BANDON RECORDER.

THE FER-DE-LANCE.

His Terrible Bite Often Causes Death in a Few Moments.

The terrible fer-de-lance will strike again and again and is the cause of great mortality where he exists, causing death often in a few moments. Over the whole earth there is none to compare with him except the notorious cobra of India. Although not a water snake, he is fond of the river and flat lands in its vicinity, seldom being met with in the hills. This denizen of the reedy swamp and sedgy river banks is found over the whole north of the South American continent as well as in the islands of Trinidad, St. Lucia and Martinique. He is truly the evil genius of the two latter, where deaths from his bite form a high percentage every year.

In Martinique especially it is necessary oftentimes in some districts to burn the cornfields so as to destroy these snakes before the negroes dare enter to cut the canes. On one estate thirty-seven fer-de-lances were killed on a piece of ground containing eleven acres.

Of a dull yellowish or clay tinted ground color, he is ringed with irregular, blackish bands, narrowing toward the back and broadening downward. This arrangement of coloring makes him extremely difficult to discern on the flat alluvial lands where the sun baked clay, mixed with the blackened color of sticks rotten and water soaked, makes a carpet of a color with his coat. He is from five to seven feet in length, as thick as a man's wrist, with a flat triangular head.

An Odd Barometer.

A common leech makes a good barometer. Fill a tumbler half full with water, put the leech into it and tie a piece of muslin over the top to keep the leech from getting out. All you have to do to find out what sort of weather we are going to have is to watch the little animal.

For example, when the day is to be fine the leech will remain at the bottom of the glass, coiled up in spiral shape and quite motionless. If rain may be expected, it will creep to the top of the glass and stay there until it clears off.

If the leech twists itself and is very restless, there is going to be a windstorm. If it keeps out of the water for several days, look out for a thunderstorm.

The indications for frosty weather are the same as for fine and for snow the same as for rain. In fact, a leech is almost as good a forecaster as the weather man himself.

A Comedy of Errors.

When Baron Haussmann went to Constantinople on a visit to Abdul Aziz, who was then sultan, he had an interview with the grand vizier who did not know a word of French. At the beginning of the interview the old long Turkish pipes were brought in, and then Baron Haussmann began making a very long speech in French. The grand vizier could not understand a word, but listened most attentively till he noticed that his pipe had gone out and clapped his hand for a servant to come and relight it. Haussmann, thinking he was applauding, rushed toward him with outstretched hand, intending to shake hands and thank him. The grand vizier, seeing his hand put forth, shook it warmly and said "Goodby," under the impression it was Haussmann's intention to leave, and quitted the room.

The End of the World.

Dr. M. W. Meyer, a German scientist in an interesting volume under the above title explains a "new theory" as to how this event will probably come about. Indeed he carries his argument still further and finally extinguishes all the energy of the universe. All of the present satellites—moons, etc.—will eventually be drawn in by the force of gravitation and become a part of their planets. These in turn will be absorbed by the sun. A series of collisions will then commence between the various suns which will finally result in one enormous sun and solar system. "And so growing in grandeur, but diminishing in number; the final catastrophe will come when there are no more suns to produce collisions (and heat) and one huge body cooled to the zero of space, void of available energy, will mark the final outcome of cosmical motion."

Cotton and Flax.

Cotton was used for making garments in India at a date so remote that it cannot even be guessed at. The fact is mentioned by Aristotle. The first seeds were brought to this country in 1621. In 1666 the culture is mentioned in the records of South Carolina. In 1736 the culture was general along the eastern coast of Maryland, and in 1776 we heard of it as far north as Cape May. The use of flax for making clothing is nearly as ancient as that of cotton and perhaps more so, plants of soft and flexible fiber having been without doubt among the first vegetable productions of the ancient world and their practical value discovered soon after the invention of weaving.

The Giraffe.

The children had written compositions on the giraffe. They were reading them aloud to the class. At last the time came for little Willie to read his. It was as follows: "The giraffe is a dumb animal and cannot express itself by any sound because its neck is so long its voice gets tired on its way to its mouth."

Little Latitude.

"I suppose a man has to be pretty careful in order to hold his job," said the talkative passenger.

"Yes," assented the conductor sadly. "If I knock a fare down, the company kicks, and if I knock a passenger down he reports me."—New York Times.

Artistic Improvement.

Hicks—That picture of D'Auber's that you bought at the exhibition looks better in your study than it did there somehow.

Wicks—Yes. I have hung it the other side up.—Somerville (Mass.) Journal.

The higher a man's character the less he need concern himself about his reputation.—New York Press.

POLLY LARKIN.

Nearly ten thousand pupils of the public schools were sadly disappointed during the recent Citrus Fair held in the ferry building in San Francisco. They had prepared for a holiday, which had been promised them, in order that they might visit the fair. Unfortunately they were the last section, and, owing to the rudeness and bad behavior of a few scholars in the previous sections (they were the exception and not the rule), Secretary Filcher of the State Board of Trade was compelled to notify the Board of Education that the children could not come. Naturally the children who had conducted themselves in a proper manner were indignant to be classed with this rough element, but they had to suffer with the guilty. In commenting on the above a lady said: "You can lay it all on to their home training. The children are not responsible; it is the parents who are to blame for not teaching them better manners. I have no patience with such lax methods in the bringing up of children. The parents may be nice enough, but what does all their refinement and polished manners amount to if they have not the ability to teach their children to show that they are well-bred both at home and abroad?"

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It is not always the case, however, for Polly has seen both boys and girls brought up in the home where nothing coarse or rude was tolerated for a minute and where everything that could tend to throw refining influences aroung them were in evidence and the parents showed that they were cultured and charming people, yet both the sons and daughters seem to be possessed to act in a boisterous manner that offended other people and caused uncomplimentary comments whenever they appeared in public or at any little social function where their parents were not present. The latter would have been horrified had they known of their unbecoming behavior. It was a delicate matter and no one felt sufficiently well acquainted to inform them of the facts, and had they done so the parents would doubtless have ascribed it to some other motive other than kindness and informed them that they desired them to cease meddling with their affairs. That is but natural.

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There is also another side to the picture. I have seen children reared in a household where there was always turmoil, no discipline, and confusion reigned supreme. Home was only a place to sleep and eat in, the mother slipshod and a stranger to neatness concerning both her home and her own personal appearance, devoting all her time and attention to cheap dime novels, the trashier and more foolishly sentimental the story the more interesting to her. She would forget husband, children and home while turning the pages of her book and would sigh wearily when the children came tropping home from school, hungry as little bears and clamoring for their lunch. Reluctantly she would turn down a corner of the page, set the children to cleaning off the breakfast dishes and resetting the table while she hastily prepared a little lunch. So sooner were they out of the house than she was engrossed in her novel again. Yet out of this disorderly home I have seen girls and boys come who were as gentlemanly and ladylike, so agreeable and easy in their manners, that they would have been a credit to any household under more favorable conditions. In fact, any one could have been proud of the little lads and lassies.

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You cannot always lay the blame for rough and boisterous conduct of boys and girls on the parents. Some of the children who behaved so badly at the ferry building were nervous and high-strung and in the excitement of the vast throng that crowded the building forgot themselves entirely. Some of the boys purloined oranges, and it kept a man busy moving among the crowd of children, and whenever he saw a bulging pocket he investigated with a sharp stick to see whether it contained an orange or an apple from some table where it said "hands off." There was many an indignant child who resented the pointed accusation. They were guiltless of the crime but had to come under the ban of suspicion on account of the little culprits who were very bold in their depredations. The edict that went forth was to be regretted, for it placed the school children in a bad light when the unruliness could be traced to a few children. Not only this, but it cut nearly 10,000 children out of seeing the fine exhibit of the Citrus Fair. It strikes Polly that it would be a good idea to drop some of the numerous studies that the children are compelled to take up for a single term and then stop before they have gained an insight into the work and devote a good solid hour to their "manners." Teach them to cultivate that high sense of honor that will make them abhor anything that tends to belittle them in the eyes of others. There is vast room for improvement among many of the incorrigibles.

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There is a machine in France for extracting essence from lemon peels. Its work is principally automatic, but women and boys are required to feed it, and their compensation amounts to sixteen cents for ten hours' labor. There they are contented with their small pay for their ten hours' work, but should they land in San Francisco to-morrow and be given two dollars a day for eight hours' work they would go on a strike and wail that they were receiving only starvation wages. 'Tis a strange old world. The immigrants who pour into this country from the old world and who have never known anything but poverty, many of them being in the lowest scale of humanity, who have fairly groveled before their employers, yet when they reach the United States, particularly California, which is a veritable haven for the criminal and lowest type of mankind from Europe and Australia, they quickly assert their rights and dictate that a citizen shall not do this and he shall not do that in his own business. Nearly all of the brutality and dastardly and cowardly work done by the members of the unions in crippling, murdering and injuring non-union men, who hold that they live in a free country and have as much right to live in their native land as these aliens, is done by this criminal element of foreign countries that has poured through our widely celebrated "open door."

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Polly saw a great, burly teamster, a foreigner, walk up to a little boy in front of one of the big department stores, where the teamsters for some fancied grievance had "walked out" on strike, and giving the little lad a stunning blow on the face that sent him reeling against the wall, seized the papers he had been distributing and destroyed them, and then this brutal fellow, who would not have dared to have struck a man his own size, but must wreak his cowardly spite on mere babies, announced that "Us fellows are going to lay for the cash boys and knock the senses out of them." Every deed of violence and inhumanity injures the cause of the unions and makes people who would otherwise be in sympathy with their cause condemn them.

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A gentleman in speaking of the above subject the other day said: "When the unions hold themselves responsible for every deed of violence done by their unruly members and they make it a part of their code to bring these lawbreakers to justice, then, and not until then, can they solve the problem of how to gain the sympathy and support of all good, substantial citizens."

BRIEF REVIEW

Black Diamond.

The only place in the world where that form of carbon known as the black diamond, or bort, is found in marketable quantities is in Bahia, in South America. The substance is used for points for stone drills and saws, and is powered and used to polish diamonds and other precious stones. There is a wide and growing demand for it. The black diamond is found with the ordinary in the Bathia fields, and brings about ten dollars a caret. The largest carbon found weighed 3150 carats; it was bought from the miner for $18,000; was afterward purchased for $25,000, and was sent to Paris, where it was broken up and sold to the trade. The average size is about six carets. The annual output is decreasing as the demand grows larger and the price is mounting. It is probably only a question of time when a black diamond combination will be formed to work the small area with modern machinery. The present methods are very primitive.

Talc and Soapstone.

Talc is a very common mineral and is widely distributed. It is found in considerable variety in nearly every state along the Atlantic slope the deposits of best quality being in New York and in North Carolina. The New York talc is used almost exclusively a a filler in the manufacture of paper; most of the North Carolina talc is ground to a powder and used in the manufacture of the toilet powders. The talc mined in Virginia is used for the most part in the manufacture of wash tubs, laboratory, zinc, stove bricks etc. Other states that have produced talc or soapstone are Maryland, Georgia and California. A large part of the soapstone mined in these latter states is ground and is used as paint, paper filling, lubricants, etc.

English Blackberries.

There is a widespread belief, says the London Chronicle, that blackberries should not be plucked after Old Michaelmas day. In some parts it is because Satan on that day sets his foot upon them, while in others it is thought he spits upon the berries. In Scotland the devil throws his cloak over them; in Ireland he marks the berry with his cloven hoof. In the rural parts of this country it is believed spiders spread their webs over the bushes as a warning that the devil had thrown his cloak over them.

Fines for Laughing.

A rather interesting story is told of the condition of working girls in factories in the northern part of England. Every employe who presumes to laugh during working hours is fined. Miss Tuckwell, who is the authorized investigator of these factories, says that she is not surprised from the present surroundings of the poor girls that the fine is seldom imposed.

The St Lawrence river is frozen four months of the year, and its navigation is so difficult that an average of one steamer a month is wrecked on its waters.

It takes about three seconds for a message to go from one end of the Atlantic cable to the other.

It is alleged that there is only one doctor available for a population of 13,000 in the West Indian island of Nevis.

There are 10,000 rural delivery routes in operation to-day and 10,183 petitions under consideration.

One per cent of the population of India profess the Christian religion.

WHAT IS A "COLD?"

The Word That Covers a Multitude of Ills Expounded.

Professor Lohnberg, in the Vienna Clinical Review, on the question "What is a cold in the head, says that the "ordinary cold is no individual complaint, but only a collective name for a large number of different complaints."

He continues, "The attempt to discover a universal remedy against a cold is just as absurd as to search for a generally efficacious remedy for headache." The particular complaint of which the cold is the symptom can only be ascertained by "careful examination of the nasal cavities and neighboring parts." Hence sufferers should be circumspect in the use of remedies.

The professor says only that which is true, but of which the mass of mankind is ignorant. Colds are of innumerable varieties, but the most common one is that which is persistently misunderstood. It is attributed to anything but the right cause, which is a microbe.

All its symptoms are those of a highly infectious fever, and the public instead of blaming the microbe of infection and striving to kill it will persist in denouncing drafts, wet feet, low temperature, etc.

They exclude air, the enemy of the microbe, from their rooms; they supply a temperature in which it can multiply, and, having become thoroughly inoculated by breathing the germ laden atmosphere, they find that a cold current of air causes them to shiver. The shivering of the ordinary mind decides the question of causation.

It is significant of every fever that it begins with shivering, and a cold is no exception.

Cold, wet feet, drafts, etc., are at most only accessories. By putting a greater strain on the animal economy they decrease its resistance to microbial infection.

THE KADIAK BEAR.

His Winter Habits Much Like Those of Bears the World Over.

The Kadiak bear finds no trouble in getting all the food he wants during the berry season and during the run of the various kinds of salmon, which lasts from June until October. At this period he fattens up, and upon this fat he lives through his long winter sleep. When he wakes in the spring, he is very weak and hardly able to move, so his first aim is to recover the use of his legs. This he does by taking short walks when the weather is pleasant, returning to his den every night. This light exercise lasts for a week or so, when he sets out to seek upon the beach kelp, which acts as a purge. He now lives upon roots, principally of the salmon berry bush, and later nibbles the young grass. These carry him along until the salmon arrive, when he becomes exclusively a fish eater until the berries are ripe. I have been told by the natives that just before he goes into his den he eats berries only, and his stomach is now so filled with fat that he really eats but little.

The time when the bears go into winter quarters depends upon the severity of the season. Generally speaking, it is in early November, shortly after the cold weather has set in. Most bears sleep uninterruptedly until spring, but occasionally they are found wandering about in midwinter. My natives seemed to think that only those bears which have found uncomfortable quarters are restless and that they leave their dens at this time of the year only for the purpose of finding better ones.—From "Big Game of Western Alaska," by James H. Kidder, in Outing.

Exonerated.

Three-year-old Jack had pulled a large bunch of nasturtiums in his grandmother's yard, though strictly forbidden to touch the flowers. A court martial was held, with grandma as judge advocate.

"Jack," she said, "who pulled grandma's flowers?"

With a sad countenance the beautiful little fellow replied, "Kathleen" (his elder sister).

Then the grandfather, a rather stern old gentleman and a great stickler for truth, spoke up,

"Jack, be a man and say, 'I did it!'"

With a beaming expression of relief Jack cried out, "Oh, yes; grandpa did it!"—Judge.

The Royal "We."

There has been a tendency of late years on the part of royal personages to discontinue the use of we and substitute I. Before the reign of Richard I. "I" (Ego) was always used, Richard being the first sovereign in Europe to use the royal "we" (Nos). What gave rise to the change is a moot point. Richard I. was the first king to seal with a seal of arms which bore two lions, and it has been suggested that the lions were typical of the royal "we" and occasioned its use.—London Chronicle.

Questioned Too Closely.

Tess—You and Miss Sere don't seem to be good friends. What's the matter?

Jess—Why, she remarked that she was twenty-four years old, and—

Tess—And you doubted it?

Jess—Not at all. I merely said, "Of course, but when?"—Philadelphia Press.

His Simple Plan.

"And you say he got rich selling meal tickets ten for a dollar? How was such a thing possible?"

"Oh, very simple. Nobody ever went back after the second meal."—Baltimore American.

A man's good work lives after him, but it isn't always identified.—Saturday Evening Post.

Germany is gradually dismantling her old time fortresses. The old fortifications of Mainz and of Cologne have been torn down, and now it is the turn of Ulm, in whose old tower the capitulation of 1805 took place. Part of the walls of Metz have disappeared, and at Thionville they are tearing down Vauban's famous ramparts.

Mrs. Blank is poor husband going to Mrs. Jason's funeral?

Mrs. Dash—Decidedly not! She never returned my last call.—Smart Set.

TWILIGHT IN IRELAND.

It Is Different From That Seen In Any Other Country.

The interior of a typical Irish cabin is a sorry sight. The floor is of stone, uncovered except for a few rug mats. The furniture is of the poorest, and sometimes it is homemade; tables improvised from boxes, chairs from barrels, and the beds more like stalls for cattle, with their straw mattresses and bundle of rags for clothing. A slow, dull fire of peat gives a cheerless warmth to the room. What few dishes there are belonging to the family are arranged on the mantelpiece. Strips of bacon, dried cod and herbs hang from the ceiling.

After a frugal meal Pat will take his evening promenade. It is between supper time and going to bed that the Irish most enjoy themselves. An Irish twilight is different from any other; indeed, it is without a rival. It seems as if there the sun were loath to set, casting its rays over the Emerald Isle many hours after it had disappeared elsewhere. In that delicious moment, just before it finds its final resting place for the night, it is most enchanting. Over everything is an unspeakable spell of peace and quiet, and a warm glow casts into shadow unsightly objects and surrounds them with a mystic halo of golden light. It radiates into the hearts of Ireland's humblest inhabitants, and they sally forth, rich and poor alike, mingling in a throng of living, moving humanity.

London Theaters of Long Ago.

A writer in London Truth says that in the early part of the eighteenth century the London theaters opened at 6 o'clock, and as it was therefore difficult for playgoers to arrive punctually and obtain seats many of them sent footmen or hired men from the streets to secure places for them. These sat in the seats until those who had sent them came, and the custom prevailed until 1766, when the system now in force was adopted. "A footman used to be sent early to take places and keep them by the simple but effectual plan of sitting on them till his masters and mistresses arrived. Such a practice would now be considered an intolerable nuisance, but people in those days were much less particular, and appear to have thought nothing of sitting for an act or two cheek by jowl with a flunky or, worse, with a vagabond picked up in the street." An allusion to the custom occurs in Fielding's "Miss Lucy In Town," act 1, scene 2, and Pepys in his "Diary" occasionally mentions having hired a boy in the streets to occupy a seat for him.

Japan Once Joined to China.

Japan consists of a group of "festoon islands," forming a long curve, with its concavity toward the mainland, and many of their peculiarities are due to their upheaval by subterranean forces, of which they are still one of the most active seats. They were undoubtedly connected with China and with the land to the north of this at no very remote period, geologically speaking, and therefore, like Great Britain and Ireland, are scientifically classified as "recent continental islands." The proofs of this are twofold—first, they are connected with Asia by a submarine bank less than a hundred fathoms beneath the surface, and this is believed to be, as in all such cases, a submerged land tract; second, the animals of Japan are closely similar to those of China, the only plausible explanation of this being that formerly there was a land connection.

Queer Japanese Custom.

In some villages in Japan robbers are tried and convicted by ballot. Whenever a robbery is committed the ruler of the hamlet summons the entire male population and requests them to write on a slip of paper the name of the person they suspect as having committed the crime. The one receiving the largest number of ballots is declared duly "elected" and is accordingly hanged. This system, like all others, has its peculiar advantages. It insures the punishment of somebody for every robbery committed, whereas under the system in vogue in most civilized countries in nine cases out of ten no punishment is inflicted on anybody for the crime. Of course they may not "elect" the guilty person, but dispose of some other character equally bad.

Old Violins.

The old time viol was the first instrument of its kind and furnished the plan for the modern violin, which, however, is 700 years old. It is said that Charles II. introduced it into England. One of the finest makers of violins was Stradivarius of Cremona, who existed in the early part of the eighteenth century. Violins made by him are worth thousands of dollars now and are highly esteemed by collectors and performers.

His Lucky Draw.

Tenspot—You should have seen the pair Harker held last night.

Tray—I thought he had given up poker since his marriage?

Tenspot—He has. He was holding his twins.—Chicago News.

Natural.

Mrs. Hatterson—The ladies of the parish got up a baby show for the benefit of the hospital.

Mrs. Chatterson—Was it a success?

"Oh, a howling success!"—Smart Set.

Why He Grieves.

"She may have a temper, but she is interesting. Did she ever get over the death of her first husband?"

"Yes; but her second husband is inconsolable."—Portsmouth News.

Compensations.

When a man pays as he goes, he always gets a welcome back.—Philadelphia Record.

No Better Off.

"Poor Robinson! He couldn't make a living and married a woman with money."

"But isn't he all right now?"

"Hardly. She is so close with it that he has to work harder than ever."—Life.

A Chicago man has produced the theory that Venus de Milo never wore corsets because she had no arms and couldn't possibly have hooked them together.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

Revivals In Household Decoration.

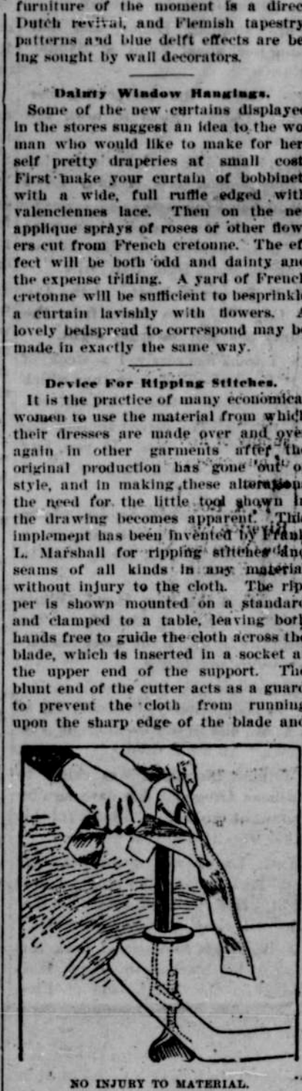
Wall paper men, furniture dealers and all manner of interior decorators say that there is to be a revival of the Dutch and Flemish influence in the arts devoted to household decoration, says the Upholsterer. Every national art has had its distinctive characteristics. That of Greece was beautiful and cold, that of Rome first severe, then effeminate, that of France luxurious first of all, while that of the Dutch expressed simplicity and strength as its salient quality. The important thing about this to Americans is the fact that the Flemish artisans formed the English taste. Back as far as the first crusade they were the manufacturers and traders of England. The astute Elizabeth welcomed great numbers of them, driven out of their homes by her good cousin Philip, and later, in the time of Cromwell and of course in the reigns of Anne and Mary, Dutch influence was prominent. Politics was reflected in table legs, and chairs changed their shape by reason of religious wars. The popular Mission and Arts and Crafts furniture of the moment is a direct Dutch revival, and Flemish tapestry, patterns and blue delft effects are being sought by wall decorators.

Dainty Window Hangings.

Some of the new curtains displayed in the stores suggest an idea to the woman who would like to make for herself pretty draperies at small cost. First make your curtain of bobbinet, with a wide, full ruffle edged with valenciennes lace. Then on the net applique sprays of roses or other flowers cut from French cretonne. The effect will be both odd and dainty and the expense trifling. A yard of French cretonne will be sufficient to besprinkle a curtain lavishly with flowers. A lovely bedspread to correspond may be made in exactly the same way.

Device For Ripping Stitches.

It is the practice of many economical women to use the material from which their dresses are made over and over again in other garments after the original production has gone out of style, and in making these alterations the need for the little tool shown in the drawing becomes apparent. This implement has been invented by Frank L. Marshall for ripping stitches and seams of all kinds in any material without injury to the cloth. The ripper is shown mounted on a standard, and clamped to a table, leaving both hands free to guide the cloth across the blade, which is inserted in a socket at the upper end of the support. The blunt end of the cutter acts as a guard to prevent the cloth from running upon the sharp edge of the blade and



NO INJURY TO MATERIAL.

also prevents the point from running into the cloth. The operator sits back of the ripper and, pulling the cloth toward her, will draw the stitches on to the sharp edge of the blade and sever them. If desired, the cutting blade can be mounted in a handle for use in one hand, but better results can be obtained when it is firmly fastened in a holder and the work is drawn over the blade, since this allows the operator to have the free use of both hands in guiding the work.

Tea Trays of Glass.

The newest and prettiest tea trays are oblong, with brass or wooden handles and a glass bottom which may be removed to admit a piece of burnt leather or rich fabric, racing print or other decoration.

Glass is being used also in the manufacture of bathtubs. The glass is about three inches thick and annealed to make the tub durable. The effect is clean and beautiful. The idea is a German one and is rapidly gaining favor in this country.—New York Post.

Sofa Cushions and Pillows.

Sofa cushions of velvet or suede decorated with appliqued designs of leather in contrasting tones are included among the latest manifestations of activity in the production of sofa cushions. Moss green velvet appliqued with natural toned sunflowers marked with brown shadings with the pyrographer's needle makes a picturesque pillow, while a cushion of tan suede ornamented with poppy design in red suede looks extremely well on a dark couch.

Household Tips.

Here is an English recipe for polishing furniture: Shave yellow beeswax into enough turpentine to make it of the consistence of paste. When it is dissolved, apply with a soft flannel rag to a part of the surface to be polished. Rub vigorously.

Tiles in the more correct fireplaces grow larger and larger. Twelve inches square is the desirable size at present, and those of dull unglazed dark green or red are the proper color.

Useful table covers in houses where cards are played a great deal are of cloth or felt, made with a shirr string, which is pulled tightly after the cover has been adjusted over the top of the table.

Assurance Pays.

Stephen—Dr. Skillings gets $5 for every consultation. That's what comes to a man who thoroughly learns his profession.

Wilfer—And Dr. Kwacker gets $10. That's what comes of cultivating a sublime cheek.—Boston Transcript.

All Tastes Provided For.

Sam—Did de pawson tell his flock dat St. Peter would give dem each a harp?

Remus—No; he knew bettah. He tole dem dat St. Peter would give dem each a banjo.—Philadelphia Record.

HINTS FOR FARMERS

The Morning Mash.

The majority of poultry keepers advocate the morning mash, but after considerable experimenting I have come to the conclusion that the best time to feed the mash is at noon. If the hens are given all the mash they will eat or even a half feed of it in the morning, they will seek the warmest corner of the poultry house and sit idle for the greater part of the morning. A hen that is not made to work for the greater part of her living will never be a prolific layer.

The principal objection to feeding the mash at night is that it digests too quickly, thus not furnishing as much warmth to the fowl as the whole grain. Another objection is that beginners are apt to think that a hen may be fed all the mash she can eat in the evening with safety. This is wrong, as the hens do not exercise in eating soft feed, and therefore on going to roost with a full crop they have got the greater part of their daily ration without working for it.

But if the mash is fed at noon a very little should be given; also the morning feed should be light, with a full feed of whole grain at night. The following manner of feeding has proved very satisfactory with me this winter: After the hens have gone to roost I scatter whole grain in the litter and rake it in with an iron rake. I use equal parts by measurement of cracked corn, wheat and oats for this feed and give one handful to every three hens. At noon give a mash of equal parts of ground grain and cut clover or vegetables. Give about one quart of the mash, after it has been mixed with water, to fifteen hens. At night give mixed grains, as in the morning, only give a full handful to each fowl. Under this method of feeding the fowls are kept hungry until the full feed at night and are continually scratching through the day for some stray grain. I believe that there is more danger of overfeeding than underfeeding fowls, especially with beginners.—E. P. Tabor, Jr., in Commercial Poultry.

Cement Stable Floors.

The barnbuilder of today, whether in the country or city, after an investigation, will hardly think of putting in any other kind of flooring than cement. Nearly all the essentials of a good floor are found in this material.

The man building a floor in any kind of a building that is to house stock will look for several things that are the prime essentials of a good floor. Among these are durability, cleanliness, comparatively cheap first cost and the health of the animals that are to be kept on it, says the Wisconsin Agriculturist.

In the cement floor we find some of these qualities in a degree that is not equaled by any other floor, and in the balance the weight of evidence points to the fact that cement is the best thing that can be used. As for durability, if it is properly made there is no floor that is equal to the cement. If rightly laid and good material is used, the floor that is made is of the nature of stone and even more lasting than some stone.

Kansas as a Meat Producer.

With the development of the dairy industry in Kansas will come the utilization of skimmilk more and more as feed for animals, and its value fresh from the separator will be more and more appreciated until the old way of stuffing hogs and other animals to make them weigh will give way to the saner and more profitable method of feeding for quality, until in time, with the superior advantages which the state affords, he will become the producer of the finest animals in the world. With the researches of our scientists and the tireless industry of our educators, combined with the push and enterprise of the Kansas farmer, I believe we shall gradually drift into the production of the high priced and choice meats, for the Kansas farmer is not content to rest when he has produced the most. He will press on until he has reached the place where he can say he has the finest.—Farmers' Advocate.

Liquid Manure.

In saving manure more attention should be paid to the liquid excretions, which are generally wasted. This can be done by having plenty of bedding or by the use of absorbents, such as land plaster or peat. That most available on most farms is damaged straw or hay. Pound for pound or ton for ton, the liquid is more than twice as valuable as the solid manure, and the value of both combined is often worth more than the milk of the cow that makes it. While this is generally true, the constituents of both liquid and solid manures vary with the feed and the individuality of the animal.

Potatoes In Oklahoma.

A writer in the Oklahoma Farm Journal says that in Pottawatomie county, Okla., where no potatoes were grown for market until last year, the farmers will put in next year not less than 5,000 acres. One farmer in that county this year received $5,000 for the potatoes grown on fifty acres, having grown both a spring and a fall crop. Although Oklahoma has been unusually successful with cotton, diversified farming is rapidly spreading, because it is more profitable than cotton at maximum yields and prices.

To Head Off Bitter Rot.

Bitter rot of apples is quite difficult to control even with bordeaux mixture. However, conscientious work and the cleaning up of the orchard carefully in the autumn and early winter will do much to hold this disease in check.

Didn't Use His Own Medicine.

Doctor—Take this medicine as directed, and your cold will be gone in two or three days.

Patient—You seem quite hoarse, doctor.

Doctor—Yes; I've had a bad cold for four weeks.—Chums.

Experiments conducted in California and recently reported to the Botanical Society of America indicate that bees are active agents in the spread of pear blight at the period when the trees are in bloom.