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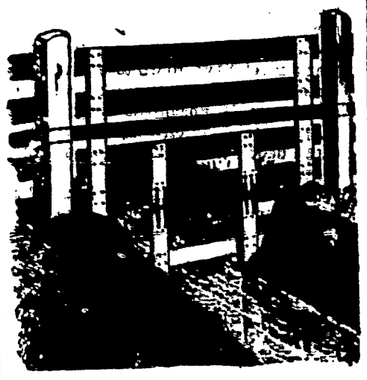
Cutting Asparagus Shoots.

This crop consists of the undeveloped shoots which, if allowed to remain, would soon produce branches and leaves. This removal of these shoots is most exhausting to the plant, and should not be carried to excess. The old rule, to stop cutting when green peas are abundant, is a safe one As long as cutting is continued, cut clean, removing every shoot, large and small. After cutting ceases the shoots are allowed to grow, and if the bed had no dressing of fertilizer early in the season it should have one when cutting ceases. Well decomposed manure or a liberal dressing of fine bone, or superphosphate — 500 pounds to the acre—should be given. Nitrate of soda has been applied with good results Salt is a favorite application. The growth of the tops, if the bed is planted closely, will so shade the ground as to prevent the growth of most weeds. The few large weeds that appear should be puled by hand. Unlike many crops, asparagus may be sent a long distance, and if not sold at once will remain in good condition. —Farmer's Voice.

A Swinging Flood Gate.

Hard rains will come, and small streams and open ditches that are almost dry one day, may be rushing torrents the next. This makes it a matter of importance to provide a suitable and safe flood gate, at all those places where the farm fences cross such streams or ditches—



gates that are easy of construction, permanent, and above all, self-adjusting. The one shown in the accompanying engraving consists of a stout piece of timber—a straight pole will answer- which fits into round holes in the fence posts on each side of the ditch.

To this bar, which turns readily in the posts that hold it, the gate, or the length of fence is securely fastened with heavy spikes, or better still, with bolts On the lower portion of the gate, an addition of short boards, cut to fit the ditch, may be made as shown in the engraving. The whole gate thus constructed, turns readily upon the horizontal bar, the bottom swinging out with the water and allowing it to pass, but returning to its former position, so soon as the water subsides. In making this gate, it should be borne in mind that the part below the turning bar, should be a considerable heavier than that above, so that small stock will not try to push their way through; that is, it is to swing only by the application of a strong pressure at the lowest part, as is the case with a rising, rushing stream.

Growing Demand for Farms.

"The cry of the city people is 'Back to the land,' and I am preparing to boost that movement toward our farms," said Commissioner C. A. Wieting, of the New York State Department of Agriculture.

In carrying out the provisions of the law enacted at the recent session of the Legislature, Commissioner Wieting has prepared a circular for distribution among 1,000 or more town supervisors, calling on them for the following information: The name of each purchaseable farm in the district and its distance from the nearest post office, the number of acres it covers, the nature and quality of the soil, the number of acres of meadow, pasture and timber land, the size and condition of the farm house, barns and outbuildings; how the farm is watered, the kind and condition of fences, the price and terms, and the number of the route, if the farm is a free delivery route.

Many of our city residents are looking for farms, and the cry is 'Back to the Land' Many people in other States are looking with covetous eyes toward the low prices of farms in our State, and thousands of English, German, Swede and other good laborers are looking for homes, however humble.

Preparing Corn for Market.

Sweet corn is a bulky article to carry, so no space should be wasted upon stunted or imperfect ears. Sort it carefully before putting in the wagon by opening each husk slightly so that you may see if the grains are well filled. Very early in the season it may pay to put the small, sound ears by themselves and sell at a reduced price. If gathered and kept over night sweet corn should not be packed closely in barrels, nor left in such piles that it will heat.

Protecting the Corn.

An ounce of Zenoleum was added to a quart of water and the seed corn used along the woods was wet with the mixture. Ground squirrels, coons and moles did not molest that corn, while they did damage that of a man across the woods very badly. Now we want to know if the Zenoleum has been used by others for the same purpose!

ARTIFICIAL LIFE.

Results of Remarkable Experiments by Prof. Loeb.

To create life and control its form at will is, confessedly, the ultimate objective of a school of physiologists of which Prof. Jacques Loeb, M.D., of the University of California, is conceded to be its most advanced, profound and confident apostle.

The conclusions of Dr. Loeb, after patient and continued investigations, are incorporated in his latest work, entitled "Studies in General Physiology." In taking up the problem of regeneration the idea of controlling these phenomena was the starting point, the first aim being to find means by which one organ could, at will, be caused to grow in place of another organ. As far as the problem of fertilization is concerned, the first step toward its solution consists in an attempt to produce larvae artificially from unfertilized eggs in various classes of animals.

After painstakingly exact and long continued experimentation Prof. Loeb has succeeded in fertilizing and subsequently in developing eggs of the sea urchin by employing artificial means alone. In the earlier experiments of Dr. Loeb artificial solution were used instead of sea water. It has been found that the results were the same when sea water was used.

The most rigid precautions were taken to prevent fertilization by active cells of the same species. To destroy all germs effectually the sea water used was raised to a temperature of 140 degrees. All tools, dishes, appliances, and the animals themselves which furnished the eggs, were cleansed in running fresh water. All other precautions were taken against the possibility of developing eggs without fertilization.

Chemical substances in skillful hands can be made to produce effects upon eggs which imitate, in all essential respects, the results of normal fertilization. Large numbers of larvae of sea urchins, normal and healthy, may now be produced from the egg by purely chemical and physical means.

In this the scientist is able to imitate natural fertilization completely and the fact that a large proportion of larvae thus raised seems to have the same vitality as when produced in regular order arouses the hope that it will soon be possible to undertake the solution of the various problems for which the raising of parthenogenetic larvae in large numbers is a pre-requisite

Rheumatism in a Portrait.

The London Lancet is of the opinion that the earliest record of rheumatic nodules is to be found in a portrait of a lady, about thirty years of age, painted by Paola Moranda, otherwise known as Cavazola, a Veronese painter who lived from 1486 to 1522.

The portrait is one of a collection left by Signor Morelli to the Academy of Bergamo. The hands attract attention at once, as seeming to be much older than the face. A strong light rests upon the left hand, which is in a central position.

The abductor indicis and other interossei are strikingly wasted, the interphalangeal joints of the first two fingers are markedly enlarged, and there are typical rheumatic nodules over the proximal phalanges of the middle finger.

Through the mist of techinicality the layman can discern the image of protracted suffering. If a complete list of the remedies recommended by her friends had accompanied the portrait, the story would be told in full.

Claret Color Tube Station.

Surely there are many eyes of no more than ordinary sensitiveness in London that are shocked by the revelation, just made, of the color of the new tube station at Oxford Circus, says the London Chronicle. It is a pile of the most repellant claret color, of tiles throughout, and shiny; the color can never be dimmed. One example is bad enough, but the fact that this is a station on a new railway seems to promise the claret tile as the livery of all the stations on the same line of tube; a dreadful threat. Not only is the color lamentable; the tone is even worse, and entirely out of any kind of keeping with London. How pleasant if all the tiled stations had been white of paint or stone, and permanently so, would have made the building quite effectually conspicuous.

An Artificial Face.

An old soldier of 1870 has been going about Paris for thirty years with no features, eyes, cheeks, lips and nose, having suffered severely by the explosion of a shell. Modern science has restored his face. A mask was made, part of silver, part of wax, neatly tinted, two eyes in enamel, an excellent nose and serviceable lips in rubber.

Blood Bible Sold.

The "Blood Bible," a volume of the Scriptures bearing on 200 pages the story of the sufferings of Baron von Trenck, written in his own blood during his incarceration by order of Frederick the Great, was sold at Berlin for $125.

A rapid method of restoring energy and temper when nervous, tired or irritable is to lie for a few minutes in a hot bath, then rub yourself down well and rest in bed for half an hour, relaxing every muscle.

You will be surprised how much better you wil feel, both mentally and bodily.

THE CASE OF SUSIE ADAMS.

Betty Proved Her Aptness to Repeat Quotations.

Betty is seven years old, dearly loves her school and teacher, and when at home talks extensively of the matters of her classroom.

"Lots of the boys and girls hate 'quotations,' but I like it awfully," she volunteered once.

"And what do you mean by 'quotations?'" asked an inquisitive elder.

"Why, don't you know? It's something teacher writes on the blackboard, and you learn it, and it helps you all the week, and then the teacher asks you for it, and on Friday you go to the platform and say it."

"Oh! Well, make believe this is Friday, and do it for us now."

Quite charmed, Betty rose, mounted an imaginary platform, gripped her little dress, gave a serious curtsy, and said, with loud and elocutionary distinctness, "Susie Adam forgets Susie Adam."

"What if she does? Let her. Give us the quotation."

"That's the quotation."

"Good gracious! Say it again."

"Su-sie Adam forgets Su-sie Adam," repeated Betty, worked up and threatening to become war-like.

Neither questioning nor expostulation availed against this statement concerning Susie, and not until the teacher herself was interviewed, did the mystery resolve itself into "Enthusiasm begets enthusiasm."—Woman's Home Companion.

Georgia Candidate Read Palms.

Georgians at the capitol were telling an enthusiastic story about a progressive candidate for judge down there, and how this same candidate won votes during a house to house canvass.

"Let me look at your hand," this candidate would say to a voter. "Ah, I see the there letter 'M.' You will notice that I have the same sign in my hand. If I am elected and you come to me just show that sign in your hand. Then I shall know that you are my friend."

Every voter thus addressed felt flattered, and the candidate thereby gained great strength. The ruse was practiced in a mountain section of the state, where it did not occur to the inhabitants that every man had a letter "M" outlined in the palm of his hand.—Washington Post.

The Hindoo Idea of Wit.

An English lady reformer of uncertain age who came here to deliver a lecture told the audience that she would be happy to answer any question, upon which a fat baboo came to the front with "How old are you?" "Oh, no," she replied. "I don't mean questions of that sort; only ones connected with the subject of the lecture." "Are you 40?" continued the baboo, nowise abashed. "No, I won't answer such a question," was the reply. "Are you 50?" continued her tormentor. "Oh, no; I told you I won't answer such questions." "Are you 60?" "Oh, no, no, no; I'm not 60!" the lady responded precipitately.

Fine Opening For a Young Man.

"Yes," said Mrs. Malone, to the old friend who was picking up the threads of family history, "my Bobby, he's travelling with a circus now."

"Pretty hard work, isn't it?" inquired the interested caller.

"Never a bit of it," returned the proud mother of Bobby. "He's living a gentleman, he is—hands in his pockets, as ye might say—for it's a handsome salary he gets, and every blessed thing he has to do is to lay his head in the lion's mouth a matter o' some two or three times a day or thereabouts!"—Youth's Companion.

Only Two of Them.

"Here, you two!" yelled the stevedore, "handle that gunpowder carefully!"

"What's the matter with it?" demanded Casey and Reilly in one breath.

"Don't you know some of this same powder exploded a couple of years ago and blowed up ten men?"

"Sure, that couldn't happen now," replied Casey. "There's only two of us here."—Catholic Standard.

AUTO'S INS AND OUTS.

"Did you see Jiggs flying past in his new auto yesterday?"

"No, but I saw him go flying out of it—when it turned a somersault."

The Retort Courteous.

"Look at me," exclaimed the leading lawyer, warmly; "I never took a drop of medicine in my life, and I'm as strong as any two of your patients put together."

"Well, that's nothing," retorted the physician. "I never went to law in my life, and I'm as rich as any two dozen of your clients put together."

An Active Skeleton.

"I half believe there's a skeleton in the Kissmore's closet."

"I shouldn't wonder. One day when Kissmore took me home with him unexpectedly to dinner I thought I heard it throwing things at him out in the kitchen."

MY SCHOLAR.

Familiarity Allowed Even Under the Circumstances.

The captain of a [illegible] er, which has lately [illegible] export from the North [illegible] tion to pay off, [illegible] against himself. The ship [illegible] one of the French islands in [illegible] Indies, and the captain [illegible] in due course to report [illegible] the British consul. On [illegible] says the North Mail, he [illegible] the senior petty officer [illegible] to whom he had greeted [illegible] leave, sprawling in a [illegible] on the veranda, puffing at a [illegible] vana. The captain curtly [illegible] what he was doing there. The [illegible] between puffs of his big cigar, [illegible] retorted that he was there on a [illegible] to Bill. "And who the devil [illegible] snapped the skipper. "Why, [illegible] sul here—him as I show you [illegible] to pay your respects to." "[illegible] you speak with such familiarity [illegible] one of his Majesty's consuls?" [illegible] dered the captain. "Oh, Bill [illegible] right," explained the petty [illegible] complacently. "He's my son." [illegible] as the captain fell back breathless with indignation and incredulity [illegible] consul himself came in and [illegible] ed: "Ah, captain, I'm glad my old [illegible] was here to receive you!"—St. [illegible] Gazette.

Mark Twain and Whistler.

A friend of Mark Twain's tells [illegible] an amusing incident in connection with the first meeting between the humorist and the late James McNeill Whistler the artist.

The friend having [illegible] warned Clemens that the painter [illegible] a confirmed joker, Mark [illegible] averred that he would get [illegible] of Whistler should the latter [illegible] "any funny business." Furthermore Twain determined to antagonize Whistler, if possible.

So, when the two had been introduced, which event took place [illegible] Whistler's studio, Clemens assumed an air of hopeless stupidity, approached a just-completed painting, and said:

"Not at all bad, Mr. Whistler, not [illegible] all bad. Only," he added, reflectively, with a motion as if to rub out a cloud effect, "if I were you I'd do away with that cloud."

"Great heavens, sir!" exclaimed Whistler, almost beside himself. "Be careful not to touch that; the paint is not yet dry!"

"Oh, I don't mind that," responded Twain with an air of perfect nonchalance; "I am wearing gloves, you see."

"How much have you got?"

"Fourpence."

"I've got twopence, let's [illegible] together and go halves!"—[illegible]

"Me or Not Me?"

A minister of the new [illegible] Protestant church, now [illegible] the eastern shore of Maryland, [illegible] vinced that the life of a [illegible] not always strewn with roses, [illegible] views on certain current [illegible] had been repeatedly misunderstood by others, and considering the [illegible] nefariously unjust, he took [illegible] to refer to it in one of his [illegible] sermons.

He said that he had been reminded by calling to mind the story of an Irishman, who is reported to have lived somewhere in lower Delaware. Although a frugal and hard working man, this son of Erin occasionally visited the town tavern on Saturday afternoons, and sometimes returned home in a state of intoxication.

On one occasion, having imbibed so freely that he was totally unable to steer himself homeward, a kindly disposed individual who happened along placed him in his cart and started the mule in the right direction. Unfortunately, some mischievous boys saw the cart, and deciding to play a joke on the old man, unhitched the mule and leading him a short distance into the woods, sat down to await results. In a short time the Irishman awoke from his stupor, rubbed his eyes, and looking about exclaimed:

"Begorra, is this me, or is it not me. Faith, I cannot tell. If this is me, I have lost a mule; but if this is not me, I have found a cart."—Baltimore Herald.

Why He Was Studying Law.

"So your son is studying law. Do you expect that he will stick to it?"

"Oh, no; I just want him to know enough about it so that he will be able to evade it successfully."—Detroit Free Press.

Fond of Fiction.

"Is your husband fond of fiction?" asked the literary woman.

"Yes, indeed," replied Mrs. Corntoss. "His favorite is the [illegible] office narrative, with the [illegible] story a close second."