

Whales and Porpoises Are Taken for Submarine by the Watchful Gun Crews.

It is in being a whale or a porpoise that the north Atlantic these days is being taken for Nelson Collins in the eyes of the watchful gun crews. If you are a whale, porpoise or a spouting whale, you are not mistaken for a submarine; if you are a porpoise, you are apt to be taken for a torpedo. There is a shattered carcass and abashed gun crew. In the phosphorescence of even winter nights a porpoise just under the surface can make an experienced lookout have a moment's suspense. The line of white is a little narrow and a little high for a torpedo, but in the first moment a lookout isn't given to exact measurements. The white at bow and stern on a phosphorescent night is conspicuous evidence of a ship, though it is a question how plain it would be through a periscope at about its own level. From the decks of the ship itself or from the deck of an emerged submarine it flashes plain. If it could only be camouflaged along with the smoke. And on such a night in the zone there is the eerie sense of more than one submarine that has worked her way along in the white wake of a slow ship, keeping tab so through the night and waiting for dawn to sheer off and strike. That is why, as dark comes on, a destroyer is apt to drop back from the side of the ship and lurk along the wake, seeking its prey also. I remember one velvety black night. Suddenly a great white trail shot across our bow from port to starboard and just a few yards ahead. If a porpoise is too narrow to make a torpedo trail, this seemed too broad, but deep enough. It was the wake of a destroyer that had cut across in a hurry.

FARM POULTRY

UTILITY OF VARIOUS BREEDS

Wyandotte is Early Maturing, and Being Well Meated is Not Difficult to Fatten.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The common classification of breeds according to their places in the general scheme of poultry production divides them into three principal classes, laying breeds, meat breeds and general-purpose breeds—that is, breeds that are not as ready and persistent egg



Splendid White Wyandotte.

producers as the laying breeds, and not as meaty and as easy to fatten as the meat breeds, yet combine in one individual fowl very good laying capacity with very good table quality.

The Leghorn, Minorca, Andalusian, Ancona and Campine are well-known breeds of the laying class; the Brahma, Dorking and Cornish of the meat class; the Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Rhode Island Red and Orpington of the general-purpose class.

The breeds mentioned as of the laying class, with the exception of the Minorca, are relatively small, very energetic and lively, mature early, and are easily kept in good laying condition. The Minorca is of larger size and modified somewhat in the other particulars mentioned, yet has more the character of the laying class than of any other.

In the meat breeds, there is not the same uniformity of type that is found in the laying breeds. The three mentioned differ decidedly. The Brahma is most popular because it is at the same time the largest and the most rugged in constitution. The Dorking excels in quality of meat, but is generally considered somewhat lacking in hardiness. The Cornish is rather hard-meated, but, being very short-feathered, has its special place as a large meat-producing fowl in Southern sections where the more heavily feathered Brahma does not stand the summer well.

Among the popular breeds of the general-purpose class there are also differences in type, adapting breeds to different uses. The Plymouth Rock is generally regarded as the type meeting the widest range of requirements in the general-purpose class.

The Wyandotte is a little smaller and earlier maturing, but still very well meated and easy to fatten.

The Rhode Island Red has nearly the same standards of weight as the Wyandotte, but is a more active bird, not putting on fat so readily. Consequently it approaches the laying type and is popular with those who want eggs and meat but want eggs most.

The Orpington is at the other extreme in the general-purpose class being a heavier, meatier fowl than the Plymouth Rock.

Such a list of breeds affords so wide a range of choice that poultry keepers can always select a standard breed better adapted to their locality and their purpose than any nonstandard stock they can procure and having the further advantage of producing true to type.

DRY LITTER FOR SCRATCHING

Damp Material is Practically Useless—Clean It Out and Renew It at Frequent Intervals.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Straw and similar material gathers moisture and when the litter becomes damp enough to be limp it is practically useless for fowls to scratch in for their grain feed. Scratching litter in the poultry house is essential, but it should be cleaned out and renewed frequently.

Best Pullets to Keep.

Keep the pullets which mature quickly and start laying first. Those which start laying when less than 200 days old, or nearest that age, are the best layers if they have had the best care.

Necessary for Large Flocks.

It is pretty generally admitted that the incubator and brooder are necessities where large flocks of poultry are kept.

BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of Boy Scouts of America.)

SCOUT WORK NOT PARADING

It isn't strange with the whole world at war and millions of men training at gun-drills that some boys will get the gun-drill fever. No doubt they think they can help their country in that way. Let's see about that, says a scout official in answering a scout who wants to drill with guns.

Uncle Sam has asked the boy scouts to serve in the first, the second and the third Liberty Loan campaigns; he has enlisted them as his dispatch bearers in the drive against Hun propaganda in America; he has given them a big and important job in boosting the sale of Thrift and War Savings stamps; but as far as I have heard he hasn't asked a single boy scout to put a gun to his shoulder and drill.

Why hasn't Uncle Sam given guns to his boys? Because he knows they can be a thousand times more helpful in winning the war in other ways. The youngster parading around with a rifle no doubt is a splendid fellow, and eager to help; but in this particular case he is on the wrong track.

The boy scout movement is now, always has been and always will be a nonmilitaristic organization, and gun drills do not have a place in its program of activities. The best military experts in the country do not believe in gun drills for boys of scout age. And that is only one of the many reasons why military gun drill and "tin soldering" activities are not made a part of scouting. There's plenty of other more necessary things to do for teen-age boys. When you are older Uncle Sam will give you the real thing in drill, under competent officers, and you will be taught the use of the rifle as a technical weapon the purpose of which is to kill. For the present, in preparation, the government wants boys to do other and more helpful and practical things.

OVER THE TOP



Boy scouts are proving highly successful assistants to agriculturists who are experiencing labor shortage.

A SCOUT JOHN PAUL JONES.

The following letter was received by Scoutmaster O. E. McMeans of Troop No. 17 of Indianapolis, and is from one of his former scouts now in France:

"I'm having a taste of real sailor life. My first taste was rather disagreeable—seasickness—and my next taste was exceedingly salty. This was when I was doing convoy duty along the coast, during which we got a 'sub' or two, and finally one morning just before daylight a certain sub stuck its periscope above the water, and the next thing I knew I was flying toward the briny deep with most of the crew. The sub got us that time. Well, we got out of that, most of us, but we left a mighty good friend and shipmate of mine, who was lying in his bunk near where the torpedo got us. "We were picked up, as we had picked up many a crew who got the same as we did.

"J. PAUL JONES. "U. S. S. Carolina IV."

Scout John Paul Jones shows the same indifference to danger as did the great American sea fighter of his name.

GOOD TURNS BY SCOUTS.

Scouts at Spartanburg, S. C., helped the chamber of commerce to find homes for families and friends of the New York Guard stationed at Camp Wadsworth.

While scouts in Freeland, Pa., were in camp on Mount Yeager they learned that a young lady had become lost from a farm about three miles away. After a week of search she was found by a party of scouts and had to be carried home. She was nearly starved and had lived on berries.

Production Are First Cost of Stock Is Not Too High.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The department of agriculture includes the following recommendations regarding sheep and wool in its supplementary production program for 1918. Effort should be made to increase the production of sheep and wool. Increase in farm flocks is recommended wherever conditions are favorable and the first cost of stocking is not too high. The wool produced in this country furnishes only about 50 per cent of the amount used in peace times; the war demands have emphasized the seriousness of this domestic shortage.



Sheep Pastured in an Orchard.

To equip 2,000,000 soldiers and clothe them for one year would require the entire quantity of wool grown annually in this country.

During recent years we have shorn about thirty-five million fleeces annually, and the pulled wool taken from sheep and lambs slaughtered for meat brings the total clip up to the equivalent of about forty million fleeces. If all this wool were suitable for mill use, it would supply only 2,000,000 men. The production of wool in the United States has remained practically stationary from 1914 to 1917, while imports increased 48 per cent, and the estimated net supply increased only about 21 per cent.

That mutton and wool production in this country can be increased greatly admits of no doubt. This can be accomplished by developing sheep husbandry on farms, especially in the Eastern and Southern states. Steps should be taken in the East and South to do away with the sheep-killing dog menace by state or local action. Large results can be secured by improving methods of breeding and management on the range; by securing the restocking of improved farm lands with sheep; by the larger use of forage crops and pastures; by encouraging sheep and lamb clubs; by the elimination of parasites; by protection against losses from predatory animals; and by having lambs ready for market at from 70 to 80 pounds weight thereby requiring a minimum of grain to finish them and making possible the maintenance of larger breeding flocks.

HIGH-PRODUCING GARDEN

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Are you sure that your garden is producing as much as it is capable of doing? A half-acre garden, if properly cared for, will produce sufficient vegetables for the average family's use. It will produce far greater returns per acre than can be realized from an equal area devoted to general farm crops. But it is necessary to give the garden proper care and attention if you expect maximum crops. Farmers' Bulletin 937, recently published by the United States department of agriculture, which will be sent free to any who apply for it, so long as the supply lasts, gives specific directions for the planting, care and cultivation of the various vegetables. Make sure that you are not wasting time and energy by failing to give your garden the care that insures highest yields.

CARING FOR CONFINED HENS

Provide Good Straw Litter in Which to Scatter Grain—Also Supply Green Feed.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If the chickens must be confined on account of bad weather, provide a good straw litter in which their grain feed may be scattered. This will give them exercise and keep them interested and healthy. When chickens that have been accustomed to free range are closely confined this frequently checks their development for the time being unless they are made contented in the new quarters. Provide green feed for them also.

A FEW SMILES

Wise Mabel.

Louise, nine years old, asked her mother: "Where is pap going?"

"To a stag party," she replied.

"What is a stag party, mamma?"

Sister Mabel, seven years old, who had been listening with dignified attitude of superior wisdom, answered instantly: "It's where they stagger. Didn't you know?"

Preferred Richard.

It was the first time that Richard's father had seen "her," and they were talking things over.

"So my son has proposed to you," he said, "and you have accepted him? I think you might have seen me first."

She blushed sweetly as she replied: "I did, but I think I prefer Richard."

No Danger.

"I understand, Mrs. Grumpy, there was a great deal of vacillation in your family."

"Yes'm, but none of it ever took."

A Rational Conclusion.

"The Binkses must buy everything on the installment plan."

"What makes you think so?"

"I heard Jimmy Binkses ask his father whether the new baby would be taken away if they couldn't keep up the payments."

Easy.

Wife—Your Aunt Maria is coming to visit us, but, really, I don't see how I can find time to entertain her.

Hub—Invite your Aunt Eliza and they will entertain each other telling about their diseases.

Fine.

"Is this machine automatic?" "Absolutely. Needs no attention whatever. The agent says it will even pay for itself."

War Develops There Are Many Illiterates in U. S.

The war has, as Secretary Lane puts it in his letter to President Wilson and the chairman of the congress committee on education, "brought facts to our attention that are almost unbelievable" with respect to the prevalence of illiteracy in this country, observes the New York World.

Nearly 700,000 men of draft age cannot read or write in any language. There are over 4,600,000 illiterates above twenty years old or more. Illiterates above ten years of age—the common basis of reckoning—number 5,516,163.

Of an army so vast that, marching in pairs 25 miles a day, it would be two months passing the White House, as Mr. Lane figures, over 58 per cent are white and 1,500,000 are native-born whites. Immigration is by no means the sole factor in a condition that saps the economic as well as the mental resources of the country.

"An uninformed democracy is not a democracy," Secretary Lane asks the attention of congress for a bill forming a bureau of education for the eradication of adult illiteracy.

...may be... all your re... set, because it is... material is not being... women who wish to be well... and comfortable. Such wom... appreciate the fact that it is im... able to pick up a corset from the... ater and by holding it in the hand... ide that the corset has the correct... es for her figure.

The time spent in the retail shop, trying a corset tried on to determine if it is the right one for you, repays a hundredfold, and every shop nowadays could far rather go to the trouble of trying on corsets in order to have the customer content. It is also a great aid in overcoming the return goods trouble.

Certain it is that if the start isn't right the finish can't be what you desire for no matter how good looking your clothes may be the foundation must be well fitting.

ATTRACTIVE SUMMER FROCK



h-colored taffeta is the material of this lovely frock, which is a foundation of cream-embroidered organdie charming fichu collar of the

MAKE NEGLIGEE AND CAP

Wearables Can Be Made With Small Amount of Material, Fashion Writer States.

There is something particularly attractive about a thing that is simple and, according to a fashion critic, when it turns out a confection, becomes an absolute joy for just such a thing is the boudoir robe from a perfect square of material. It is one of those fascinating models with long soft clinging well to the shoulder and an attractive though maybe unobtrusive face.

Our have to do to achieve it is to square of silk or lace or other else you are going to use, diagonally or cornerwise, place the center of the head so that the points of the hankie fall equidistant from the center. Now eliminate the front point altogether by first cutting an oval the shape of the head continuing the line down to the head. The cap is kept

Waistcoats Match Bags. Waistcoats and reticules to match are the latest whim of Madame Mode. And another whim is to have both waistcoat and reticule made of very wide, fancy ribbon, the ribbon bag mounted on a metal frame, or gathered on bracelet hoops.

Mouth Veil Is Latest. Just to prove that variety is all that is needed in the world of fashion to interest femininity, gaze on the new veils which are designed for afternoon and evening wear and already show signs of becoming popular. The new veil swatches the lower half of the face, giving the upper half a rest, and reaches from the tip of the nose to far below the chin. Smart women are probably growing tired of the nose veil and the veil for the chin and mouth will doubtless be a welcome change. The harem veil, which made its appearance last summer on the bathing beaches, suggested the new one and the designers, disregarding the original purpose of the beach veil as a protector from the sun, are using the idea for evening wear. It is never worn with a hat and is tied about the head like a scarf.

Authority for Wide Skirts. Those who are wearing wide skirts get their authority from Jeanne Lanvin, one of the first designers of the world. She is the only dressmaker who insisted upon the five-yard skirt, and she held to her conviction by turning out dozens of gathered or plaited skirts that hang limply to the figure, but are not in keeping with the narrow silhouette of the day. She is not unpatriotic. She did not use an undue amount of wool in these skirts. She had a few dozen other materials to handle, and she is quite right in insisting that all her organdie skirts should be five yards at the hem. Nothing is more ungrainy than a hobble skirt of muslin or transparent fabric, but it is believed that the Americans in mass will not accept Lanvin's skirts, as they prefer the redingote over a slim foundation when they wish fullness.

Use of Jet. The use of jet is so widespread that it has spilled over serge and gaberdine. This combination was introduced almost simultaneously in New York and Paris, but it was not until recently that the fashion received a strong impetus toward popularity. Black and dark blue serge gowns are covered with leaves and embroidered designs in glistening jet.