

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

THE IDEAL BACON HOG.

Profitable hog-raising in this year of grace, 1898, is not done in the pen. There are two reasons against pen feeding, either equally strong: First, pen feeding at present prices, is not profitable; secondly, pen feeding makes too much fat, for the reason that it precludes exercise, the desideratum for lean bacon and hams. The requisites therefore, and the needs of to-day, are a lean but fleshy hog, raised as cheaply as possible. Two things, then, are necessary to this end—unlimited pasture crops and the right breed of hog. With regard to the first, anybody knows that hogs can be raised about one-third cheaper on good pasture than in a close pen, and that from April to November is the most profitable period for growing and fattening and, further, this is the period of the growing season when it is possible to have green pasture crops growing during all this time.

With regard to the kind of bacon hogs, a great change has come over the palates of the consumers of hog products in the last few years. Fat pork is no longer wanted, not even in the lumber camps. What is wanted is mild cured bacon, with not more than one and one-half inches of fat on the back. In order to get this kind of bacon, the lazy, quiet, and easy-keeping Poland-China, Berkshire, and Duro-Jersey must stand aside, and the more nervous and irritable, and naturally "harder keeping," improved Yorkshire and Tamworth, take their place. Farmers are naturally loth to make this change. This is not to be wondered at; but the laws of the markets are as stringent as those of the Medes and Persians.

But the hog-raisers, particularly those of the corn states, may make this change very gradually and inexpensively, and this is done by simply crossing the Poland-China, Berkshire and Duro-Jersey with males of the bacon breeds, as improved Yorkshires or Tamworths.

CONCERNING GOOSEBERRIES.

No horticulturist should ignore gooseberries, for under good culture they will succeed on a variety of soils, albeit, as in the case of the currant, the best results are obtained on a strong, rather moist, well-drained clay loam. As to the cultivation, it should be thorough, but shallow. Owing to the fact that they do fairly well in partial shade, says a writer, the gooseberry bushes can often be cultivated advantageously between young orchard trees. When set in a regular field, however, they should be located about five feet apart each way, or in rows six feet apart and four or five feet distant in the row. There are several different ways of training them, but, generally speaking, the bush form is by far preferable. As a rule, however, little pruning is required during the first three or four years, excepting to head back the strong new shoots and remove a few of the less vigorous ones for the purpose of developing fruit spurs all along the canes. In other words, all that is required is to remove superfluous branches and check growth sufficient to keep the bushes within bounds—"civilized," you might say. Like the currant, the gooseberry may be started from cuttings, or by mound layering. By the latter method the old plants are headed back to induce the formation of strong new shoots near the surface of the ground. Then, late in June or July, when the new wood has become somewhat hardened, a mound of earth is built about the "stool," the earth being heaped up four or five inches deep above the bases of the shoots. When fall arrives this is removed, the rooted shoots cut off and planted at once in well-prepared soil, or, if preferable, they may be tied in bundles and treated as cuttings, until the following spring. Provided care is exercised in removing shoots during the winter, however, propagation from the same plants may proceed indefinitely from year to year. In regard to the best varieties, Downing, Smith's Improved and Pale Red are the most valuable of our native, the Downing being much superior to the other two in size and quality. There are also some excellent European varieties, most noticeable of which are the Industry and White-smith; and were it not for their being so susceptible to mildew, these would be very valuable, in that they have the advantage of a great variety of coloring. As it is, however, one will be on the safest side to use natives only, and especially if he is growing gooseberries for market.

FALL VS. SPRING SETTING.

I think all prominent berry growers will agree on this: That a strawberry plant to do its best in fruiting, must have a root system reaching at least a foot in every direction through the soil from the plant. These little hair-like roots, says a writer, reach much further from the body of the plant than one thinks. It is impossible to take up such plants and shake out the earth without destroying a great part of these little rootlets which are the food and drink gatherers for the plant. To prove this to be true,

select two such large plants which appear to be about equal, and from one wash the earth all away from the roots by forcing a jet of water against the soil around the plant, and the other take up as carefully as you can and shake out the earth. Now carefully note the difference in the condition of the roots. You will find all the main roots and the largest laterals on both plants; but you will find a much larger number of fine roots on the plant that the water washed out. Now these two plants are out of the soil in the fall, one with all its roots with it, the other with part of them left behind; we must get them back again in the ground somewhere, with the little roots all separated through the soil so much better than they were before—so much better than God or Nature could do it—that they will give us so much better yield than what they would if left where they were enough to more than pay for all this expense of moving them. How many of my readers think they are equal to this task?

GUINEA FOWLS.

These birds must be well known to be appreciated. From childhood we have had them on the farm, from 5 to 250 in a flock, says a writer. They are no trouble whatever, lay their eggs in nests which they make in the grass and wheat fields, we often finding nests with from three to seventy-five eggs piled on top of each other. From some of the nests we take part of the eggs, and leave some for them to raise their young. They sit, hatch, and raise their broods, and we often do not see them until late in the fall, when they bring their chicks home, sometimes as many as twenty in a flock. Such chirping, such flying up trees! The little keets look much like partridges when about that size. They are splendid meat to fry or roast or for potpie; and to enjoy a breast of fowl, one should eat a guinea fowl. The eggs are considered the richest of all eggs, and keep well. We put them up to use in winter; and two years ago, when illness and death in the family made me forget the eggs until June, we found them just as good as when put away. If you try guinea fowls, you are sure to have eggs and fowls for your table, and no trouble to get them.

LEARNING THROWN AWAY.

How a Professor of Astronomy Gained a Name for Himself.

Some good men are naturally such teachers, and so full of benevolence, especially toward the young, that they cannot help spreading wisdom wherever they go. Nevertheless, a certain amount of preparatory instruction is necessary to make it possible for some of the wisdom thus scattered abroad to take root. That the seed may fall on stony ground is proved by a story which a gentleman, who went hunting far into the interior of Nova Scotia, tells in a letter to the Country Gentleman.

The hunter was carried sixteen miles at night by a boy sixteen years old and a horse fifteen years old. The ride was tedious, and the boy-driver was inclined to fall asleep. The hunter therefore thought to interest him in something.

"I see we are going due west," he remarked.

"How do you know that?" asked the boy. "Were you ever here before?"

"No, but there is the North Star over there."

"How do you know it's the North Star?"

"Why there are the Pointers pointing to it."

"What Pointers?"

The hunter explained, and told the boy how to find the North Star. Then he pointed out two of the planets. The boy seemed wide-awake now, and the hunter went on to give him his first lesson in astronomy, telling him how Jupiter was thirteen hundred times as large as the earth, and how Mars showed changes of seasons—how it had bays and apparent canals and so forth, and how it was supposed by many to have intelligent inhabitants. He discoursed a long time on the wonders of astronomy.

When, after his hunting, the stranger returned to the town where he had hired the conveyance and the boy, he found that the people seemed to have a certain humorous interest in him. It was so evident that he was the object of some curiosity or joke that he made inquiries, and finally found a man who could tell him.

"Why," said this informant, "you've made a great reputation for yourself around here."

"In what way?"

"Oh, the kid that drove you over to the other night came back the next day and told all the 'setters' at the hotel that of all the liars he ever heard you were the slickest."

"What lie did I tell him?"

"The boy said that you pretended to know the number of miles to the sun, and that you pointed to a star that you said was called Jumpter, and that you said it was thirteen hundred times bigger than this world, and that you pointed to another star that you said was one where folks lived like we be."

"Oh," says that boy, "you just ought to hear him! He's a peach! Old Haskins ain't it with that feller for lying. I tell you he's the biggest liar in Nova Scotia. I'll point him out to you when he comes back."

The boy had pointed him out, and he was at that moment enjoying the reputation of the champion of all the liars who had ever come to Nova Scotia.

IS THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE RIGHT HON. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

Career of the Genius Who Started the World With a Proposal of an Anglo-American Alliance—From Humble Origin He Has Become One of the Most Famous Men of the Times.

Everyday people always enjoy the story of the life of Chamberlain. His beginning was not along the smooth path opened for Balfour. His father was a London shoemaker, who made some money off of soles and uppers. He made good shoes and the boy was designed to succeed him at the altar of Crispin. He showed an unwillingness to do so until fate led him at 18 to Birmingham and placed him with a firm of wood screw-makers, in which he was eventually to become the principal factor.

He came out of the University College School in 1854 to make his home in Birmingham, and in the letter of introduction which he carried with him there to friends was the sentence:

"Please be kind and see as much as you can of poor Joe, for he knows nobody in Birmingham."

Time was not required for his masters to know him though. He was taciturn, but brutally in earnest. He went at the business of making screws just as he has undertaken everything else in his long career. His first dive into the world of trade was in an effort to make screws cheaper and better than anyone else on the market did. He succeeded. Literally he reorganized the world's market for wood screws. Where there had been cut prices, trade depression, no profits, he created unity, profitable sales, active demand. He concerned himself with the minutiae of his shops, studied the conditions surrounding his men, uncovered coal mines for his own supply, became the owner of the raw material he needed, entered into partnership with his employers.

ROSE TO THE HEAD

of an establishment employing 2,000 men and found a wealth producing an income of \$150,000 annually at his disposal.

All this he did in twenty years, for it was in 1874 when he first really entered the political field of the British Empire.

Understanding this much of the man it is not difficult to appreciate why, as a statesman, his utterances are taken to represent the sentiments of commercial England and the foundation of the throne of England is not to be found in war ships, but her commerce.

Mr. Chamberlain was not content, while a tradesman to be merely that. He could not make a public speech, so he taught himself oratory. He joined Birmingham debating societies and spoke until a freedom of manner came to him which was attractive. He kept himself loaded with facts. Possibly realizing that his voice and his personality might always be against him as a popular orator he built his strength as a speaker upon his knowledge of the details of nearly every subject under the sun. Your Englishman likes solid facts more than oratorical flourishes in a speech. He took to Chamberlain's mastery of facts, upheld as they were by invective, irony, satire and ridicule, with huge delight. In time he called Chamberlain "The People's Joseph."

Once a speaker with a reputation Mr. Chamberlain launched into the field of municipal reform. He found Birmingham a squalid, dirty, unhealthy city. He was elected mayor over and over again. He rebuilt the streets, tore down the rookeries, sewered the bad places, fought for municipal ownership of tramways and light. What was healthful, wholesome, best for the people of a city he not only advocated, but got. He entered on his first canvass for a seat in parliament in 1874, a rounded man, having the confidence of those who knew him.

HE WAS DEFEATED.

but stood again and was returned in 1876.

Since then his speech has been steadily upward. He was in Gladstone's cabinet in 1880 and became the author of the bankruptcy act, now the law of England. He remained with Gladstone until 1886, when, in a division of sentiment with the grand old man over home rule, he resigned and opposed him politically forever after. He was a member of the fishery commission sent to the United States in 1888 and secretary of state under Salisbury. He became leader of the liberal-unionist party after the retirement of Lord Hartington. In 1888 he married Miss Mary Endicott, daughter of Grover Cleveland's first secretary of war. She is his third wife and he has a son by his first wife older than her.

In his early years Mr. Chamberlain was a socialist, drifting with that into what is termed radical English politics. Since 1886 he has grown more conservative, shown a preference for imperialism and unification of all the interests of the empire. The changes in his opinions on questions of this character are no more remarkable than those which took place in the political evolution of Castelar of Spain. But through all his career, Mr. Chamberlain has never failed on occasion to show that he kept in touch with the British public and that what he said was not a mere opinion of his own. Better than

any living man in England to-day he knows the strength and the weakness of his nation. A terrible dealer in facts, he is not the kind of man to blind himself to conditions surrounding England, which make it absolutely necessary that her career of "splendid isolation" should come to an end. He meant that when he said:

"I would go so far as to say that terrible as war may be, even war itself would be cheaply purchased if in a great and noble cause the stars and stripes and the union jack should wave together over an Anglo-Saxon alliance."

HE IS BUSINESS ALL OVER.

and his speech meant business for England. A man who could compel his adopted town to purchase gas works with a present capital value of \$11,000,000 and an annual profit of \$150,000, at the same time reducing the cost of gas to the people a shilling, is dreadfully in earnest wherever you take him. He did the same thing with the Birmingham waterworks, now valued at \$1,000,000, and which have reduced water rates \$80,000 per year for the consumers. He bought the "central slums" of Birmingham for \$2,000,000 and constructed Corporation street out of them. When the leases there fall in, some fifty years hence, Birmingham will be the richest civic corporation in the world. To-day, thanks to Mr. Chamberlain the tax rates of Birmingham are less than they were fifty years ago, and the total charge is rather more than 20 shillings per head of population or one-fifth of the charge of the local administration of Boston.

Monarchs of Germany, Austria, Spain have no regard for such an utterance as this from Chamberlain:

"I am confident in the capacity of a wise government resting upon the representation of the whole people to do something to add to the sum of human happiness, to smooth the way for misfortune and poverty. We are told that this country, England, is the paradise of the rich. It should be our duty to see that it does not become the purgatory of the poor."

In his whole life, even in his opposition to home rule, which he more than any other man defeated, Chamberlain has

NEVER VARIED

from support of these sentiments. He is less of a socialist to-day than he once was; less of an imperious radical so far as the central government of England is concerned, but he is steadfastly for the amelioration of the conditions surrounding the middle and common classes of his nation.

His reform platform outlined by himself in 1892, proposes shortening the hours of work for miners, regulations for the early closing of shops, arbitration in labor disputes, compensation for injuries to employes by employers, old age pensions for deserving poor, restriction and control of pauper immigration, increased facilities to local authorities to make town improvements, power to local authorities to aid workmen to become house owners. Certainly in this he is more than abreast of his time, and by force of his support of such measures and his persistent insistence on unity between England and all her colonies he has even forced the house of lords to not only fear but respect him.

A perfect system of unity for imperial England can never comprehend an alliance with any foreign power of Europe or Asia. That alliance, if to be made, must be with the Anglo-Saxon or Celt, as you choose, of America, and Mr. Chamberlain in the opinion of diplomats in Washington, has but forewarned the world that if not to-day fifty years hence the United States and England will be as one in matters of external policy.

He is supported in his position by the Duke of Fife, by Sir Charles Dike, by the Duke of Argyll and innumerable eminent public men of England. Lord Brassey is for an Anglo-Saxon pact. Prime Minister Sagasta of Spain termed the famous speech as reckless. The Journal des Debats of Paris accuses Mr. Chamberlain of being the author of a plot to suddenly attack the French fleet and destroy it. The Matin declares war between England and France is now within immeasurable limits. In St. Petersburg the speech was denounced in unmeasured terms.

With a voice which they say resembles that of a "London cabby," Mr. Chamberlain has succeeded in arousing the world of diplomacy as it has not been stirred in years. But then, Mr. Chamberlain never does anything, they say in his home, that is not extraordinary and worthy of the closest consideration. If you chance by London way this season and meet a slenderly built man wearing a huge monocle and an orchid you will know that it is Chamberlain the man who was termed by the lords when he was first on his way to the commons to take his seat:

"The black man from the country, clay pipe in mouth, clothes soiled with dirt."

The lords do not say that now.

A FATAL MISTAKE.

Yes, madam, it is a fatal mistake to neglect your teeth. I lost a great deal of money through an oversight of that very sort. I had a rich uncle who promised me to be his heir. He went to sea. During a sudden storm he fell overboard, and a shark at once grabbed him. My uncle was a stout man; the shark was old. Moreover, he had never taken care of his teeth, and they were wretchedly poor. In short he couldn't hold on to my uncle, who kicked himself loose from the man-eater and was picked up by a boat.

But how did you lose the money? My uncle lived long enough to alienate his will. Oh, that neglectful shark.

A HALF MEMORY.

Teacher—Who discovered America? Street Gamin, after deep thought—I disremember his name, but he was a Dago.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A Few Paragraphs Which May Prove of Reading.

The swiftest elevator in the world is at the Onida Mine in Amador County, Cal. The ascent of 1500 feet was made in twenty seconds. The descent was at the speed of a mile in seconds.

A tank steamer with a capacity of 720,000 gallons will soon be launched from the Roach shipyard in Chester, Pa. It is for the Standard Oil Company, and is said to be the largest of the world.

The city tax on property in Glasgow is only three-tenths of one per cent., but fire insurance rates are about seven per cent. To insure \$100,000 costs \$850 a year. The city tax on the same house is only \$10.

A clergyman who recently led the services in the jail at Gladstone, Australia, unreflectively gave out the hymn to the worshipping prisoners: "We'll never leave this safe abode, refuge in the time of storm."

A London phrenologist has opened a matrimonial bureau. The object, pompously announces, is "to secure the introduction of persons desiring to marry to partners with suitable harmonious phrenological endowments."

A contest between a bull and a lion, a caged arena, in the City of Mexico, resulted in an easy victory for the bull. A second lion was then produced, and this the bull also vanquished to the great delight of thousands of spectators.

Larks and other singing birds are shot for the table in Italy. Upon what fact Wm. A. Alden thus comments: "I am convinced that there is far too much singing of all sorts in Italy, and the killing of superfluous larks and amateur drawing-room sopranos cannot be wholly without justification."

Forty-one years ago the Rev. Edward Allen, of Tiverton, England, was given up by the doctors, who said he had incurable disease of the heart. He was then sixty years of age. He lived to see each of the doctors pass away, and attended their funerals. He has just died at the age of one hundred and one.

For 385 years the rulers of Denmark have been alternately a Frederick and a Christian. This is the law, that King Christian must be succeeded by King Frederick, and then comes a King Christian again. In view of this law every Danish prince has among his other names both Frederick and Christian.

The caving in of a sand-bank in Long Island City led to a startling taking. A thirteen-year-old boy was buried under the sand, and Fred Beres, who was several other men, tried to rescue him. When the lifeless body was found, Mr. Beres was shocked by the discovery that it was that of his own son.

A clergyman from Hockensack, N. J., stopped at a New York hotel for dinner, and with it drank three small glasses of claret. The wine must have been very exhilarating, for he became so uproariously jolly under its influence that he awoke the next morning in a police cell. His congregation has dismissed him; and this last blow has made him vow that hereafter his strongest beverage will be weak tea.

A mismatched couple recently returned to Oxford, Mich., from California, where they had spent the winter. A neighbor asked the wife if she had heard an earthquake while there. She answered: "Yes, I heard one, and rather enjoyed it; for it was the first thing that happened since John and I have been married that he did not think I was to blame for it."

A deaf and dumb couple were making love in a lighted parlor in Cincinnati, and the young man had begun to express a marriage proposal in the sign language when the maiden suddenly arose and shut off the gas. Now she could not continue his proposal in the dark, he is perplexed to know whether she shut off the gas to encourage him, or to force him to drop the subject.

THE MAN THAT KNOWS.

"There are some men," said Mr. Staybolt, "that always know what things; they have a power of judgment that amounts to genius. They discern the truth unerringly. They know what is right and what is wrong in a question, and they know it at the outset, without waiting for the event. They range themselves with confidence, but with knowledge, and however the clouds may lower they are not disturbed. Indeed they walk like the storm, for they know where the end will be. They are more powerful than other men because they are unhampered by doubts. They doubt, they know, and men follow them as they always will. Everybody admires a man that knows and is sure about it."

SINGULAR CUSTOM.

The very singular customs of the President of the House of Lords, who is called the Lord Chancellor, and sometimes the Keeper of the Great Seal, and the 12 Judges, who are peers sitting on woolsacks, is said to have been first established when wool was the principal article of English manufacture, and consequently wool were considered objects of the highest importance.

CHANCES OF DEATH IN ENGLAND.

MATTERS ON WHICH THEY D REVEALED IN A BLUE BOOK.

The Leading Causes of Death in England. The Peculiar Advantage and Disadvantage of Parents—Fuzzling Statistics—Alcoholism's Many Victims—Cleveland Moffett has been present.

British blue book which presents statistics of death in England for the years 1890, 1891 and 1892. In the years 1890, 1891 and 1892, the deaths are classified according to ages, occupations, diseases, etc., until there is not a district, or chimney-sweep or loftiest minister who may not find, if carefully, some precise statement as to how and why and when he is dead. And it is easy to see that the death discoveries made in London and other cities and other conditions exist where similar conditions exist.

conclusions in this blue book, based upon the deaths of men, for years that women make trouble in the mortality statistics.

One of the first tables shows men who have some regular occupation may face death more serenely than those who have none. This is true between the ages of 20 and 30, when the death rate for "unemployed" is from three to six times greater than for those with occupations greater at 20, and three times greater at 30. It must be remembered, however, that among those included are not only those retired from business of living means, but

LUNATICS AND PRISON.

The tables show that this death rate among the unemployed is due mainly to diseases of the system and to phthisis, the death rate from the former being seven times higher than for men with occupations. We next see the advantage in agricultural districts and large cities. Comparing the rate of "occupied males" (with Moffett considers exclusively those in the agricultural districts) the period in life from 20 to 30 per cent. above the average in the agricultural districts, still less favorable is the lot of those who live in the industrial region, great manufacturing centres like Leeds and Birmingham since the death rate rises to 31 per cent. above the average. The chief cause of these higher death rates, both in the agricultural districts and phthisis and diseases of the lung system.

Statistics are given of two diseases or causes of death, of these, viz phthisis, disease of the nervous system, diseases of the respiratory system, bronchitis, asthma, causes more than half the entire mortality. Cancer kills more than influenza, while suicide is responsible for more deaths than alcoholism. It is, however, pointed out that alcoholism is responsible for many deaths that are put down to other causes. In certifying of death of inebriates it is the duty of some medical men to state the pathological condition of the organs chiefly affected. The cause of the General Register shows that

CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER.

for instance, (the liver is that which more than any other is injured by intemperance), is frequently the sole cause of such circumstances, the fact of alcohol had induced the cirrhosis, other morbid condition being from the certificate. There is a table given for alcoholism comparative mortality figures, social philosophers will see heads wisely when they see, at head of the list, the keepers of hotels, their servants, and men of these classes, that is, persons of alcohol, die of it three to ten times faster than the average of "occupied males" faster for the brewer, the cooper, the tinsmith, etc. On the other hand, the mortality among agricultural laborers, railway men, iron and coal miners, clerks, fishermen, others is far below the average, one-third or one-fourth of it.

the case of soap manufacturers, copper miners, and recorded from alcoholism. It is of interest to know if there is any relation between social and total abstinence.

Mr. Moffett found the statistics full of similar unexplained facts. Why, for instance, zinc workers are five times as many as ordinary workers, whereas copper workers are one-third as many, while iron workers in the industrial districts never kill themselves at all.

THE NORMAL AVERAGE.

It is a fact that there are one in every 100 deaths, but in keeping with commercial travellers, hairdressers, much oftener than the others, bricklayers, tinsmiths, and wool, keep the highest importance.