

# FARM AND GARDEN

### Pays to Have an Incubator.

Six years ago we purchased a 100-egg incubator and every season it has been set five or six times and have never had one failure nor one bad hatch. The hatches are always in the nineties with the exception of once when we only got seventy-eight chicks. Our hatches are about the same each time each season through. We rarely always have from ninety-two to ninety-six chicks, seldom lower than ninety-three, more often higher than that, and always such strong, lively chicks, almost never a cripple among them—seldom one in 500. Our incubator has not had the advantage of being kept in a cave or cellar, but we have done so well with it that we have purchased another of 120 and one of 240-egg capacity, as we are going into the business more extensively.

We can truthfully say that the incubator is a great time and labor saver and a money maker. It is one of the best investments any farmer or any one who raises poultry can make. Who would care to go back to the slow way of raising chicks with the sitting hen when it can be done with the incubator so easily and so well? With the hen the season of hatching is soon over with, while with the incubator the early fries for market can be sold when the market prices are best and the early pullets hatched that will be wanted for fall and winter layers. We do not have to wait on the sitting hen to hatch out a few chickens when we have the incubator to hatch them by the dozens.

A good incubator will pay for itself over and over the first season of its use. It is indispensable in the poultry business. To all those who contemplate purchasing I would say, don't get one that is too cheap. Get a good one, even if you do have to pay more.

The good ones are the cheapest in the long run. There are some incubators that have to be watched closely to give results, but these are the thin-walled kind that will not hold even temperature. Our incubator does not get any watching after it is once set going. We leave for an all-day visit any time—even at hatching time—and it takes care of itself.

For the amount invested an incubator will make more money than any machine I know of.—Mrs. L. E. Brack.

### Handling Manure.

It is pertinent also to here refer to the trials conducted by the Cornell Agricultural Station to demonstrate the losses to stable manure when exposed to leaching and weathering. A pile of manure that contained elements worth \$5.48, after being exposed for five months was worth only \$2.03. Leaving manure in piles in the field is an antiquated method that should never be practiced, for the reason that it results in fertilizing the spots where the heaps lie too heavily, giving them fully three times as much of the fertilizing elements as they need, while three times as much ground receives less than it needs, or not enough to make a showing. Where manure is allowed to lie in heaps on a field for a few weeks or a month, it is an impossibility to spread it so as to get an even distribution of organic matter and of the elements of fertility. It is preferable to spread the manure direct from the wagon with a fork, although this is by no means an up-to-date way of handling it. For the most economical results, manure should be hauled direct from the barn as soon as it is made and scattered over the fields by means of a spreader. In this way, and in this way only, can the full value of manure be saved, provided, of course, enough bedding is used in the barn to nicely absorb all the liquid excrement, the plant food of which amounts to nearly one-half of the total in the manure and liquid excrement.

### When to Plant Cherries.

About the best time to plant cherry trees is in early fall or very early in spring. It is better to plant in October, even before the leaves fall, stripping the leaves off, than it is late, just before winter sets in. In fact, many trees would do better than they do, were they set early, stripping their leaves, not waiting for the leaves to fall.

### Alcohol from Peat.

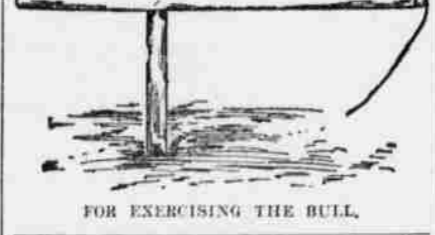
Alcohol is obtained from peat by treating the fiber with sulphuric acid and fermenting with a special yeast. A ton of dry peat yields forty-three gallons of pure spirit at one-fourth of the cost of potato alcohol.

### Hints for the Farmer.

Lime sweetens the soil as generous deeds sweeten the soul. Use the hatches on the old rusty cans. At least don't use them for milk or cream. Sow some peas and oats to help out when hot weather comes. Then put in some fodder corn planted thickly in the row.

### Exercising a Bull.

The accompanying cut furnishes an excellent plan for exercising a bull. A large, strong post is sunk into the ground and securely set. On top of this post is placed an iron plate somewhat similar to that used on the bolster of a sleigh or wagon through which the king bolt passes. A long sweep, evenly balanced, is placed upon the top of this post and pinned by means of a long rod, or, as we might say, king bolt. The sweep is necessarily large at one end and small at the other, which makes it possible to balance with one end comparatively short and the other long. The bull is tied to the rope attached to the further end of the long arm, and in that way can have a large circle to move in. The supporting post should be above the ground high enough to carry the



FOR EXERCISING THE BULL.

sweep above the bull. For a time the bull may attempt to free himself, but if the post and sweep are made properly and securely there will be no danger and he will soon settle down to exercising in a much better manner.

### The Value of The Drainage.

The properly placed makes soil dryer in wet weather and more moist in dry weather. This is difficult to understand until we consider the nature of the soil.

Soil in proper condition is porous, something after the manner of a sponge. It will hold water up to a certain point without leaking. Until it becomes thoroughly saturated, it contains air as well as water. Air is warm and air is needed by plants in the process of growth. The leads the water away quickly in the spring so the air can penetrate the soil and warm it so seeds will germinate and grow quickly. Undrained land, if low, fills with water in the spring to the saturation point and the excess of moisture passes off in vapor through the process of evaporation. It requires a great deal of heat to warm the water sufficiently to cause it to pass off in this way. That heat is lost. After evaporation has dissipated the moisture and the soil becomes dry enough to work it breaks up in clods, because it has baked down and packed together like mortar. It is almost impossible to prepare a good seed bed in such ground.—Agricultural Epitomist.

### Country's Rainfall.

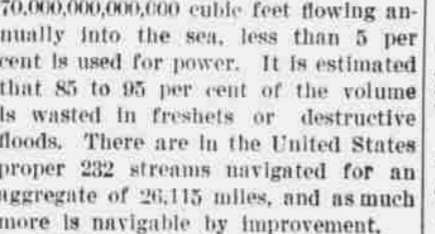
The total rainfall of this country, including snow and that on water areas, was given as 215,000,000,000 cubic feet a year. Half or more is evaporated. About one-third flows into the sea. The remaining one-sixth is either consumed or absorbed. Of the 70,000,000,000,000 cubic feet flowing annually into the sea, less than 5 per cent is used for power. It is estimated that 85 to 95 per cent of the volume is wasted in freshets or destructive floods. There are in the United States proper 232 streams navigated for an aggregate of 26,115 miles, and as much more is navigable by improvement.

### A Breed Worth Paying For.

The calf which an English farmer had taken the summer resident to see surveyed his owner and the stranger with a weary eye. "What breed is your calf?" asked the visitor. "The farmer removed a wisp of straw from his mouth and said: "The critter's father gored a Justice of the peace, knocked a book canvasser end over end and lifted a tramp over a fence; and, as for his mother, she chased a brass band out of town last New Year's day. If that ain't breed enough to pay 25 shillings for, you can leave him be. I'm not pressing him on anybody."

### A Very Cheap Gate.

A light, useful and durable gate can be made of sassafras poles and barbed wire as shown in the cut. Set a strong



POLE AND WIRE GATE.

post 4 feet in the ground in the middle of the gateway and balance the gate on it. The lower rail is made of two forked sassafras poles securely nailed together so as to work around the post.—W. H. Thompson, in Farm and Home.

### Separable Metal Barrels.

An economical retainer in which to ship products such as cement, lime and plaster is described in Popular Mechanics. Its halves are separable and can be nested in a compact form for the return journey. The cost of the barrel is about \$1, which is a little more than twice that of a wooden barrel, but they are claimed to be good for at least fifteen round trips, and the room they occupy when empty cuts down the shipping bill one-half.

### A MISNAMED EXHIBIT.

Brings Joy to the Museum Visitors and Worries the Curator. A curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art is threatened with insanity, the cause being a small misnamed exhibit in the gallery outside his office door.

"Twenty times a day," declared the harassed man, "people discover that that china statuette out in the Franklin collection is named General Washington instead of Benjamin Franklin. Then they burst in here and announce their discovery and wonder that; no one ever noticed it before. Half my time is spent in explaining that we know it well, that it was simply a mistake of the potter who labeled it in France over a century ago, and that we cannot change it nor wouldn't if we could."

"Of course I tell them this courteously and patiently, and you know what a strain that is when you are going over the same thing for the thousandth time! I'd latch the door, only there are too many employees seeking me all day long, so here I must sit and listen to the names of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin repeated a million times till I wish that neither of those glorious patriots had ever lived. And it's driving me insane, I tell you; it's driving me insane!"

Just then the door opened and a lady popped in with: "There's a statue out here named General Washington, but I'm sure—And the weary curator, being a Southerner, rose smilingly to his task.—New York Times.



### JOLLY JOKER

Johnny—The camel can go eight days without water. Freddy—So could I if ma would let me.—Harper's Bazar.

"You have a fine house and piece of ground here!" "Yep! Made it all with my pen." Writing? "Nope; pig."—Judge.

The Colonel—Confound it, sir; you nearly hit my wife! Jagon—Did I? Well, you have a shot at mine.—The Sketch.

"Judge, did you ever try an absinthe frappe?" "No; but I've tried a lot of fellows who have."—Cleveland Leader.

Ethel—Jack simply raved over my figure and my complexion. Maud—And is he still in the asylum?—The Clubwoman.

"She said she'd marry me if I felt the same way a year from then." "Did you?" "Yes, but toward another girl."—The Tattler.

"Why marry at all?" asks Lady Arthur Paget. One reason is that most of the ladies insist upon it.—Chicago Record-Herald.

"What broke up the suffragette parade?" "A department store hung out a sign announcing \$2 silks at \$1.99."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"I've had to give a great many wedding presents," declared he. "So have I," responded she. "Suppose we marry and get square with our friends?"

"If I were you I wouldn't be a fool, Diggs." "True," replied Diggs, complacently. "The unfortunate part of it is that you are yourself."—The Circle.

"My daughter's music," said the proud parent, "cost us a lot of money." "Indeed!" rejoined the visitor. "Did some neighbor sue you?"—Chicago News.

Barber (rather slowly)—Beg pardon, sir, but your hair is turning a bit gray. Victim—Shouldn't wonder. Look at the time I've been here.—Chicago Daily News.

Club Doctor (with view to diagnosis)—And now, my man, what do you drink? Patient (cheerfully)—Oh—er—well, doctor, I'll leave that to you.—Bystander.

Mrs. De Crimp (day after election in 1915)—Where did you get the new hat? Mrs. Poll Worker—My husband gave me \$5 yesterday for my vote.—Brooklyn Life.

Mother—And when he proposed, did you tell him to see me? Daughter—Yes, mamma; and he said he'd seen you several times, but he wanted to marry me just the same.—The Sphinx.

Redd—Didn't I see you going along in your automobile to-day? Greene—What time? Redd—Four o'clock. Greene—Four o'clock? Oh, yes, we were going then!—Yonkers Statesman.

He (rhapsodically)—I adore everything that is grand and exquisite. I love the peerless, the serene, the perfect in life. She (blushing coyly)—Oh, George, how can I refuse you when you put it so beautifully?

"How would you go about making a layer cake?" asked the inexperienced wife. "I'd put the heavier layers on the bottom," replied her husband, the geometrician. "That is the way to keep the center of gravity well within the circumference of the base."

"When Clubber gets arguing he loses all tact." "As for instance?" "Why, last night he told an opponent who is lame that he hadn't a leg to stand on; another who squints that he was sorry he couldn't see things as he did; and a man who stammered he urged not to hesitate in expressing an opinion."—Stray Stories.

# SUCCESS OF DES MOINES PLAN; CITY RULED BY A COMMISSION

OWA'S law authorizing the establishment of commission government in cities of 25,000 or more population, which has been very successful in its first year of trial by Des Moines, according to reports from that city, was enacted by the Legislature in the spring of 1907. Applying to eight cities by virtue of the population clause, it was instituted in Des Moines, a city of 75,000 inhabitants, soon after the Supreme Court of Iowa, in February, 1908, upheld its constitutionality without a dissenting opinion, and has become widely known as "the Des Moines plan." In its general features the plan provides for a method of city government that has been tried, with good results, for several years in Houston and Galveston, Tex.

Instead of a mayor and a board of aldermen or councilmen, the "Des Moines plan" makes the governing power of a city a commission consisting of a mayor and four councilmen. Large powers are combined in the commission, which makes the local laws and executes them through a division of authority whereby each member of the commission becomes the head of a department. These departments are as follows: Public affairs, accounts and finances, public safety, including fire and health; parks and public property, public improvements.

The Iowa law may be adopted by any city within the State having sufficient population, which makes it eligible for eight cities. Cedar Rapids has followed the example of Des Moines and has elected to try it. If 10 per cent of the voters of an eligible city petition for the purpose an election must be held to decide whether the city shall adopt the law. A majority of the voters may adopt it or may drop it after trial. Initiative and referendum provisions form an important part of the law. At the demand of 25 per cent of the voters there must be a referendum on any action of the commission, positive or negative, and the decision of the majority of voters at the referendum election is made binding on the mayor and councilmen. All ordinances granting franchises must be submitted to the voters for adoption or rejection. Sessions of the commission must be public.

To judge from the reports from Des Moines, the plan has been especially effective in financial and police matters. For the second year in its history, it is said, the city has lived within its income, having a surplus of about \$20,000, instead of a deficit of \$50,000 or more. The five members of the commission have been paid \$3,000 each, whereas councilmen were formerly paid \$250 each, but it is estimated that business methods of administration have saved more than the \$15,000 total cost of the commission. Every department of the government has been reorganized; sinecures have been abolished, and it is even stated that "there are no more political jobs." Streets have been kept clean, better lighted at less cost, and paving contracts have been carried out in the spirit and the letter of the contract. Each commissioner takes personal pride in his department and feels personal responsibility for it.

### POPULAR SCIENCE

Heretofore, says Dr. L. O. Howard, it has been supposed that the gipsy-moth was distributed only by caterpillars carried by moving objects, such as carriages. The moths cannot fly, and the part taken by birds and winds in distributing them or the caterpillars he regards as problematical. Yet recently isolated colonies of these moths have been found in the woods far from roads and paths, and the question arises, How did they get there? Dr. Howard requests information and suggestions on this point.

### LONG FELT WANT.

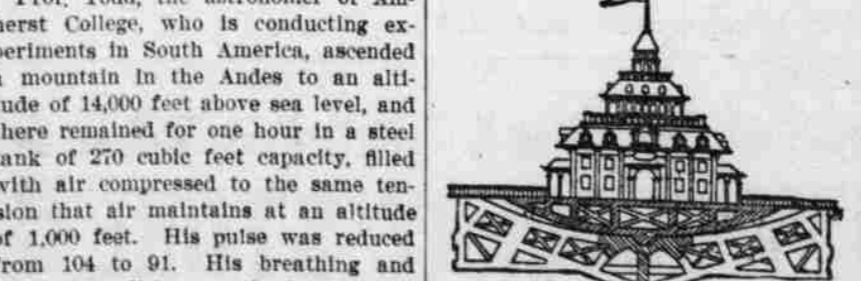
A Plea for a Graduated Standard of Misconduct.

What is really wanted at the present time is a standard of misconduct. We are constantly doing things in doubt, as if we hadn't a right to do them. The confusion caused by people doing things which in their circumstances we had no right to expect is the principal cause of our troubles. It ought to be definitely settled, for example, that any millionaire who has, say, over a hundred millions will thereafter lead an honest life. If he has only fifty millions his life should be semi-honest, and if he has only a paltry ten millions then it ought to be conceded that he can loot a few railroads or so until he gets on his feet.

Up to, say, ten thousand a year no man can afford to be dishonest. He ought to get up in the cars and give his seat to women under 35 at least, and of course he will not take the chance of robbing any safe. From ten thousand up to a hundred thousand he can engage in little dishonest fliers by making one of a pool or putting through a land deal or so for variety.

When he gets fifty millions or more together, however, every man ought to ask himself plainly the question whether from now on he ought not to be a philanthropist. Doesn't he owe this to his fellow men?—Life.

### A BRILLIANT GERMAN IDEA.



Prof. Eugen Bormel, the Berlin sculptor, suggests that houses in earthquake regions be built of steel and riveted to a rocking steel foundation. This would give the houses an agreeable motion that would make an earthquake a pleasure. If the motion became too violent, probably the furniture could be riveted to the floor and the people lashed to the chairs.

### His Waterloo.

The Friend—Your husband is the funniest man I ever heard on the vaudeville stage. He amuses everybody, doesn't he?

The Wife—He does not. He can't amuse the baby for five minutes.—Cleveland Leader.

The more pigeonholes in a man's desk, the harder it is for him to find what he is looking for.

### WHO USES SNUFF NOWADAYS?

Chewing and "Rubbing" Largely Practiced in the Mill Towns. Year by year with never a set-back, the American Snuff Company has steadily increased its business, its dividends and its surplus, while the uninitiated continue to ask, Who uses snuff nowadays? The company's annual report for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 1908, shows net earnings of \$3,474,318 compared with \$2,170,585 for 1907; a net balance applicable to dividends on common stock of \$2,154,818, a surplus for the year of \$1,214,080 and a profit and loss surplus of \$56,388,310. After paying dividends on the preferred stock at the regular rate of 6 per cent, quarterly dividends at varying rates each quarter, amounting to 14 per cent for the year, were paid on the common stock, says the New York Commercial. A 5 per cent quarterly dividend has been declared on the common stock payable April 1 to stockholders of record March 13. This puts it on a 20 per cent basis.

The American Snuff Company was formed in 1900 to take over the snuff properties of the American Tobacco Company, the Continental Tobacco Company, and some smaller allied concerns. It has outstanding \$12,000,000 of preferred stock and \$11,001,700 common stock, with assets valued conservatively at \$31,841,642.

An official of a prominent Boston wholesale house which distributes the products of the American Snuff Company through New England yesterday explained the mystery of what becomes of all the snuff in these days when the habit of tucking snuff is generally supposed to have died out. He said that snuff is no longer snuffed to any considerable extent; but the habit of chewing or "rubbing" snuff has been introduced into the mill towns throughout all the Eastern States. The strength of the position, from a business standpoint, lies in the fact that the women in the mills are as much addicted to the practice as the men. This man, who is an expert in the tobacco trade, attributes the introduction of the snuff-chewing habit to the Swedes, and he says that the American Snuff Company has found it necessary to manufacture special brands of the class of goods made in Sweden to satisfy this demand. He says that very little snuff is snuffed in the old way.

### ON AN OCEAN LINER.

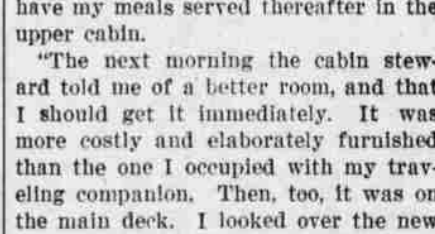
It Doesn't Pay to Get Haughty with the Stewards. "Never, oh, never, speak harsh words of rebuke to a steward on an ocean liner," declared a Congressman of New York.

"One summer I journeyed over to the other side. The first day out, at meal time, I found that I had to embrace the table leg to get near enough to operate with my knife and fork. For my unpleasant seat I called the steward to account. Most harsh was my criticism. Then I told him I would have my meals served thereafter in the upper cabin.

"The next morning the cabin steward told me of a better room, and that I should get it immediately. It was more costly and elaborately furnished than the one I occupied with my traveling companion. Then, too, it was on the main deck. I looked over the new room and decided to change. I had my luggage, with that of my friend, moved below. When my friend found the new quarters he gasped with horror. "Man alive!" he said, "this is the worst hole on the ship. You and I are in for a great big seasick!" We got every jar of the ship and good and seasick, too.

"The day I landed the dining room steward met me on the deck. "Much obliged for changing," he said. "It was at my request that the cabin steward got you to move. The gentleman ahead of you in that cabin and who wanted to move gave me \$75 to fix the deal. I thank you for what is a most glorious tip."—Washington Post.

### Teddy's Friends in Africa.



"Say, ma, can I eat this horseshoe?" "Yes, my child, but be sure and remove the nails. I'm so afraid of appendicitis."

### He Did It.

"I refused Jim and he swore he'd do something desperate." "Goodness! Why, he proposed to me yesterday."

"The dear boy!—So he kept his word, after all."—Cleveland Leader.

### An Insultation.

The daughter of her mother was doing a stunt at the piano.

"My daughter's music," said the proud parent, "cost us a lot of money." "Indeed!" rejoined the visitor. "Did some neighbor sue you?"—Boston Post.

About all the future some people have left is longing for spring when it is winter, and longing for summer when it is spring.

A good many people believe that to know a lot of contemptible gossip, is to be wise.