Red Rag Myth Explodes, Bull Is Color Blind

Berkeley, Cal.—A red rag means nothing to a bull.

Dr. G. M. Stratton, head of the department of psychology at the University of California, has just completed a six-month investigation of what happens in the mind of a bull when he sees a red rag. The answer is—nothing much.

Scientists say the laugh is on the world at large. All these years the bull has been virtually color blind. He doesn't know the difference between red, green, blue, yellow, white or black.

If you wave a red rag at a bull and he charges it is not because of the color of the rag. He is not interested in it. He just wants to find out what is behind it. He would have been just as curious if it had been a white or black rag—a little more so, according to Doctor Stratton.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Choosing Dairy Sire Is Important to Breeders

"The selection of the right bull has many times been the real beginning of a successful dairy farm," says A. C. Baer, professor of dairying at Oklahoma A. and M. college, Stillwater. "Thousands of farmers still make use of a scrub or grade sire on account of a mistaken economy in the cost of the animal. Such farmers or dairymen would be more successful and would make more money and get more pleasure out of the business if they paid more money for a good pure bred bull, one which would be certain to transmit desirable qualities.

"Some of the important factors to consider in the wise selection of a herd bull or a community bull are as follows:

"First—The bull selected must be pure bred of the same breed as the cows. If it be used with a grade herd the breed best suited for the purpose intended should be chosen.

"Second—The pure bred bull should have a pedigree which shows official production records. For a grade herd, the dam and granddam of the bull should have at least a record of 9,000 pounds of milk or 400 pounds of butterfat. For a pure bred herd a bull with dams of 500 to 600 pounds of butterfat should be selected. The better the class of cows, the better the bull chosen for the herd should be.

"Third—The bull selected should have good conformation, strong vitality and constitution, and should show good breed characteristics. An animal showing male characteristics (strong masculinity) generally always proves to be a good sire.

"Fourth—The sire chosen should be as a rule large in size. An undesirable animal or one which seems to lack vigor is not as desirable as a fairly large, vigorous animal.

"A good herd bull should be pure bred with known production record of his ancestors; should have good conformation; should be fairly large in size and show strong vitality and constitution.

"Whether to buy an old bull or to select a young animal is still an unsettled question. Sometimes on old bull may be purchased from a breeder who has no further use for him. In such case, a valuable sire can be secured for a small sum.

"In America, the average dairyman prefers to select a young animal, mostly because a young one is handled easier and shipped more easily than an old one, and also because he can be used for a longer time on the herd."

Butterfat Still Holds Prewar Purchase Power

Butterfat is the one agricultural product that has the same purchasing power that it had during the period previous to the war, according to J. B. Fitch, head of the dairy department of the Kansas State Agriculture college. Butterfat is 14 cents higher than it was a year ago.

With a 10,000,000 pounds' shrink in the volume of butter in storage during the past year, with imports greater during 1923, and with the industrial situation good, Professor Fitch is of the opinion that butter prices will remain steady. He states that farmers contemplating the purchase of cows need have no fear that because dairying is a profitable business it will soon be overdone. He points to the fact that our population is increasing more rapidly than the cow population.

Young Rams for Breeders.

Don't sell your husky, vigorous young rams on the market. There is a big demand for these fellows, and you may as well have a neat margin above the market price for them as to throw them in the slaughter pen.

Neglect Causes Loss.

More farm machinery is put on the junk pile by neglect than by use.

Stitch in Time.

If a stitch in time saves nine, a weed pulled in time may save 99.

THE UNSOUGHT

By GRACE E. HALL

SHE sits alone beside a dying fire,
And sees her hopes to fleecy ashes go;
Bids sad farewell to feminine desire
For love and praise that other women know;
The baby head she visions on her breast
Is but a sickening phantom, like the rest;
The little home she one-time planned, is fled,
And mourned in silence, like the sacred dead.

She sees her idol as in years long past
She saw him, towering high among his kind;
In agony she sees him choose at last
A painted doll, with neither heart nor mind;
Beholds his home, where children are unknown,
And knows his hopes, like hers, have sadly flown.

In secret she has dared to call his name,
To clasp him to her breast with ardent word,
Has e'en expressed, without a blush of shame,
The burning love no other ears have heard;
Has kissed the lips that only smiled, one day,
And left her to her dreams—and ashes gray.

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Something to Think About

By F. A. WALKER

PRACTICE PATIENCE

IT OUGHT to be impressed upon all of us, whether young or old, that patience is one of the higher attributes of good breeding and gentility.

No person, however accomplished he may be, can continue to hold the respect of others if he is given to frequent outbursts of ill-humor.

Patience, it is generally conceded, is ennobling. It builds character, courage, thoughtfulness and friendliness. It never consciously ruffles another.

It is a subject about which in the present day probably nothing has been rightly spoken or written. We like to see its manifestation in others, but balk at its use ourselves when we are suddenly overwhelmed by a stress of passion which sweeps us off our feet and loosens an unruly tongue.

Poor, little, inconsistent mortals that we are, swept hither and thither by adverse forces, we have at least the courage sometimes to commend others for their good deeds. But through some imperfection in our makeup, or laxity of spiritual strength, we fail to emulate their worthy examples.

For some undiscovered reason we seemingly prefer the gale and the snarling sea to the calm and quiet harbor. We often elect to rush into storm rather than to enjoy the quietude of our own friendly home.

We are so overwrought, so mentally mulish, that we are unable to compose ourselves or commune intimately with reason.

We risk our social position and good name by a stinging quip or an angry glare, caring not how deeply we may hurt our friends or injure ourselves.

Failure to practice patience in the home has often robbed the inmates of comradeship and love, both of which are indispensable to continued happiness.

Penetrate as far into the truth as you are able, and you will discover that patience veils from our lives more joyous sunshine and inspiration than do many of our grosser iniquities. A pleasant smile and a kindly word are the good disciples of patience, always striving for peace and content. Let us become their intimates.

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YOUR HAND

How to Read Your Characteristics and Tendencies—the Capabilities or Weaknesses That Make for Success or Failure as Shown in Your Palm

THE FINGER NAILS

OCCASIONALLY we find finger nails that are long, thin and curved or ribbed. These tell us something of the physical constitution of the owner. He or she is likely to have tendencies toward diseases of the head, throat or bronchial trouble. Nails that are seen, upon observation, to be unusually thick, bent and long, are held to indicate a nature inclined to cruelty and unfaithfulness in love.

If the nails are square and very short, we may read therein a tendency toward disease of the heart. This must be confirmed, naturally, by close inspection of the line of the heart.

Nails that are brittle and inclined to break easily are a sign of ill health and nervous weakness.

There are some nails which narrow very much at the base, coming sometimes to a point, or nearly to one. If they also bend over the ends of the fingers, we may read in them a sign of spinal trouble, past, present or future.

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STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Salem.—Because of the failure of the broccoli crop last year, the acreage for this product in the Willamette valley has been reduced to approximately 60 acres, according to reports received here.

Salem.—There were four fatalities due to industrial accidents in Oregon during the week ending November 15, according to a report prepared here by the state industrial accident commission.

Falls City.—The annual community "Father and Son" banquet, sponsored by the Methodist Episcopal church, was held in Victory hall Thursday night. About 200 men and boys attended.

Eugene.—The Southern Pacific company has agreed to co-operate with the Oregon Electric Railway company in building a track to connect the two rail systems here, according to word received Saturday.

More than 50 transients have appealed for free beds at the Salem police station in the last 30 days, according to a report prepared here by Walter Birtchet, chief of police. Most of these travelers are en route to California and other southern states.

Salem.—The state board of control will be in Pendleton November 27 to accept the new wing of the Eastern Oregon state hospital. The wing was partially constructed under the Olcott administration and the 1923 legislature appropriated $50,000 to complete it.

Klamath Falls.—War has been declared on Klamath county coyotes and the hostilities will be directed here this winter by Elmer Williams of the United States biological service Portland headquarters. The principal weapon of the campaign against the sheep killers will be strychnine.

Salem.—Consolidation of the county recorder and county clerks' offices in Marion county probably will be attempted through a bill to be introduced in the next session of the legislature. This has been done in a number of counties in the state, and was said to have saved the taxpayers considerable money.

Pendleton.—The proposal of the forest service to increase grazing fees to livestock men on national forests between 200 and 300 per cent will be opposed by the sheep growers of this state, according to a letter sent out by F. W. Falconer of Pendleton, president of the Oregon Wool Growers' association.

Salem.—The Portland Pulp & Paper company, with a capital stock of $1,500,000 and headquarters in Portland filed articles of incorporation here Friday. The plant will be located in North Portland on the Peninsula and on the Columbia slough. Incorporators are Roy H. Mills of Portland and Dan J. Fry and F. D. Thielson of Salem.

Salem.—The state flax plant, which was destroyed by fire a few weeks ago, will resume operations within the next two months, according to announcement made by A. M. Dalrymple, warden of the state penitentiary. The flax thresher at Rickerall has been in operation for several days, and the materials are now being delivered at the prison for final processing.

Roseburg. — Sutherlin's fall apple crop will be harvested next spring, if the winter weather is not too cold. A spring crop of apples is something unusual even to the old residents of the Umpqua valley, but if the weather during the winter months is not too severe apple growers of the Sutherlin vicinity will be picking ripe apples from their trees in April.

Salem.—With the state capitol buildings crowded to capacity at the present time, securing of adequate quarters for the newly-created income tax department is causing the secretary of state considerable concern. Under the laws Sam A. Kozer, secretary of state, is custodian of buildings, and it is one of his official duties to provide accommodations for the state departments.

North Powder.—An oil company has been formed for the purpose of finding oil in Union county. More than 100 persons have formed the company, which is now drilling on the Duncan McDonald farm, about three miles from Alicel. The company is known as the Union County Oil company and contracts have been let for the different buildings. The work is being pushed as rapidly as possible.

Confidence in His Legs.

I was going to call on a friend who lived a considerable distance from my home, and when I said I would like to take Edward, my nephew, if it wasn't so far, he looked at me pleadingly and said: "O, auntie, please take me. My legs don't think that's far."—Exchange.

Dynamite Hard to Explode.

Curiously enough, one of the safest cargoes is dynamite, which is amongst the most violent of all explosives. Except in very exceptional circumstances, dynamite will not explode unless it receives an intensely hot flash from some kind of detonator. A stick of it may be lit and held in the hand like a candle.

One of Rarest of Gases.

A very rare gas in the air is neon, of which a room contains only a teaspoonful or two. It is used for filling bulbs required to give an orange-colored light.

Whims of Demented Monarch.

Ludwig II, the "mad king of Bavaria," spent $725,000 on one of his beds, and had another constructed to resemble a Gothic cathedral with tall windows and a famous painting of the Madonna set in the head.

Many Have Asked That Question.

Why don't you show us a statesman who can rise up to the emergency and cave in the emergency's head?—Artemus Ward.

Egyptians Wore Thimbles.

What was supposed to be the first thimble was made in the year 1684, but devices of an apparently similar pattern have been found in Egyptian ruins.

Lakes Are Frozen Over.

Haines, Or. — The North Powder river lakes have been frozen over for the last two weeks or more, according to reports from the Blue mountain tops west of Haines. Parties who recently visited Anthony and Elk lakes, said the ice is of sufficient thickness to bear the weight of a man for several days. Mr. Fisher, who annually visits the trout spawning beds in the lakes, said that during the last 30 years he has never known the lakes to be frozen over at this time of the year.