

A GHOST AT SEA.

The Phantom That Boarded the Bark Sea Flower.

The following incident is recorded as a true short story by an English publication:

The Sea Flower, a bark of some 450 tons, was in the early hours of the 23d of June, 1864, bound for Bristol, England, under the command of the first mate, her captain, John Ellis, having been left behind at Kingston, Jamaica, suffering from "yellow jack." It was about four bells in the middle watch (or 2 a. m.) when the mate, who was standing near the binnacle giving the helmsman his course, suddenly became aware of a mysterious presence in the waist of the ship. At the same moment his companion clutched him by the arm, and, pointing, shrieked, "D'ye see him, sir?"

Before he could reply the mate became aware that the dark shadow he had just before observed had so far materialized that it bore the appearance of Captain Ellis. The figure of the captain advanced along the deck and disappeared slowly down the companion.

Recovering himself, the mate left the helmsman and hurried down into the cabin, meeting, just coming out of it, the second mate, who told him he had been awakened with a start after dreaming that the captain had come aboard and was calling him. Both men then made a complete search of the saloon and the other cabins, but it is needless to say, without result.

Later it was found that Captain Ellis had died between 1 and 2 a. m. in the morning of June 23.

The story got about, and the ship obtained a reputation for being haunted; consequently a difficulty was found in obtaining crews, and in the end it was renamed and sold to a foreign firm.



Corns.

In the present article a departure is made from the usual custom, and treatment, and little else than treatment, is considered. Doctors as a rule ignore corns, seeming to regard their treatment as belonging exclusively to the chiropodist. The result of this is, as usually happens when the uninstructed or partly instructed try to practice medicine, or when one treats himself, that the disease is often maltreated, and the corn, instead of being cured or improved, is made worse.

A corn is not a callosity, although often so called, for the two things are produced in different ways. A callosity is due to pressure intermittently applied; a corn is due to more or less constant pressure, combined with friction. A callosity is superficial; a corn is well described in its Latin name, *clavus*, a nail. It is like a nail driven into the tender tissues of the lower layers of the skin and the parts beneath.

Paring a corn, the usual treatment, may give a little relief for a time by relieving the pressure, but soon the horny growth is pushed above the surface again, and the condition is as bad as ever, or worse.

The only lasting benefit is from the removal of the entire growth, and this is best effected by the application of moisture. Every night the sufferer should go to bed with a thin poultice, or a pad of absorbent cotton saturated with glycerin and water, on the corn, the surface before the application being thickly dusted with bicarbonate of soda. In the daytime an ordinary corn plaster should be worn, and in the hole should be placed a very thin layer of absorbent cotton soaked in glycerin.

This simple treatment is better than the use of salicylic acid, glacial acetic acid, and other chemicals which are often recommended. Simple rest in bed will do just as well, but it takes longer. In fact, a good long illness, such as typhoid fever, may be depended upon to cure any corn. It is the only good thing to be said of typhoid fever.

Of course after the corn has disappeared, better-fitting shoes must be worn, so that none of the prominent parts of the foot are pressed upon and rubbed by the leather at the same time. If the badly-fitting shoe is put on again the corns will quite certainly come back.—Youth's Companion.

Not Needed.

"I see you only have one chair in the kitchen, Mary; I must get another one for you."

"You needn't mind, ma'am, I have none but gentlemen callers."—Buffalo Express.

A woman never cries for the purpose of making herself feel better. She turns on the briny flow for the purpose of making some man feel worse.



Keeping the Cow.

The cost of keeping a cow varies considerably according to the cost of producing the roughage from hay, grain and corn feeds, but figures from dairy associations place the average cost at \$30 or \$35 a year. To pay a profit, it follows that the cow must produce more than \$30 or \$35 a year. It pays to keep an accurate account with all the cows. There are many that do not near pay up. Apply the test of scales and Babcock tester then and get rid of those that do not come up to the mark.

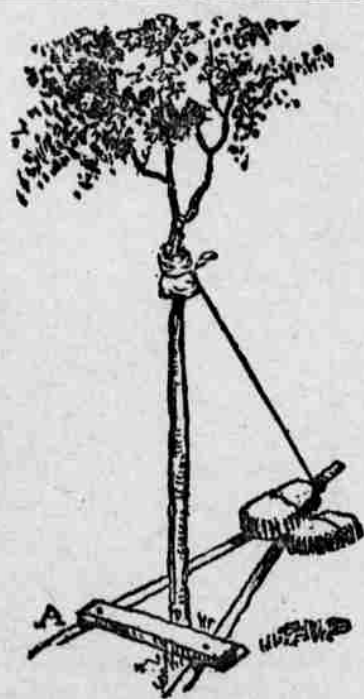
In buying new cows, procure those that freshen in the fall. You will have the butterfat at the time when prices rule higher and the cow will continue in good flow all through the spring if you treat her well through the winter. Increase the feeding as the pastures decrease. Extra care and feed in the fall will keep the milk flow up and allow of good sales as the prices increase.

After years of observation the Cornell University reaches these conclusions: (1) With a fairly good herd carefully fed and kept, milk can be produced for 65 cents a cwt., and fat for 16 cents a pound, for the cost of food consumed. Large animals consume less pounds of dry material per 1,000 lb. live weight each day than the smaller animals do. The best yields of fat are obtained from cows that give a fairly large flow of milk. Pasture grass is the cheapest milk and fat producing food. (From this it seems that those who neglect their pastures or make little effort to start new ones, are in a losing game.) The cow consuming the most food produce both fat and milk at lowest rate. A good cow must be a hearty eater. Individuals of the same breed vary more widely in milk and butter production than do the breeds themselves.—The Ohio Farmer.

To Straighten Young Trees.

This device can be easily attached to a tree which is inclined to grow crooked. Make a framework of narrow boards sharpened at the end where the frame pieces come together and attach the frame to the tree with a wire.

This should be attached at just the



right point to correct the crookedness in the tree. The tree should be protected from the wire by a cloth. The constant bearing down of the weights will in a very short time bring the tree to its proper position without injury.

Fertility of Swamp Lands.

Swamp lands have often proved unfavorable for agriculture, even when well drained and fertilized. From the investigations into the subject in the extensive swamps of the United States A. Dachnowski concludes that the loss of fertility is due, at least in part, to the presence in bog water of substances poisonous to plants. They seem to be produced by imperfect decomposition of proteins and related bodies and it is possible that in respiration bog plants may differ from others. After the land has been exposed to the air for a time the fertility is restored by oxidation of the harmful products.

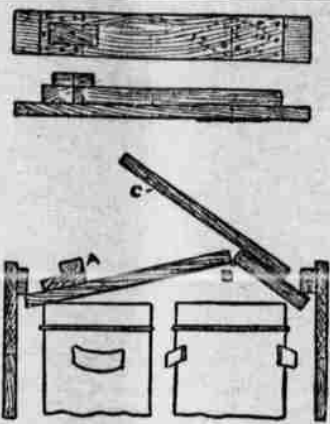
Bacteria in Milk.

Undesirable bacteria in milk come from uncleanly condition about the cow, and from contact with contagious diseases. The chief source of contamination are dirty cows, dirty stables, dirty milkers, dairy utensils which have cracks for the lodgment of dirt and which are not properly sterilized, mudholes in the barnyard, impure water, bedding and feed, and from milkers and attendants who come in contact with a contagious disease.

To Hold Milk Cans in a Cooling Box.

The usual practice of small dairymen to keep their milk cool is to put the milk cans under running water in a box. The cans are usually kept beneath the water by slipping strips of board, of proper length, over the tops of the cans and under ledges at the side of the box. In using this method one runs the risk of upsetting the cans when putting the strips in position.

An improvement over this method is shown in the accompanying sketch from Popular Mechanics, which is self-explanatory. The apparatus is



made of strips of board, 1 inch thick, the lower sketch shows how the device is put into the milk box, B is a hinge, and A a button to lock the tongue C in place when the device is straightened out. Boards for holding the grain in bins can be made in the same manner.

Most Profitable Farm Animal.

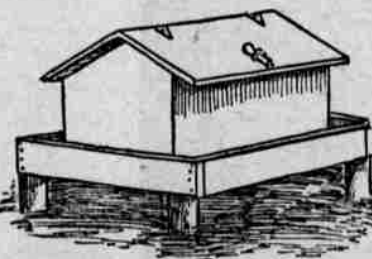
Opinion is divided and probably a ways will be on the question which is the most profitable farm animal to raise. Many believe the horse brings the greatest profit, others tie their faith to the beef breeds, and still others to the dairy breeds of cattle, but it seems that the friends of the hog are in the majority. A hog requires more care at times than do some other animals, but it is wonderfully prolific, and if the quality and breeding are right it is easy to make a market for the animals produced, and the farmer has the advantage of turning his money over more rapidly and more profitably in hog breeding than in perhaps any other kind of animal production. Of course, there are many risks to assume, as the modern hog is a purely artificial product and subject to humors and diseases which would not come to it in its wild state. The investment of a moderate sum of money in a few brood sows in the spring will make a man a hog breeder within a year; whether bred as a specialty or as a side line, the hog always gives a good account of himself.—Kansas Farmer.

Animals Need Juicy Feed.

The digestive organs of animals that chew their cud are so formed as to require comparatively juicy and bulky food. The cow can not thrive on dry food as well as the horse. The ideal food for the dairy cow is good pasture, but for a large part of the year green pasture is not available. The best substitutes to furnish this succulent feed during this period are root crops and corn silage. Corn yields about twice as much dry matter per acre as do root crops. As root crops require much more labor, silage is by far the most economical for those where corn can not be grown.

Salt Box.

The salt box is made out of two-inch stuff so it will withstand the pranks of horses and other stock crowding about the salt place. An ordinary bunk is made about three feet wide by four long and the salt receptacle made so as to fit inside the bunk end.



wise, but much narrower on the sides. The sides come down to within an inch of the bottom so that stock can lick the salt.

Cowpeas for Selling Purposes.

As a soiling crop cowpeas are very satisfactory. As they should not be planted until the soil and weather are warm the crop is not available for feed until the latter part of summer, when they fill a place in a well-planned system of soiling and furnish an abundance of succulent green feed, although, perhaps, less palatable than alfalfa.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

There are fourteen thousand oysters of full size in a ton.

Kissing and shaking hands are rarely practiced in Japan.

Japanese dead are buried in a squatting posture, chin upon knees.

There is record of wheat growing in China as far back as 3000 B. C.

The first recorded Thanksgiving was the Hebrew feast of the tabernacles.

Turkey has a government tannery for such products as are needed in the army.

While 2,000-horse power locomotives are common in the United States and many exceed that size, a 1,200-horse power engine is considered large in continental Europe.

At twenty-one, Alexander stood at the head of his army on the plains of Thessaly, Wilberforce entered parliament, and Tasso had begun his immortal poem, "Jerusalem Delivered," which took ten years to complete.

Oyster production in Canadian waters is steadily decreasing. The yield fell from 35,737 barrels in 1903 to 27,297 barrels in 1907. Canada imported \$271,760 worth of American oysters in 1908 out of a total export of \$663,332 worth.

To check New Jersey's destructive forest fires, the State has ordered the railroads traversing its pine forests to clear the ground for fifty feet on each side of the tracks and plow up and gravel ten-foot strips to prevent the growth of brush again.

At twenty, Tintoretto was one of the most prolific and popular painters in Italy; Schelling had grappled with the philosophy of Kant; Galileo had discovered the use of the pendulum; Lafayette was a major-general, and Garrison voiced emancipation for the slave.

At twenty-two Paul Potter painted "The Young Bull," now in the museum at The Hague, said to be one of the finest animal pictures on canvas; Campbell wrote his "Pleasures of Hope," on which his fame as a poet rests; Farquhar had made for himself a lasting name as a dramatist, and Conde was the most famous military general of his time.

The ceremony of electing a mayor in a belfry was performed yesterday according to ancient custom in the parish church of Brightlingsea, when Arthur Lucas was chosen in succession to the Rev. Arthur Petwee, vicar of Brightlingsea, and six mariners who had married Brightlingsea women were admitted freemen of the port on payment of eleven pennies into the treasury.—London Standard.

The United States and the British empire produce 82.7 per cent of the world's gold supply. Germany and France, which produce no gold, and Russia, which produces only some \$27,000,000 worth a year, feel compelled to hoard vast amounts of it to be prepared for emergencies, such as sudden war. This is the reason why the banks of these countries begin a process of hoarding gold whenever there is any likelihood of trouble.

Japan, the country that is not bound by traditions in her search for the best manner of doing things, has tried our national bank plan, and finding it not at all satisfactory, has adopted the European plan of the central bank. The Bank of Japan is capitalized at \$15,000,000. Its circulation at present is more than \$170,000,000, and its deposits exceed \$200,000,000. It issues all the notes of the country and thus controls the currency situation. Besides the Bank of Japan there are other semi-official banks filling various specific functions for the government.

The chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada was asked, at Montreal, if the report was correct that they had bought the Ontario tobacco crop. His answer was that tobacco grown in Canada to-day was superior to the American-grown leaf from the same type of seed, for the reason that the soil in the United States has been used for a number of years and the Canadian soil is practically virgin soil for tobacco growing purposes, and therefore produced a better quality. The proof of this is that the consumption is constantly increasing.—Consular Reports.

Professor Ranke some time ago brought out a new fact concerning the brain of a man as compared with that of other animals. It has long been known that the brain of a man does not weigh as much as that of a whale, or an elephant, and that there are birds and apes whose brains are heavier than man's in proportion to the weight of their bodies. But Professor Ranke showed that the way to reveal the actual superiority of the human brain is to compare its weight with that of the spinal cord. Measured in this way, man's brain is proportionately far heavier than that of any of the lower animals.—Harper's Weekly.

Biliousness

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Meyerbeer and Thunder.

Meyerbeer, like Handel, composed best in a thunderstorm. He had a room made at the top of his house with glass roof and sides, so that he might enjoy these conditions to the full whenever they presented themselves. It is said that no beast of the field, no raven or nightjar, could scent the approach of a storm more unerringly than Meyerbeer, and nothing was allowed to interfere with his solitary enjoyment of it when it arrived. Wherever he was he would leave at the first premonitory rumble.

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