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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1908.

"GINGER CLUB" IDEA

An Improvement Scheme Started by Business Men.

ITS HELP TO A KANSAS TOWN

Hiawatha Prospering in Face of Evident Disadvantages—How Public Spirit and Consistent Civic Improvement Rescued It From Lethargy.

The merchants of Hiawatha, Kan., have taken up the "ginger club" idea started by Kansas City business men. Those in each block will form a club, and each will try to outdo the other in improvements. The clubs will work with the Civic Improvement club to beautify Hiawatha this summer. The first club to organize is called the Five Hundred Block Oregon Street Improvement club. The officers are:

W. O. Noble, president; H. D. Adams, treasurer, and P. M. Smith, secretary.

The officers form the executive committee, with full power to spend money for necessary improvements. This club is formed in the smallest business block in town. Every business man and woman in the block is a member of the club. They have subscribed \$50 monthly for improvements, says the Kansas City Star. Electric lights have been placed every twenty-five feet along the block, and the lights are kept burning all night. The buildings in the block will be painted a uniform color. Lights will be placed in the alleys and kept burning all night as a protection to property.

The club has made a special sprinkling contract for this summer, and the streets are swept each day. As the streets are not swept the club has induced the city council to put in a cement crossing in the middle of the block, and property owners have agreed to put cement walks in the alleys. The clubs in the other business blocks will work along similar lines.

A civic improvement club has been in existence in Hiawatha for several years. It has done much to beautify the town. Work for this summer has already commenced, and the residents are taking hold with new vigor. The members of the improvement club have adopted the slogan, "Make Hiawatha a beautiful and spotless town." The members of the club plant and tend flower beds in the city park, which faces the main business block. The park will be strung with electric lights this summer. The improvement club will turn a vacant lot near the center of the town into a children's flower garden.

Each year the club offers prizes for the best kept yards, churchyards and school yards, for the best garden planted and tended by a child, for the best garden planted and tended by a man over sixty years old, for the best looking yard kept in order by a woman and for the best flower gardens.

Those who are too poor to buy flower seeds—and there are few of them—are furnished with seeds by the club. In the fall a flower show is held, at which the prizes are awarded. The business men and others pay the expenses of the club, and the officers give their services. The city council and the board of county commissioners appropriate money toward the support of the club.

The city administration is in hearty sympathy with the town improvement movement. An ordinance has been passed fixing a fine for any person found guilty of spitting on any sidewalk or crossing in the city. After each rain the dirt streets are dragged at the city's expense, and a movement has been started to pave the streets in the business section. City employees cut the weeds along the street, and when weeds are not cut in vacant lots the city officials promise to see that it is done at the expense of the property owner.

Each Wednesday evening during this summer concerts will be given in the city park. The concerts have been given each summer for nearly twenty years. The land is paid by the business men and other residents. The city council contributes each year to the support of the band. In all the band receives nearly \$1,000 a year for expenses. The members are not paid salaries.

The money put into civic improvement has been well spent. There are no big industries in Hiawatha to employ a large number of men; the town is just dependent upon the surrounding country. A few years ago Missouri Pacific Division headquarters were located there, but were later moved to Atchison. When the railroad families left, many houses were left vacant, rents went down, and the value of real estate decreased. The pessimistic said the town would never recover. The others kept quiet and worked for city improvement. The work of beautifying the town has brought results.

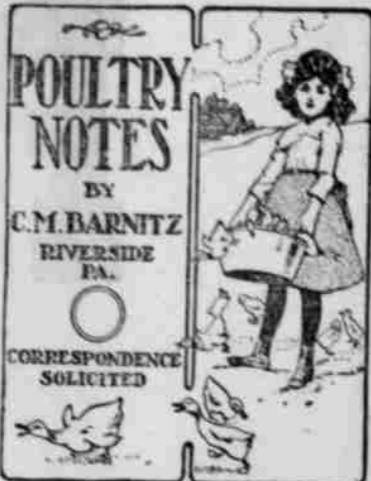
Hiawatha has grown larger than ever. There are no vacant houses; newcomers either have to buy or build. A water system and sewer system extend over the entire town. The city electric light plant furnishes power for lights on street corners. City property is higher than ever before.

This has all been caused by the citizens making a united effort for town betterment.

There is not a joint or gambling hall in the town.

Standing by Des Moines.

The Des Moines Daily News runs at the top of its first page the significant words: "Once a Booster, Always a Booster! Don't Forget to Ask For Des Moines Made Goods!"



THE POULTRY SNEAK THIEF. The weasel as a sneak thief and softly stealing assassin is beyond description.

Silently gliding like a serpent, he slips through an inch opening, bounds on his harmless victim, sucks its blood and wantonly cuts the throat of every fowl. The beautiful thrush, nestling its young on leafy branch caroling to its Maker, is suddenly seized and its trilling throat pierced by the fangs of the murderer.



THE MURDERER UNMASKED.

Above are the fearful jaws and serpent fangs that cut the throats of eighty chickens in one night. The skin is drawn back to unmask the murderous killing weapons and to display the intricate network of muscles that work the powerful jaws, which make the weasel the most dreaded enemy of the poultry keeper. Though he weighs from five to eight ounces and is from six to ten inches in length, yet this little sausage shaped creature is much feared and formidable. He has been known to kill the eagle and attack a five prong buck.

On Jan. 17 last a miser was terribly lacerated and bitten by a weasel at Bear Valley shaft, Shamokin, Pa. In the darkness the weasel seemed master, but miners, hearing the cries of distress, rescued their companion and killed the weasel with drills and shovels. This animal has been known to kill six full grown hens, twenty turkeys and eighty chickens in three nights. His victims are not disfigured. He bleeds a rabbit between the eye and ear, but has been known to chase one into a stone fence and open an artery in the hind leg.

He will clean the rats and mice out of a barn and bleed them the same way.

He bites old chickens in the arteries of the neck close to the head. Young chickens, pigeons and wild birds are caught back of the neck and sucked dry. If wounded, he will suicide by sucking his own blood.

A hunter followed a weasel for twenty-five miles, the little animal stopping to kill only eight rabbits during the race. At times he would disappear and travel under the snow for fifty feet. In this way he kills many quail that seek shelter under windfalls, the farmers in the spring reporting them frozen by the hard winter weather.

In one night a hunter trapped a dark brown, light red and white weasel. The most common color is brown. Weasels are dark and light brown, dark and light red, mouse and white. Maltese are rare. The weasel wears white in winter. On the snow he can hardly



CAUGHT AT LAST.

be seen by his victim and enemy. His white fur is the emblem of royalty and august courts, and the dark spots on these robes are the black tips of tinsel tails.

The mink and weasel should not be confused. Minks reach two pounds and have half webbed toes. When a chicken is ripped from the neck down the back, it is neither a weasel, mink, rat nor opossum, but a cooper's hawk did the damage. Weasels are born from April to May, six to two to a litter. The young ones are great poultry fiends and are easily caught in steel traps. They are common all over the country, except in Arizona, New Mexico, southern California and the Gulf States.

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Anaesthetics Known in Middle Ages.

Lecturing before the Association of Surgeons of Munich on narcotics Professor Klein said that the process of reducing the sensibilities of patients with a view to making operations painless was known and practiced in the middle ages. Bishop Theodorus of Chertva wrote a prescription for a pain destroyer in the twelfth century which contained opium, morphine and hyoscyam. A medical work printed in 1400 contains the first known treatise on inhalation, and we now inject under the skin the soothing mixture which in 1400 was inhaled.—London Globe.

A Natural Thermometer.

It was a sapphire that led the late Dr. Sorby to the discovery of the nature of the liquid sometimes found enclosed in the cavities of crystals. The gem in question contained a tube shaped cavity a quarter of an inch in diameter, which was so regular in its bore that it served by means of the liquid partially filling it for a thermometer. The contained liquid half filled the bore at 50 degrees F. and completely filled it at 80 degrees. A study of the rate of expansion of the liquid led Dr. Sorby to the conclusion that it must be carbonic acid.

Lent.

By the word Lent is understood the fast of forty days preceding Easter, kept after the example of Moses, Elias and Christ himself in order to prepare the faithful for the great festival of Easter. The Greek and Latin names for the fast, Tesserakoste and Quadragesima, indicate the number of days. The Italian Quaresima and the French Carême come from the Latin. The German Fastenzeit and the Dutch Vasten denote the fast, while our own word, Lent, from the Anglo-Saxon Lencten, means spring—i. e., spring fast.

A Bit of Forestry.

"Do you know how to tell a hard wood tree from a soft wood tree?" said a forester. "I'll tell you how to do it, and the rule holds good not only here among our familiar pines and walnuts, but in the antipodes among the strangest banyans, baobabs and whatnots. Soft wood trees have needle leaves, slim, narrow, almost uniform in breadth. If you don't believe me, consult the pine, the spruce or the fir. Hard wood trees have broad leaves of various shape—the oak, the ebony, the walnut, the mahogany and so on."

Good Intentions Gone Wrong.

"Aren't you going home?" asked a fellow club member. "Not for several days," answered Mr. Cumrox. "I'm going to give my family a chance to forget. You see, mother and the girls have been trying to educate me to an appreciation of classical music. This afternoon I heard a terrific racket on the piano. So, being anxious to please, I half closed my eyes and said, 'Isn't it perfectly beautiful?'"

"Wasn't that all right?" "No. It was the piano tuner."—Washington Star.

The Thumb.

The nail phalanx of the thumb is the index of a person's will power. The other phalanx shows the amount and quality of his judgment, reason, logic. To be properly balanced both phalanxes should be of equal length. If the will phalanx is a trifle shorter than the other, the equiptoise is still maintained. But if either phalanx is considerably larger than the other one's nature is made up of conflicting elements. There is either too much will with too little judgment to curb it or too little determination to give effect to the dictates of reason.

The Toastmaster.

"The cook says they ain't nobody in the kitchen named William Thomas," reported a new bellboy at a fashionable hotel in San Francisco. "Well, who said there was?" retorted the clerk. "I told you to take that telegram to William Thomas, the toastmaster." "Well, I seen the man what makes toast. He's got a French name." "Take the telegram into the white and gold room and give it to William Thomas, who's presiding at the D. K. E. banquet."—Los Angeles Times.

A Land of Many Thirsts.

The Egyptian never travels without his goshal. He fills it with filtered water and in the morning can command a pint or more of water cooled by evaporation through the unglazed clay. This precious fluid he does not waste on unquashed thirst. Taking off the long white wrap and the piece of cloth that covers his head during sleep, the native pours the water over his head, neck and hands. The European, with all his instinct for cleanliness, seeks first to relieve his overmastering thirst. There are in Egypt as many thirsts as plagues, but the dust thirst is the worst. Every pore is sealed; the throat is a lump of dry clay, and one feels what it must be to be a mummy.—London Standard.

The Physician.

According to the British Medical Journal, physicians as a class are more subject to illness than their fellow men. The Journal adds: "An explanation of this is readily found in the anxieties caused by responsibilities which must weigh heavy on every man of right feeling, in the amount and trying nature of the work the doctor has to do, in irregularity in meals and broken sleep, in exposure to weather and to infection, and last, but not least, in the scanty remuneration which his labor too often brings him. The combined influence of all these causes is sufficient to undermine the strongest constitution long before a man has reached the limit of three-score and ten." A comparison of tables compiled by statisticians in different countries gives doctors an average age of fifty-seven years at death.



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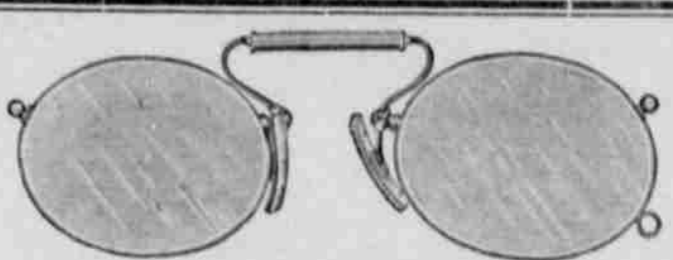
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