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CHARACTER BUILDING.

A tiny form, now breathing clay, What does it mean? An immortal soul has come this way, Has come to earth, on earth will stay...

A NOVEL EXECUTION.

AND don't you find it very dull up here all alone? I asked. "No," he answered; "not so dull as you might think, by any means. You see, there is plenty of game to be had, large and small, for the shooting; the scenery is delightful to me, who, like you, am a bit of an artist, and then the banditti usually provide a little additional excitement..."

THE JOKE WAS TURNED.

A Man Who Dugged a Pit and Fell in It Himself. "It didn't turn out as Jones figured," said the talkative man with a grin. "He invited me to pay him a visit at his summer home in the country, and I accepted without any idea of what he had in store for me. No sooner had I arrived than he informed me that he had me booked to act as judge of a baby show that was to take place the following day. I laughed at him, and told him that I would have to be excused..."



Children's Corner

Indian Child Life. There is not so much difference after all between Indian and white children. The Indian boy of the Flathead reservation, writes a Montana correspondent, has his miniature bow with its diminutive quiver of arrows and he straddles a stick and gallops to the chase; later, when he has attained sufficient length of limb to bestride a cayuse, he is given a pony, which succeeds the stick as a steed, though it has not much more rapid powers of locomotion...

Who falls and rises, makes no moon in dust, or cold, or heat.

I find it in my very soul To bless the stubborn stuff That takes of poverty its toll, And makes that dole enough. A thousand praise the boy who wins, But twice ten thousand rise Beyond this world of clamorous din To praise the boy who tries. -Margaret E. Sangster.



FARMS AND FARMERS

A Rat and Storm Proof Coop. Says a correspondent of the Poultry Journal: The brood coop I have had most success with is made as follows: length, 24 inches; height in front, 20 inches; rear, 12 inches; width, 18 inches (inside measurements). I make the coop of matched pine, with board floor, the cleats being on the outside so as to raise the coop off the ground. The top projects three inches at the sides and four inches at the rear. I make a closed front (boards the same as the coop, the front being hinged to the top and front mitered so as to close tight when down. The coop front is kept in place by cleats on the inside, these cleats allowing about seven-eighths of an inch space on both sides when the door is down for ventilation...

HOW A YOUNG FATHER FEELS.

Emotions that Overcome Him Are Experienced but Once. When the average novel writer wishes to describe a set of emotions for which he has no appropriate name, he usually refers to them as being "mingled"; and this, perhaps better than anything else, reflects the condition of a man when he first becomes a father.



COOP FOR YOUNG POULTRY STOCK.

when not in use they last a long time and repay for their cost many times over. When the chicks are older, I utilize dry goods boxes cut down to about the same shape, only I make a hood of about the lower 18 inches only. Cats, Rats and Chickens. A certain well-known writer for agricultural papers says that "the cat should be fed but very little. If they are given enough food to satisfy their hunger, they will hunt but very little. Now it has been our fortune when we lived in a house that there should be one or more cats in it, and sometimes others at the barn, and not one of them was ever allowed to go hungry much longer than the members of the family did, yet most of them that we remember were good hunters, and seldom would one of them ever eat a rat. We have seen a half dozen or more rats piled up around the doorstep in the morning, when we were newly moved to a farm where the buildings had stood empty for some time, and the cat that caught and killed them, after she had called her mistress to look at them, was as ready for her breakfast as if there had not been a rat on the premises, and she had it, too. The cat hunts because she likes it, just as many men do, and if she was hunting because she was hungry she would have found better picking at the chicken pen than among the rats at the barn. Our cats catch rats and sometimes snakes and even frogs, but never are hungry enough to eat them, and being well fed, seldom touch a chicken or a small bird as a half-starved cat will do. Starve no cats in our neighborhood when we have chickens in the yard and birds in the trees. -Massachusetts Ploughman.

HE REASONED IT OUT.

How a Small Boy Accounted for Bad Weather. There is always some one who has a good baby story to tell, and here is the latest. The baby in question, for the good, a small boy who has reached the mature age of 6 years. He had a great disappointment the other day. He was to be taken on a nice little excursion, and he certainly would have gone but for the weather, which on this particular day was so very bad that no mother would take a small boy out in it. Being a boy, the young boy did not cry, but he did, and set out in a logical masculine way to reason matters out. He is a well-thought smart boy, and he has learned many things, among others something of the creation of the world ages ago and the Creator. He also knows that the Creator of what is known as the weather. After thinking the matter over, he went to his mother. "Mamma, it is a long time since God made the world, isn't it?" "Yes," answered mamma, "a long time."

Women Beat Men Again.

Statistics show that women live longer than men. For instance, in Germany, only 418 out of 1,000 males reach the age of fifty years, while more than 500 out of 1,000 females reach that age. In the United States there are 2,685 female to 1,395 male centenarians. In France, of ten centenarians, seven are women and only three men. In the rest of Europe, of twenty-one centenarians sixteen are women.

Deaf Mutes in Germany.

Deaf mutes are on the increase in Germany. There are no fewer than 6,458 persons in institutions where deaf mutes are specially instructed.

IDEA HAD A FATAL DEFECT.

Plan of an Inventor to Thwart the Enterprising Burglar. "I ran across a queer old relic in my line of business recently, said a safe and lock expert who was standing with me the other day. "I was prowling around a machine shop in a town up in Iowa trying to find a fitting that I needed, when I happened to notice a sheet-iron box which seemed to have once been entirely covered with glass tubes attached to the surface by cement. Most of them were broken, and most of them were missing, but the general arrangement could be easily traced and the contrivance impressed me at once with a sense of familiarity. Presently I remembered about it. It was all that was left of the one-time famous 'anesthetic safe,' an invention which ought to have been sponsored by a society for the prevention of cruelty to burglars. The idea of the thing was that any cutting or drilling through the outer casing should release certain chemicals which would promptly stupefy everybody in range of their fumes. In the morning the owner would find his valuables intact and could simply call a dray and pack off the unconscious burglars to jail."

Unaware.

"She came upon him unaware," read the officer. "Can any little boy or girl tell me what 'unaware' means?" Up went the hand of the youngest pupil. "I know!" he cried, "it's what we wear next to our skins."

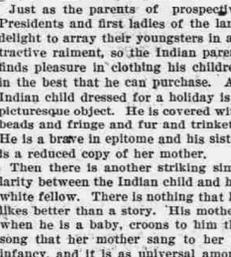
Largest Carpet in the World.

The largest carpet in the world is in Windsor Castle. It is 40 feet in breadth, and contains 58,840,000 stitches. The weaving of it occupied twenty-eight men fourteen months.

Not a Word or Two or Three He Lifts

His sturdy hand are life Shows bright and clear the blue that lifts With peace the sky of strife. The lad whose valor holds its own In presence of defeat.

How It is Done.



The design shown in the illustration mixes the problem of accurately cutting the five-pointed star for flag or other purposes: Take a square of cardboard and draw the diagonal dotted line, as in figure A; fold the square on this dotted line, and the result will be figure B. Then make the dotted lines shown here and bend this triangle over so that its point will touch A; this will give figure C. The triangle C is folded over at the lettered line B C, figure D resulting. The left side of figure D is then folded back on the right, with the result seen in figure E. Cut along the dotted line from the center of the longest side of the triangle, as seen in the illustration. When the cardboard is unfolded the perfect star, as at figure F, appears. The points may be blunt or sharp according to the position of the dotted line in figure E. By moving it further to the right the points will be made sharp and to the left broader. This process of making the star will be found simple, if the illustrations are carefully studied.

The Boy Who Tries.

The boy who wins is sure of praise, And yet, I somehow prize Through stress of dark and cloudy days The gallant boy who tries.

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Pruning Fruit Trees.

March and April are often favorable months for pruning fruit trees, especially such as have been so well cared for that there are only some superfluous branches of last year's growth to be taken off where they crowd or are growing across one another. But the experiment station in California advances another idea in regard to spring pruning. They say that of four peach trees, two of which were winter pruned and then the fruit thinned, and the other two that were spring pruned after the fruit had set, the latter bore the most peaches, and they were very much larger. If this is true we do not know why the same principle may not hold good with other fruits. -Exchange.

Saving Fodder.

One of the items of greatest waste on the farm has been the reckless way in which corn fodder has been handled. The silo has solved the problem of making the most out of this valuable food, but not one farm in 100 or perhaps 500, has a silo. Left to rot in a heap that would make it worthless and then possibly rot in the shock, the cornstalks on most farms have fallen into disrepute, and very few regard its feeding value as they should. With improved machinery for preparing it for feeding there should be more thought given to utilizing fodder, which can be made a good substitute for hay. -National Stockman.

Sowing Lettuce.

Says a grower in an exchange: As soon as the ground can be worked in the spring a sowing of the black-seeded variety of lettuce is made in the open ground, the rows being spaced one foot apart and every other row being left out, so that celery may be set in later. When the plants are large enough, they are thinned so as to stand one foot apart in the row. Sowings are made in this way every ten days until about the 20th of August. These sowings, with those under glass, give continuously maturing crops of lettuce the year round.

Blind Stagers in Sheep.

Blind stagers is due to indigestion and the result of it on the brain. The remedy is to give an active purgative to relieve the stomach, then give half a level teaspoonful of bromide of potassium in a bran mash twice daily. It is frequently an immediate relief to bleed from the large vein in each ear, cutting it carefully lengthwise. An effective purgative in this case is two to four ounces of epsom salts dissolved in half a pint of water. To trench the head and neck with cold water is also useful.

Best Size for Silos.

It seems that one may make a stave silo too large to insure strength of the structure, says the National Stockman and Farmer. Probably 18 or 20 feet is the limit in diameter. One dairyman, having so large a herd that he could easily use off the surface of a silo 25 feet in diameter, built two silos of that size, but the curve of the sides was so slight that a storm drove one side in despite the tight hoopings. The greater the curve the greater the power of resisting pressure when the silo is empty.

Hay for Cows.

The trouble with most hay, particularly clover and timothy, is that it is not cut until too ripe. Insist upon getting hay cut early, particularly when the price is as high as it is this year. The cows will eat up timothy hay clean if it is cut just as the bloom begins to appear. The same is true of clover. Corn fodder which was cut moderately early and baled with bran is an excellent dairy feed.

Packing Butter for Family Use.

In packing butter for family use work into rolls, lay in large stone jar, cover with brine strong enough to float an egg, put a level teaspoonful of salt peter and a pound of white sugar to each two gallons of brine; then bring to weight on butter to keep it under brine. The French forest inspector at Larum has found a way of making wood by means of dry distillation and high pressure impervious to water and acids and a perfect electrical non-conductor. It cannot be too often repeated that it is not helps, but obstacles, not facilities, but difficulties that make men. -W. Mathews.