SIMPLE FARM TESTERS.

Very simple apparatus is recommended for home testing of seeds. The simplest and most satisfactory is the sand plate. Use an ordinary china dinner plate, filled with fine sifted sand, free from impurities. Pour boiled water over the sand and shake the sand down into an even bed in the plate. Drain off the excess of water by tipping plate for a few seconds, and plant seed germ down in the sand. Turn a second plate over the first to prevent the too rapid evaporation of moisture. Set this tester in a warm living room and remove seeds as they sprout. If the sand dries out before the end of test more water can be added.

A second method for home testing is a tin basin, the bottom of which is covered with water. Pans, saucers or dishes of saucer shape are set in the water, and blotting paper, or cloth laid on the saucers. The seeds are placed between the folds of paper or cloth, and the top of the basin covered with a pane of glass. This tester is kept in a warm living room and will give satisfactory results if extremes of temperature and moisture are avoided. Record slips can be placed with each sample.

TEMPERATURE TO OBSERVE.

The temperature for germination varies with different varieties of seeds. In actual practice the temperature recommended for tests is varied accordingly as the seeds are quick or slow sprouting seeds. For slow sprouting seeds, such as bluegrass, oats, wheat, etc., the temperature is kept at 86 degrees for 12 hours, and 78 degrees for 12 hours. An alternating temperature seems to induce more rapid and uniform results. For quick sprouting seeds a temperature of 86 degrees is kept constant during the course of the experiment.

The substratum or material in or on which the seeds rest, should be kept moist but not saturated. When blotters are moistened to the proper degree, pressure of the finger tip on the paper will press out a thin film of water about the finger tip. The atmosphere should be kept moist, but an excess of moisture is detrimental. Experiments alone will determine the seems to vary with the variety of proper methods for securing the right degree of moisture with individual apparatus.

The effect of light on germination seed. As the seeds are usually covered during a test, light is excluded It is commonly thought that in some cases light retards germination.

DRIVING A PIG.

The general impression seems to be that the pig is a stubborn, mulish beast, and must be forced along whenever he shows any hesitation. "Haste makes waste" is a saying nowhere more applicable than in the treatment of pigs. If a pig is handled quietly and given time to consider the propriety of entering or crossing some strange place, he usually makes up his mind to go peaceably, whereas if the drover is impatient and attempts to force him along, he is convinced there is something wrong in it, and his impulse is to get away as quickly as possible. Then as soon as he starts off on a run he is in no condition to pay attention to anything but his one impulse, which is to get away home—the only refuge he knows—as soon as he can.

The same remarks apply to the case of other animals when worried to the point of exhaustion is more quickly reached in the case of the pig. A quiet, even temper and plenty of patience are necessary on such occasions. The greatest assistance that the loud and boisterous man can render under such circumstances is to make himself scarce. Do not try to be more stubborn than the pig. Give him plenty of time to consider the situation, and, if you avoid creating the impression that he is being cornered, he will decide to go your way.

FUNGOUS DISEASES.

The spores of the apple rots are usually on the fruits when they enter the storage house. They develop rapidly if the storage of the fruit is delayed after it is picked. It is probable that the apple scab and the pink mold, so serious in western New York in 1902, and the bitter rot, do not spread after the fruit is cooled down to 32 degrees in the storage room, while some of the molds which cause the fruit to rot, grow slowly and spread in the cool temperature.

It has been our observation that in a large majority of cases, serious rotting of apples in cold storage can be attributed to the spread of the disease in the barrel during the delays between the orchard and the storage house. It is probable also that the rotting in the storage house is most serious within a short time after the fruit is stored and before it becomes thoroughly cooled. Sort over those lots of apples that have been abused within a month after their arrival at the storage house in order to remove the decayed specimens and prevent the spread from apple to apple of diseases that may grow in the cold temperature.

Aside from the rots the scald is the most serious trouble that appears in the storage house. Apple scald is probably caused by a ferment that exists in the cells of the fruit. All varieties are not equally susceptible, and the trouble appears only when the fruit approaches the end of its life history. The scald is more likely to appear if the fruit ripens quickly after it is picked and before it is stored. In the practical handling of the apple crop the susceptibility to scald may be reduced to a minimum. First, by growing the fruit to maturity and with good color; second, in storing it in the quickest possible time after picking in a temperature not above 31 to 32 degrees.

PROPERTIES of ASBESTOS.

The terrible disaster in the Iroquois Theatre at Chicago has attracted universal attention to the singular substance, asbestos, which can be carded like wool and formed into fire-proof cloth or paper. Asbestos belongs to the hornblende type of minerals, and in some respects forms a kind of link between the vegetable and animal kingdoms. It is, says Mr. A. F. Collins, at once fibrous and crystalline, elastic and brittle, heavy as rock in the crude state, yet light as thistle-down when mechanically treated. The best asbestos for the manufacture of fire-proof cloth comes from lower Canada. It is found in narrow seams, about and inch and a quarter in thickness, sometimes vertical and sometimes horizontal in the containing rock. As it comes from the rock it is worth $200 a ton; but the long fibres, stripped ready for spinning and weaving, are worth $1,500 a ton.

A CURIOUS CUSTOM.

A curious custom has just been celebrated at Klin, near Moscow. All the marriagable girls in the town lined up in the principal street, decked out in their simple finery, many of them also having with them the stock of linen, household and personal which forms part of their dowry. The young men contemplating matrimony then walked down the serried ranks of beauty as they moved towards the church, and selected the girls of their choice. A formal visit to the parents to arrange details was then made in each case, and a date fixed for the ceremony.

JAPANESE SHIP NAMES.

In view of the periodic discussion about the appropriate naming of our warships, it is of interest to learn from Sir Edwin Arnold that Japan has christened her big battleships after great mountains and the smaller war-vessels from some well-known natural features of the country. It may also be mentioned that at the end of the name of every Japanese ship is either the termination kan or maru. They stand, as it were, as equivalents for our own H.M.S. and S.S. Kan means war-vessel and is applied, of course, only to the Emperor's fleet. Maru, which means round, is applied to merchant-vessels—why, it is difficult to say.

CRIMINAL EDUCATION.

Some remarkable details have just come to light regarding a criminal education society in the Italian city of Foggie. This organization, called the "Malavita," aimed at committing all sorts of crime, from highway robbery to kidnapping. Two schools existed, one to teach the way to use the knife and the other for pickpockets. A few francs were charged for admission, and pupils, graduated accoring to the proficiency they attained. If any one of the members was arrested other members volunteered to give perjured testimony in his behalf, while a few more took charge of the witnesses for the prosecution, whom they scared by threats into refusing to testify.

HOW DO YOU LAUGH?

A worthy Frenchman has been cataloguing the different kinds of laughter, and has discovered that laughs are of five kinds, expressing and express by the five vowels. That is to say, that laughter in what may be called the verbal keys of A, E, I, O, and U corresponds with five distinct moral characters. A tells of loyal and open natures, who love noise and movement; E announces a phlegmatic temperament; I is sympathetic, and belongs to children and naive spirits; O is usually reserved for heroes. As to U, it is the laugh of a black misanthrope.

Piles To prove to you that the Chase's Ointment is a certain and absolute cure for each and every form of itching, bleeding and protruding piles, the manufacturers have guaranteed it. See testimonials in the daily press and ask your neighbors what they think of it. You can use it and get your money back if not cured. 60c a box, at all dealers or EDMANSON, BATES & CO., Toronto.

Dr. Chase's Ointment

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Notes of Interest About Some Prominent People.

The Prince of Wales enjoys the privilege from which His Majesty is now debarred. So long as his Royal Highness remains Prince of Wales he may take a seat in the gallery of the House of Commons and hear the debates. The King is not supposed to do so.

A privilege belongs to the Lady Mayoress of York, England by right of memorial custom. It is the only one she have the prefix "Lady" before her name for the rest of her life. A local rhyme runs:—

The mayor is a lord for a year and a day,
But his wife is a lady for life and ay.

Mr. John Morley neither rides bicycles, nor motors, nor fishes. His only pleasure is music. Like the late Canon Liddon, and like Mr. Algernon Swinburne, he is very fond of cats, and can no more withstand the temptation to stroke a stray cat than can some women pass a strange baby.

Lord Ripon is a formidable rival to Lord Rayleigh as an amateur dairyman. At Studley Royal he has perhaps the best equipped dairy in England, to which many of the neighboring farmers take their milk to be converted into butter and cheese, and the produce of the dairy is conveyed by carts to his shops in Leeds and Ripon.

One of Queen Alexandra's favorite occupations when she is at home at Sandringham or any other of the Royal palaces is that of arranging cut flowers in vases for the vestibules of the different apartments. In this matter Her Majesty has quite exceptional skill and taste, and, it is said, has received lessons in flower dressing from a Japanese lady; the Japanese, who regard this occupation as a fine art, being by far the most skilled at it.

Here is a good story of Herbert Spencer which is not generally known. When Mr. Spencer was housekeeping near Regent's Park, London, he was in the habit of personally reprimanding the domestic affairs of his establishment to a considerable extent. The poulterer had not been giving satisfaction, so Mr. Spencer called his housekeeper and gave her directions to transfer his custom to another tradesman, whose shop faced the delinquent's. "And, Miss Smith," said the author of "Synthetic Philosophy," "be particular that the first poulterer sees you giving your orders to the second poulterer!"

The general allusion to the Czar of Russia as the "Czar" is, strictly speaking, incorrect. His official title is "Emperor and Autocrat." "Czar" is the old Russian word for "king" or "prince," and was abandoned by Peter the Great on his triumphal return from Poltava, his crowning victory over Charles XII. of Sweden. Since then the Russian monarch has been officially entitled the Emperor, and at the Conbress of Vienna in 1815 his right to the Imperial term was admitted by the Powers, with the proviso that though he was Emperor he had no precedence over the Kings of Western Europe.

There is living in New York at the present time a man who is said to have written 300 novels. A, however, these works are in Yiddish the author is not widely known to fame. He is a Russian-Jewish refugee named Saikewitch. Just now he has four novels running in as many papers, and for all of these he has not a line prepared ahead. He writes as he goes. Every day he rounds of the papers and supplies them on the spot with an installment. And yet all of Saikewitch's novels are said to be complicated in plot and crowded with characters, the scenes "covering an amazing amount of ground."

The King of Wurtemburg, whose illness prevented him from attending the wedding of his niece, Princess Alice of Albany, is the only hotel-keeper who is a King. When Peter the Great was travelling incognito through Europe he refused to stay anywhere but at an inn. To circumvent this whim the then King of Wurtemburg put a tavern beside one of the Royal palaces, and, dressed as an inkeeper, himself welcomed the Czar. This monarch's descendants have been in "the trade" ever since; and the present King owns two large hotels, from which he derives about $50,000 a year.

It would be difficult to picture a man more unlike the typical musician than Dr. Elgar, whose "Dream of Gerontius," which has been hailed as a masterpiece from Glasgow to Sydney, is being so much discussed. Dr. Elgar is an excellent sample of athletic English manhood, who in never happier than when chasing the ball over the golf links near his Worcestershire home. He is a lover of the country and fresh air, and for this reason has made his home away from the haunts of men, in a pretentious cottage on the outskirts of Malvern. Here he works hard every morning until the clock strikes one and releases him for the rest of the day. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about this gifted composer is that he is almost entirely self-taught. All the set instruction which he ever had in music was five lessons on the violin.

LUMINOUS TREE.

A very remarkable tree grows in Nevada. It is called by the superstitious Indians the witch tree. It grows to a height of 6 ft., and its trunk at the base is about three times the size of an ordinary man's wrist. The wonderful characteristic of the tree is its luminosity, which is so great that on the darkest night it can be seen plainly at least a mile away. A person standing near could read the finest print by its light.

RUSSIA'S HOLY CHURCH

SOMETHING ABOUT ITS SENSUOUS PAGEANTRY.

Description of a Service in the Cathedral of St. Saviour's, Moscow.

It was drawing near to sunset time on a Saturday afternoon, and the latter sun—a larger and redder sun than we see in England—was setting swiftly down towards the vast plains to the west of Moscow, says a correspondent of an English newspaper.

The land was very quiet, as a land of this must be that is covered with wind-drowning snow. But, as the great red sun fell below the sea of snow and turned it all to ruddiness, there began to peal from all the forty times forty steeples of the town of churches, thousands upon thousands of soft-toned bells.

The Holy Church of Russia, in the Czar's name, was calling all its people to the weekly soul's cleansing. They should leave them free and spiritually unstained for the fleshly holiday, and it might be drunken revelry on the morrow's Sabbath.

IN THE CATHEDRAL.

Passing from the Kremlin, the capital of carved and painted churches, I ordered down to the great Cathedral of St. Saviour's, to which long streams of people, walking, or driving in fast-running sleighs, were moving for their weekly blessing and their weekly shriving.

The vast dim interior of the building was in utter darkness save for the doubtful flicker of some hundred candles placed round the walls by devotees. A black mass of men and women, officers, and sheepskin-coated peasants, side by side, stood with bowed heads before the gilded altar.

Suddenly there began to sing, without the aid of any instrumental music, a most amazing choir, whose voices, floating from the right side of the altar, filled the enormous space of the church with notes that resided like some huge organ whose organ pipes had suddenly been turned to human throats.

STATELY CEREMONY.

The singing of the choir ceased, and a second choir, human, though angel-like in sound and volume, took up the song. A priest chanted out, and a voice so mighty that it dwarfed the swelling music of the choirs, began to chant the praises of the Czar. For a while the choirs sang, like one calling to each other across space; then the golden doors of the sanctuary, which typify the gates of Heaven, were flung open, and the priests passed within. The doors were swung to, and a third choir sang of a blessing from the Throne of God within the gates of heaven. In the ensuing silence there was a great rustling as the people crossed themselves three times, bowing themselves the while, and then, dropping on their knees, and with their hands pressed on their breasts, with a slow and graceful movement touched the floor of the House of God lightly with their foreheads.

AN UNTHINKING PEOPLE.

It was wonderful, it was moving. It almost forced one to the belief that such a scene could only be enacted by a people stirred by some strange spiritual impulse, uplifted by some great faith. The strength of it, the beauty of it, was so overwhelming.

But, turning to scan the faces of the people, one was filled with doubt. There were stupid faces and clever faces, weak faces and strong faces; but not a face in which there showed any trace of a clean inward life. There were signs, signs and wonders, of a reward and visible signs of a very striking kind. But, so far as I could learn, and so far as I could learn, no inward and spiritual life.

It is not very much to be wondered at for the Greek Church is founded on the credulity of ignorance, and provides sensuous pageants for an unthinking people. What is one to think of a so-called spiritual organization on the board of directors of which sitting up in the Synod at St. Petersburg, do not hesitate to profit by alleged miracles of the most astounding kind?

EXPLOITING A SAINT.

Being rather pressed for additional funds some time ago, it was suddenly discovered that the bones of a dead saint in the south of Russia possessed infallible healing power. They were unearthed, and the dead divine was canonized. And now, by selling pictures—little gaudy golden pictures—of the new saint, St. Seraphim, and by visiting pilgrims to his shrine, over a million and a half roubles (£150,000) have been made out of the saint's canonization.

The priests, too, with rare exceptions, show nothing in their lives that tends towards inspiration. The homely example of the country parson in England or the village priests of Wales is seldom to be found in Russia. There, the village priests, preceded by the unseemly example of those who wield authority, are often to be found drinking and drunk with their parishoners in the village vodkaski; and oftentimes the money with which they riot has been wrung from their unfortunate little flock by threats of absolute perdition.

CONNUBIAL BLISS.

Brother—"I trust that you are happy with your husband, Maud?"

Maud—"Oh, yes; as happy as one can expect to be with a man who is thinking of himself half the time and his first wife the other half."

DIDN'T WANT THE FAMILY.

He had at last summoned up courage to "ask papa," when, to his astonishment, the blustering parent demanded: "Are you capable of supporting a family, sir?"

Gertie—"Miss Queenly is a very strong girl, is she not?" Gertie—"Yes; she is not."