



The Doctor's Dilemma

By Hesba Stretton

CHAPTER X.—(Continued.)

Without a light I went up to my own room, where the moon that had shown upon me in my last night's ride, was gleaming brightly through the window. I intended to reflect and deliberate, but I was wakened by a faint noise from the bed, but could not have remained awake for a single moment. I fell into a deep sleep, which lasted till morning. When I awoke my poor mother was sitting beside me, looking very ill and sorrowful. She had slipped a pillow under my head, and thrown a shawl across me. I got up with a bewildered brain, and a general sense of calamity, which I could not clearly define. "Captain Carey's man brought a letter from Julia just now," she said, taking it from her pocket; "she said there was no answer."

was I at the time he had taken. But Julia began to sob again, and pressed past me, sinking down on the chair by his side and laying her hand upon one of his pillows.



Memorizing a Rooster.

I knew a little boy who used to perform this trick very successfully. He had a bright young rooster, of which he was very fond, and which he often brought into the house. He would hold the rooster on his lap, and with a piece of chalk draw lines from the tip of its bill to the back of its neck, pressing very lightly with the chalk. At first the rooster would appear sleepy, and then would nod his head very drowsily, and finally to all appearances go fast asleep. If put upon the floor the rooster would remain standing, but with its eyes fast closed. Then the little boy would bring a light near to the rooster's eyes, and it would stretch its neck and crow a great many times, as if the sun were just coming up, although its eyes were closed all the time. Then this young mesmerist would lightly tap the rooster's bill and spurs with a lead pencil. The rooster would immediately ruffle his neck feathers, flap his wings, thrust his spurs and go through all the motions of a furious fight. He would keep this up until stopped by being lifted from the floor and then set down again. When the little boy would give the usual call which summoned the chickens to their meals the rooster would try his best to pick holes in the floor, thinking he was making a fine meal of corn. If a few pieces of grass were brushed against his face and some buttons dropped upon his toes he would scratch away at a great rate, as if doing his best to destroy a garden. Doesn't it seem surprising that a rooster should have such an imagination? The rooster was awakened by stroking the feathers on the top of his head backward and then giving him a slight jolt and setting him upon his feet. It is curious that the more he was mesmerized the easier it became and the more things he would do. And it did not hurt him in the least. He grew so large and handsome that he was finally sold for a fancy price.

An Optical Illusion.

Very deceiving is the queer optical illusion which comes from a scientist in one of the government departments at Washington, and which is herewith reproduced. You would think at first glance that the horizontal lines were not of the same length, but as a matter of fact they are. It is only another illustration of how short lines running at various angles lead the vision astray and make you think that what you are looking at is different from what it actually is.

Boys Ought to Know.

That a quiet voice, courtesy and kind acts are essential to the part in the world of a gentleman or gentlewoman. That roughness, blustering and even foolishness are not manliness. The most firm and courageous men have usually been the most gentle. That muscular strength is not health. That a brain cramped only with facts is not necessarily a wise one. That the labor impossible to the boy of fourteen will be easy to the man of twenty. That the best capital for a boy is not money, but the love of work, simple tastes and a heart loyal to his friends, and to his God.

Ways of Telling Time.

From our Philippine possessions has come an account of a primitive device for recording time which deserves a place among the lost list of contrivances for that purpose, says the Youth's Companion. It is used by the natives during certain sports. They bore a hole in the bottom of a coconut shell and let it fill with water. At a certain point it suddenly drops to the bottom of the basin. This calls "time." Many were the plans for recording the flight of the hours before the coming of the clock. The most famous was the hour-glass, which was made of various sizes and capable of recording with tolerable accuracy almost any given interval of time, although seldom one greater than an hour. This system of keeping time was so long in use as to give rise to the solemn warning, "As the sands in the glass, so our life doth pass." Certainly this is more picturesque than it would be to say "Like the ticking of a Waterbury watch." The burning of candles was another favorite device. Lines were drawn at different elevations for the fractional divisions of the period which the candle recorded. There was also a very ingenious water clock, which is even now occasionally seen in museums. The sundial, for marking true astronomical time, was much in use in early days. It told nothing in cloudy weather and in our latitude would not be strictly accurate except on a few days in the year. Its accuracy at other times would be a varying quantity. There is no surer test of an industrial civilization than the general desire to know the time of day. The late Henry Drummond told of carrying a watch to a great chief in the interior of Africa as a present, thinking it would be greatly prized. To the chief it was simply a mechanical toy. He cared nothing for knowing the time of day.

Must Have a New Cow. A lady frequently sent her five-year-old son to a neighbor's for milk. One day, wanting some sour milk, she gave him the pail and said: "Charlie, go over to Mrs. Smith's and get a pint of sour milk."

Burned Like a Fire. Little Bessie had been burned several times and was warned to keep away from the stove. One day while in the garden she chanced to be stung by a bee and ran to her mother exclaiming: "Oh, mamma, I didn't know the bugs carried stoves with them!"

Minnie Would Pass Them On. "When are you going to have the measles?" asked a visitor of small Johnny, whose little sister had them. "Just as soon as Minnie gets through with them," was the logical reply.

Poor Billy Pony! The pony was shedding his coat, and when 4-year-old Helen noticed it, she ran into the house exclaiming: "Oh, mamma, come and look at Billie. He's all moth-eaten."

THE COUNTING MANIA. Men Who Keep Tabs on Sidewalk Cracks and Telegraph Poles. "I have fallen into the strangest habit in the world," said a newspaper man who lives down below Canal street, in a part of the Old Quarter, "and I am often greatly embarrassed on account of the thing. The counting habit has become a perfect mania in my case. I would give anything if I could quit it. I want to count everything. I do count everything. One day recently I was walking home, and I must have been going at a pretty rapid pace, for when I came to my senses—oh, really, I had lapsed somewhat on account of a certain mental violence—I was about to turn up.

"Hello, old fellow," said a friend of mine, as he pat me on the back. "By the way, what on earth are you walking so rapidly for?" he continued. "Well, sir," I said, "I will be very frank with you about it. I am simply rushing along here like an idiot counting these telegraph poles. I have been counting them for some time, and I always rush from one to the other, just like there was immediate danger of the next pole disappearing before I could get to it."

"You are not the only man who does foolish things of this kind," he said. "I just met Jones on Canal street, and he was walking very rapidly, with his head down, and he wore the most serious expression I ever saw on his face. Jones is usually prudent, you know, but he was evidently in a deep brown study—and I do not mean to make any pun on names, either. I asked Jones what the matter was and he replied that he was counting the cracks in the sidewalk."

"So I am not the only fellow who indulges the useless habit of counting things. Really, it is very common. I have heard of many men who would count the number of steps home, or the number of cars they would pass, or other objects, just so they could indulge the habit of counting things. Sometimes it is a trifle annoying, but there is no harm in it. Sometimes it is unconscious work, and I find myself actually thinking 'irrationally' about some serious business matter while keeping tabs on the number of telegraph poles as I glide by them."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Purity of French Elections. Venality is wholly exceptional in the French election, whatever may be written to the contrary by the litterateur, who is accustomed to taking striking exceptions as type, says M. Charles Seignobos in the International Monthly. There are not in all France more than 20 electoral districts in which the election is carried by money. I could point them out one by one. They are in the environs of Paris, in the country places of the Pyrenees and of the Alps and in the Center. It is true that the conservative candidates often believe themselves obliged to incur large expense, but the electors, even when they profit by them, continue to vote according to their opinions. Money holds very little place in the electoral life of France.

Unreasonable. "I really don't know what to do," said the vivacious woman. "It is very difficult to please the world." "What is the difficulty?" asked her husband. "People are so unreasonable in their comments. If you tell all you hear they say you are a gossip, and if you don't, they say you are stupid and commonplace."—Washington Star.

Some men use all the material they have at hand in making fools of themselves. All women are born equal, but some spoil it by getting married.



For Fastening Horses. With some horses there is always constant trouble when they are at the manger, by getting their feet over the rope which fastens them to the stall. Of course, this can be obviated by shortening the rope, but this is not advisable where the horse is locked up for the night after the feed is put in the box, for the short rope does not give him the opportunity of lying down in a comfortable position. The trouble indicated can be remedied by use of a halter ring fastened on the strap going over the nose of the horse instead of under the jaw as usual. The rope is

attached to this ring, and then run through a staple in the wall directly in front of the horse in the back of the manger, as shown in the cut. By attaching a weight of some kind to the end of the rope to keep it taut, there will be no trouble caused by this rope getting in the way, for when the horse moves toward the manger the weight will carry the rope down. The weight should not be heavy enough to inconvenience the animal when he is lying down at the full length of the rope.

Care of Winter Apples. Apples marketed during the winter always bring a much higher price than when offered for sale just after harvest. Of course, it is well understood that it is impossible to keep apples through the winter for the high prices of early spring unless they are kept in cold storage, but with an ordinary storehouse, or a good cellar, it is possible to keep the fruit several months longer by handling it properly. It should be carefully picked from the tree, and be free from imperfections or bruises. In putting it into the barrels, the barrels should be laid partially on one side so that the fruit may be turned into the bottom rather than fall. In this way there is little chance of the apples becoming bruised. Great care should be taken to see that the fruit is so packed that there will be little or no space between the specimens, and they should be packed into the barrel as firmly as possible without enough pressure to bruise them. After the barrel is filled, it should be carefully hooped, and the head put in, so that it will hold the top layer firm, but not with much pressure. Apples packed in this way can be kept until midwinter easily if stored in a building where they will not freeze, and where the air is reasonably dry.—Indianapolis News.

Simple Swinging Trough. I have a feed trough which I made myself out of a piece of galvanized iron, writes a correspondent of Poultry Keeper. It is three and one-half feet long. To make it, get two pieces of wood and shape them to fit the inside of the trough for the ends as shown in the diagram. Nail well with lath nails. If you want one for water, make it shorter, and before putting the end pieces on paint a piece of cloth and place between the end pieces and the trough. Then after you have your end pieces on, get a piece of lath just long enough to fit between the ends and nail it lengthwise just above the level of the

board should be about ten inches wide. By slipping the ear of corn through the hole, the chopping is done on one side of the guard, while the ear of corn is held on the other side, so that it is impossible for one in any way to injure the ear holding it open. An opening in the board above the hole is made for convenience in handling the block.

Flavor in Half-Grown Chickens. There is considerable complaint every year on the part of consumers that the half-grown chickens marketed as roasters have a very undesirable flavor. There is no doubt that in nearly every case it is due to a poor quality of food given the growing chicks. Meals of various kinds, usually cornmeal, is fed largely to growing chicks in some sections. When bought at the low price it is generally found that it is filled with worms. This sort of food given to chicks will taint the flesh every time. It is hard to understand why those who raise fowls for market will persist in buying cheap foods, as the chicks are worth raising at all it is worth being fed on the best obtainable. If given the best grains in variety, and a good grass range, there is no reason why the flavor of the growing chick should not be all that is desired.—Exchange.

Prevention of Interfering. The interfering of horses can often times be remedied, especially if the animal interferes in front. The feet should be trimmed so that they are level, and the animal should be shod with a small outside calkin at the heel outside. The inside heel should be plain and short. Have the calkins placed on each side of the shoe about two inches from the toe. Interfering sometimes comes from general debility of the horse, and when this seems to be the case the animal should be brought up in every way possible, feeding it on oats and bran with good hay. Of course the interfering which is brought about by general debility, is caused by the weakness of the ankles. This, however, is not often the case.

Tobacco Decoction. Tobacco decoction for use as an insecticide can be made by reducing some of the extracts now on the market or by boiling cut or broken stems until a thick brown extract is obtained. One pound of tobacco stems should yield one gallon of extract in two hours' boiling. If it boils down to less, add water to make up before using. Strawberry plants may remain in this mixture for several minutes and need not be washed off after being taken out.

Fall Planting. With nearly all fruit trees, except peaches, which must be planted in the spring, there is to be said in favor of fall planting, that the soil can be put

GOOD HORSE FASTENER.

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in better condition at less expense of time and labor than in the spring. The planter generally has more time to devote to the work in the fall, and hence can do it much better. Then, too, the trees from the nursery are generally in better condition than after they have passed through a winter. The nursery-men also have fewer orders in the fall, and can give more care to filling orders at this season, and generally furnish better stock. Even with the more tender sorts it is possible to give them needed protection during the first winter by throwing a furrow toward the trees on either side. Unless there is a large area to be planted and other work seriously interfering, everything is in favor of fall planting.

Breaking Dry Ground. In our haste to break fallow land for wheat we often break the fields when the dry weather has so hardened them that the plow throws the surface into a mass of clods, with little or no soil to act as a seed bed. While early breaking for wheat is very important, the greatly increased labor of breaking dry land and preparing it for planting should have considerable weight in determining whether or not the ground should be plowed when dry. When broken ground consists of nothing but large clods, it is not fallow land. It will not hold moisture until the clods are mashed into fine soil. As a rule, the breaking of wheat ground should be delayed until it may be done when the turned soil mellow from the plow. It is very important to be ready to do such work when the proper conditions do prevail, for good rains may be followed by sufficient drought to make the ground work cloddy again.—Exchange.

Block for Cutting Corn. When it is necessary to cut the ears of corn into small pieces for economical feeding, unless one has a device for it, there is considerable danger of the person cutting the corn being injured. One plan is simply to attach a board to a chopping block, cutting a hole in one edge large enough for the ears of corn to pass through on to the block. This

board should be about ten inches wide. By slipping the ear of corn through the hole, the chopping is done on one side of the guard, while the ear of corn is held on the other side, so that it is impossible for one in any way to injure the ear holding it open. An opening in the board above the hole is made for convenience in handling the block.

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(To be continued.)

The bird on a woman's hat has the wings of riches.