

CAN POISON PIGS

Red squill is an effective preparation for killing rats, and it is regarded by some persons as being non-poisonous for pigs. Experiments by the Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, have shown that red squill is equally as poisonous for swine as for rats, but that it is distasteful for pigs, and, under ordinary conditions, they will not eat baits containing the amount of drug usually employed for killing rats.

LATE CHRISTMAS

There are still millions of Christians who observe January 6 or January 7 as Christmas. They allow for the 12 days difference in the old calendar and the new. The Eastern Orthodox observes January 7. In North Carolina one church group observes January 6, as do a number of other sects.

Over 7,000 people read this paper every week.

Social Reform

Many people of the world have had the idea that the world was made for the strong and the rich man born to opportunities not for the poor man born perhaps with great brains and energy to use them. But circumstances are a handicap. They also believe that only the fit should survive, that the great mass of men who are down in life, have by the mere fact of their being down, proved their unfitness with no real chance to rise because of circumstances. These people never seem to think that this vast world was made also for the weak as well as the strong and fit, weak because they have never had a chance to be otherwise, give them a fair chance and they will become strong or most of them. This world itself holds no chance for those helpless people who are reaching vainly upward or those who would be reaching upward if their consciousness were roused. This old world has no help or pity for the man who has stolen, insignificant at first, but repents, who struggles to reform all by himself. No one gives him any encouragement in his struggle, no one offers to help him, he is shunned. No one offers to help him to rise out of himself, to a better way of living. If the world thinks of the repentant thief or wrong doer, it is at the last minute when they think he can steal no more, when his fires have all gone out and there is nothing left but the ashes of his imagination. These are some of thousands that never had a chance when lads, they had no clear idea between right and wrong. No one seemed to have time to show them the difference. They may have been full of life and energy and brains and could easily have had their energies turned into the right way, but no one had time and did not bother to try so they turned into the wrong ways. But instead of a world willing to stretch out a helping hand they find a world that refused them the slightest chance. Their good resolution may last awhile, if they try by themselves they get discouraged and fall then since the one road seems closed they turn into the one that is always open, the road of their old ways, of their old friends, the world pushes these men down further because it fears to risk its worshipped dollars. They say for any vacancy there are usually two applicants. They choose the better, giving the other no chance to try and climb, and so long as man thinks only of his own interests that rule will stand, they may change their name and try and smooth down, their spirit they find no sympathy to help them rise, at times they want to live peacefully and honestly but the fear that someone someday will find out they are an exconvict. A breath, and this poor house of cards they have worked to build, falls. Society draws its skirts away from them if they do try and reform. They have an immortal soul within them behind all the bluffing, sometimes he fishes he were different. He may try and rise on his own wing, but finds the ground hard when he lights. The only way is to save him before he turns down the broad way. Oh what squanderers we are of human life! How far more rapidly the handling of iron, logs and cotton has developed, than the handling of men. The pig comes out meat and soap and what not and the same rigid economy is observed with all other materials, nothing is too small, too poor to be saved. It is all valuable. There is no waste. But can we say the same thing about the far more important business of saving men's lives. Such a waste, look at the men in our prisons. Had they been treated when they were in the raw materials of childhood, with even a part of the work and care that is devoted to turning other material into profit, they might have turned into good citizens, and these men are but a fraction of the waste of life. Think of the uncounted ones of the human wreckage floating about our large cities and all the time children are growing up and we ask where will they be? If any business man would run his factory as we conduct our business of helping real citizens, men who are large enough to help in a real way, he would be bankrupt in a year and how can he be saved by proper surrounding. Let a child be cradled in the gutter and cursed by wickedness, let wickedness be its teacher and friend and what do you get? The prisons will tell you. Let the same child grow up surrounded by love and kindness, care, uprightness and you have a decent child and a decent man. Could the thousands of children who are moving towards a stunted maturity be set amid good conditions they would be saved to themselves and saved to their country. But a voice is heard from a far different world far removed from conditions of men. That man-lived amid unpleasant surroundings and among all classes of men and He saw their condition without any help to carry them upward towards purity and better living and He comes down to the man that is down and out, as well as to the business man in his office. He comes to each man and in a voice of tenderness and great love and says to him, I love you, and I died for you, and I want your life for myself. Oh but the man may say, I am not fit for society, they won't have me, what is the use of trying, no one wants such as me. Oh but the Master says, I don't ask you to rise above, for of yourself, you can do nothing and tho' your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow and underneath all and below all is an immortal soul. Christ will keep him to rise above all the life he has been living, but he must turn right about and go the other way. If they are willing and desire. He will help them win out and instead of a wasted life there will be a life surrendered to His service. 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