Hopeless.

"He's about the poorest actor I ever saw," said the first theatrical manager, "a regular ham."

"Perhaps," remarked the other, "he'll get over his faults in time."

"Not much. He's a ham that can't be cured."—Philadelphia Press.

Making Cloth from Paper.

"To the ingenuity of Herr Emil Claviez, a well-known Saxon inventor and manufacturer, is due the production of a paper yarn termed "Zylolin," that has been successfully used in a wide range of textile fabrics." So writes Frank N. Bauskett in the Technical World Magazine.

"The utilization of paper wood fibre in this practical way and the extreme cheapness of the new material compared with other yarns now in use is really a most remarkable achievement. This is not a haphazard discovery, but rather the logical result of years of painstaking study and experimentation. After the final development of the theory at first in mind into tangible material for all manner of uses in textile industries, the paper thread and yarn, loose or tightly spun, of all thicknesses, have since been woven into almost every conceivable fabric and tested and retested until the invention has become an important commercial success. The paper yarn has extraordinary wearing properties, and as the full scope of its usefulness has probably not been determined, it will, in all likelihood, lend itself to other purposes yet to be discovered."

His Change of Front.

"My view of coeducation," he said, firmly, "is that it should be forbidden. It is deleterious to mental development. It leads to——'

"John," said his wife, entering unexpectedly, "are you telling Mr. Smith of the dear old days when we were college classmates?"

"Y-yes," said John.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Hotel Keys.

"I suppose," said a guest, "a good many forgetful people go off with hotel keys?"

"This will show you," said the clerk.

And he took from a drawer the following printed slip:

"The manager of the Blank Hotel acknowledges with thanks the return of key No. —, which Mr. —, by oversight carried away on departure."

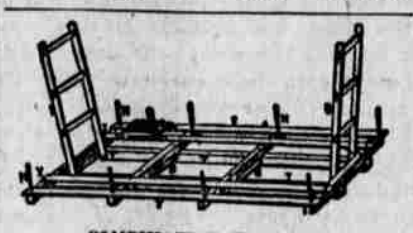
So many keys, the young man explained, were mailed by forgetful guests it had been deemed advisable, as a time saving device, to have a key acknowledgment printed.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

California's State library has been placed under civil service rules. It is the first department of the State government to which those rules have been applied.

FARMS AND FARMERS

Handy Combination Hayrack.

The combination hayrack shown in the first illustration is a convenient one. TT are bed pieces of pine or other straight grained light wood fourteen or sixteen feet in length, eight inches wide and three inches thick; if of oak or other hard wood, two and one-half inches thick will give sufficient

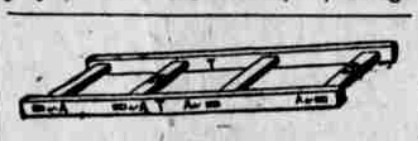


COMBINATION HAYRACK.

strength. Four crosspieces, B, of hard wood one and one-quarter inches thick and six inches wide, are mortised and firmly secured to the bed pieces. This constitutes the frame or foundation and is shown in the second cut. It is frequently used separately to haul rails, boards, stones, manure, etc., and is a convenient, strong and handy arrangement for the purpose. In the first cut is shown the rigging complete, of which its four crosspieces or arms, P, are seven and one-half feet in length, five inches wide and two and one-half inches thick.

If designed for a "sectional rigging" and to prevent side movement a half inch groove is cut into the lower sides of the cross arms, P, so that they fit closely upon the bed pieces. To prevent a forward or backward movement eight strong iron hooks attached by staples to the sides of the cross arms and when placed upon the bed pieces are readily hooked into the staples, A. Thus arranged one man can easily place the rigging upon or take it from the wagon; or, if desired, bolts may be used to fasten all together by passing them through the cross arms and bed pieces. There is not 25 cents difference in the expense.

Standards, D, can be either stationary or hinged so as to be quickly lowered, raised or removed by a small bolt, as shown at Y. The standards should be six and one-half feet high and quite strong to withstand the pressure of the load as well as to serve as a ladder. The boards, X, should be of the same length as the bed pieces and one inch thick and six inches wide of straight grained light wood. Wooden pins or stakes, N, are inserted as shown and should be only slightly sharpened. Should the hind wheels project above the boards, X, bridge



FRAME OF BED PIECES.

over them, as shown at S. Wash with petroleum and keep under shelter when not in use.—Country Gentleman.

Breed and Feed.

Those who take the position that the "breed is in the feed" may learn something from the experiment made at the Illinois experiment station, where two cows were given the same treatment, both receiving the same quantity of food and both given an opportunity of showing what they could do, yet there was a great variation in the results, one cow largely excelling the other. Without proper food and a plentiful supply, no animal can produce to her fullest capacity, but it is a fact that the breed is an important matter, and some cows will yield twice as much as others, no matter how well fed both may be.

Weevil Optimism.

There are people who believe that the advent of the boll beevil will ultimately prove a good thing for the country and who regard the little insect as a blessing in disguise. We hope they are right. It is argued that the boll weevil will bring about a readjustment of labor conditions; will break up the cotton system and substitute diversified farming, truck and fruit growing.—Homer (La.) Guardian-Journal.

Green Food for Stock.

When the pastures begin to give out there will be a falling off of milk from the cows. This is due to the fact that the farmer does not supply the loss of green food from the pasture. A plot of corn fodder, used as green food, being given the cows at night, will materially assist in preventing the loss of milk. A change of food from green to dry substances will nearly always cause the falling off in milk, for which reason the change from green to dry food should be gradual and never suddenly.

Growing Cucumbers for Pickling.

Factories for pickling cucumbers are being established wherever the farmers can be induced to become interested. Small pickles, not over 2½ inches long, usually bring about 50 cents per bushel, a bushel containing about 800 pickles. The average yield is estimated at 100 bushels per acre, though several hundred bushels may be grown upon an acre. The mildew destroys the vines in some sections, but this is kept down by spraying. The striped cucumber beetle, which can not be destroyed by paris green or ordinary insecticides, is a formidable enemy where it makes its appearance. The long green varieties of cucumbers are used. Plenty of manure should be applied. A fertilizer consisting of one part nitrogen, one part phosphoric acid and two parts of potash is about the proper formula for cucumbers. Cucumbers are salted with two quarts of salt per bushel of cucumbers, packed closely in tierces or barrels, and enough brine added to cover them. The brine should be added daily, as evaporation lowers the water in the vessel and exposes the cucumbers, which may damage them. Growers can co-operate, form a joint stock company, and sell the pickles on the market, thus securing the largest profit possible from growing them.

Safe Stepladder.

Build your stepladder like this, and it will never slip.

The Peanut Trade.

Peanuts have become an important article of American foreign commerce in the last six years, especially on the import side, in spite of the fact that we produce about 12,000,000 bushels a year. Peanut imports have grown in value from $6,000 in 1900 to $500,000 this year, while our exports thereof will approximate $300,000. When this fiscal year closes we shall have to list peanuts for nearly $1,000,000 of our total foreign commerce for the year, according to the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

The peanut acreage in this country increased 150 per cent and production 233 per cent between 1890 and 1900. There are under cultivation now 517,000 acres, producing 11,905,000 bushels. The crop is concentrated in a few Southern States, Virginia supplying one-third of it, North Carolina another third.—New York Sun.

Poultry as a Business.

Is there progress in poultry keeping? Read the market reports. Look at the amount of poultry advertising done today as compared with five years ago. How did the winter prices of eggs in the last five years of the nineteenth century compare with those of the first five years of this? Thousands of people are to-day making a comfortable living and many have become independent by raising poultry and eggs for the market. It has been proven by experiments that it costs no more to produce a pound of poultry than it does to produce a pound of pork or beef, yet poultry is always worth more per pound than any other meat and sells just as readily.

Teaching Botany in Public Schools.

In country schools botany should be taught by devoting an hour or two each week, in the growing seasons, to excursions to the fields and woods, plants being selected, described and classified. By this mode of teaching, an interest in botany will be created on the part of the children. A flower garden in connection with the school should also be an advantage.

New Idea in Fertilizers.

The Southern Illinois Penitentiary is now preparing lime stone dust for distribution among farmers for fertilizing purposes. The dust is put up in sacks at the prison and is sold to farmers at 50 cents a sack. It is said to be one of the finest fertilizers known.—Chester Herald.

Good draft horses now bring from $200 to $300. It is little wonder, therefore, that well-advised farmers pay fancy prices for imported brood mares, when 3-year-olds bring such prices.—Bethany Republican.

Popular Science.

Secrecy in the transmission of telegraph dispatches in China is to be insured in the future by a provision providing for decapitation of all offenders revealing the contents of messages in transit. In the case of ordinary messages of commerce thus revealed, the penalty is to be ten years in prison. Five years' imprisonment is provided for persons who know of the revelation of such secrets and neglect to report the matter to the proper authorities.

The new building of Montgomery Ward & Co. in Chicago, Ill., is said to be the largest single building in that city for which a permit has ever been issued, and the claim is also made that it is the largest building in this country of re-enforced concrete. The structure is eight stories high, and each floor contains 140,000 square feet. The construction material required will comprise 12,000 piles, 100,000 barrels of cement and between 5,000 and 6,000 tons of steel re-enforcement. The building will have rail, water and tunnel transportation connections.

The feat of shipping a steel mast 138 feet long was recently accomplished by the Great Western railroad of England. The mast was three feet in diameter and weighed fourteen tons. The transportation was accomplished by loading the mast on seven cars, the great column being supported by bolsters on the second and fifth cars. The bolsters were eighty-five feet apart, and the mast was successfully transported in this manner from Liverpool to Plymouth. Considerable difficulty was experienced in turning some of the sharper curves of the line and traffic was interrupted for awhile at one or two points.

A Belgian agriculturist, Monsieur Le Breton, has recently made some experiments with barbed wheat to determine the effectiveness of the defense which its barbs afford against the ravages of graminiferous birds. In the same field, near Antwerp, he sowed some barbed wheat and some Japhet wheat, which is without barbs. The Japhet variety grew rapidly, but every head was despoiled by the birds before the grain could ripen, but the barbed variety was so well guarded by its array of miniature spears that the attacks of the same birds were completely defeated, and the grain ripened in security. At the same time it was observed that the insectivorous birds were as busy capturing their prey among the barbed heads as among those that possessed no natural defenses.

On the lower course of the Casamance River in West Africa exists what a French writer has described as a "village of pelicans." The birds have been so mercilessly hunted that they avoid the presence of man, but in the neighborhood of their "village" they show comparatively little fear. There are even native African huts under the enormous baobab-trees in which the birds have established their community. The nets are placed at the ends of the branches, five or six in each tree. Dry branches, rudely interlaced, form an insecure-looking platform covered with a thick layer of down, and there the young birds, laughably big and awkward in such a situation, may be seen maintaining an unstable equilibrium, yet never losing their balance.

Paste Jewels.

A well-known illustrator who visited New Orleans grew most enthusiastic with reference to the quaint beauty of the old town. "I noticed a remarkably decorative effect in a street near the French Market," said he to a friend. "The second and third story windows of a certain house were hung with pale yellow bamboo curtains. These were perfectly plain and all of the same shade, yet you can form no idea how they set off the old place. They simply glorified it!"

The friend, a New Orleans man, was puzzled. "I don't recall the house. Point it out to me the next time we're in that vicinity."

A day or two later the friends were walking in the locality referred to, when suddenly the man from the North uttered an exclamation. "There it is!" he cried. "The house of the bamboo curtains! It must contain a colony of artists!"

His friend smiled grimly. "That isn't bamboo," he explained. "You're enthusing over a spaghetti factory. They hang the stuff out there to dry!"

Sure Proof.

"Is Flapdudle truthful?"

"Well, he confesses that he covered his head the other night and didn't dare get out of bed when he thought he heard a burglar in the house."—Detroit News.

After a woman succeeds in getting her husband afraid of her she never can hope to get him in love with her.

Every amateur ball team has a star, who, according to his admirers, really belongs in the major leagues.