

**WHY**

**Popularity of the Fern Has Not Waned**

Why are ferns popular? They bear no flowers, they show only various shades of green. They produce nothing of commercial importance to us. Why do we admire and love them so? "Nature made ferns for pure leaves" as Thoreau expressed it, and it has not been improved on as a definition.

The variety of leaf foliage is intriguing. Anyone visiting greenhouses where large quantities of choice ferns are grown, like F. R. Pierson's at Tarrytown, N. Y., comes away with some idea of the wonder of it.

The common names that have been given to various ferns are very interesting. For instance, we have the "shoestring" fern, the "rattlesnake" fern, the "adders tongue," the "climbing" fern, the "maidenhair," the "bracken," the "marsh," "walking birdsnest," "Australian," and the "sensitive" ferns. Each has a long botanical name.

If you have a sun room, or a sun porch, you can indulge your desire for ferns. If large enough, say 8 by 12 or 10 by 14 feet, you can indulge in one of the beautiful cibodum ferns. These do well in both the house or the sun room. They are light green, and many imagine they are fragile and delicate, but the facts are that they will thrive if given plenty of water, warmth and light.—Ella Grant Wilson, in the Detroit News.

**Why Does Whip Crack? and Other Puzzlers**

Nature is full of puzzles. We have discovered radium and the use of X-rays, yet it is not known how or why a whip makes a noise when cracked. What cracks—the whip or the air?

If a man wants light he must first make heat yet a glowworm or a firefly, deep sea fish and many plants and fungi produce a cold light. Carnivorous animals are frequently striped and spotted, but the mild grain or grass eater is seldom so marked. Why is this?

Again, there are no blue moths, nor has there been a blue rose; and why is a purple blossom so common to poisonous plants?

Glass, though amazingly elastic, is brittle and breakable. Take a hollow ball of glass with a hole in it, hold the ball in the hand and stop the hole with one finger, and the ball will fly to pieces through the mere warmth of the hand. A glass vessel that has suddenly cooled can stand plenty of blows from the outside, but the lightest object dropped inside will shiver it instantly.

If you put a little salt in water it dissolves. Boil the water away and the salt reappears. What then has become of the salt while it is dissolved in the water? The water, it would seem, decomposes the salt into particles highly charged with electricity. For this statement we have the authority of Prof. Ira Newson, who adds that other substances dissolved in water do not act like salt.

**Why Cat Lands on Feet**

Whereby a cat invariably lands on its feet even when dropped from a comparatively small height has been demonstrated by the use of the slow-motion picture camera. The motion picture revealed that at first the cat simultaneously extends the hind legs and tail perpendicular to the axis of its body and draws the forelegs close in. A twisting strain is then applied through the body and results in the closely held forequarters rotating nearly 90 degrees in advance of the hindquarters. Then by drawing in the hindlegs and tail, extending the forelegs and exerting another torsional stress in a direction opposite to the previous one the hindquarters are brought around and the cat is ready to land on its feet.

**Why She Didn't Get Off**

They do not call the stations, on railway trains in Italy. You have to keep track of the stops yourself. An American woman going to Florence, asked a man if this stop was not her station. He said, "No, no madam." She knew the train was due to arrive about noon. She asked another official. He said, "No," and pushed her back. At two o'clock she grew desperate and, upon inquiring, found she was on a through train to Rome with the next stop at seven, where she took the 6:15 train the next morning back to Florence, arriving there at noon to learn they called it "Florencee."—Capper's Weekly.

**Why It Is Called "Kitty"**

Here's a question for poker players. What do you mean when you "feed the kitty?"

Kitty really is a corruption of an old word which meant chest, according to Pearson's Magazine, London. The ancient word was "kist," from which we get our modern "chest."

The child's money box, the merchant's coffers, the chest where the altar cloths of the great cathedrals

**NANCY MORSE OBENCHAIN**

Mrs. Nancy Morse Obenchain was born in Coatsville, Erie county, Pennsylvania, on February 16, 1836. Her father, Samuel Morse, was a first cousin of Henry Morse, famous as the inventor of the telegraph, and the Morse system of sending messages over wires. Many were the interesting tales she related of the early struggles of her famous kinsman, and of the first use of the telegraph to announce "election returns" after the first message consisting of the words, "Behold what God hath wrought!" had been transmitted perfectly, over the wires.

On June 23, 1850, she became the bride of Bartlett Obenchain, in Lynn county, Iowa, and made her home in Iowa, and in Kansas respectively, until the year 1861, when in company with some 80 families, under the leadership of her father-in-law, John Obenchain, they left Iowa, and made the journey across the plains by mule and horse teams to Marysville, California, where they spent the winter of the "big flood." In May, 1862, they came to the Rogue River valley, and settled on a ranch about one mile from the present town of Central Point. The George Obenchain home is now on part of the original homestead. Her husband passed away in January, 1908, and she made her home in Central Point, until her passing away on June 22nd, the day before her 76th wedding anniversary.

Of her descendants there are living four children, 17 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, and six great great grandchildren.

For many years Mrs. Obenchain was regarded as the "leading spirit" in all uplifting movements. She was the leader in the founding of the Sunday school and Ladies' Aid in this valley. Inheriting her love for nursing, and healing the sick from her grandfather, Dr. Morse, she followed in his footsteps, and it would be hard to find one of the older families in the valley who have not been benefitted by her ministrations. Of a wonderful memory, and an easy conversationalist, she delighted many by her recollections of early hardships encountered by housewives who had to "bake and brew" for large families with skillets, and open fireplaces. She recalled the first stoves, and the confusion they caused before people became accustomed to their use. She kept abreast of the times, at all times and was even well informed on the new air-mail services, never losing her interest in anything that means improvement, even after she was compelled to give up her activities by increasing weakness, due to her years. Honored, and respected she has justly won her reward.

**COUNTY HEALTH NEWS**

**A Day With Miss Jennings, County Nurse**

She said I might go along. As we rode through the cool of the early morning following the highway along Rogue River I thought, "A task for a poet, what could be nicer than doing good in this way." Then abruptly we left the pavement near Grants Pass and the road was rough for the next 15 miles. Finally we left the car and taking the bundles of bandages, and clothing we trudged back and up into the hills. It was noon and hot when we reached the destination—a family of nine in a shanty of one room and no windows. The mother proud, sensitive and difficult of approach required all of Miss Jennings' tact to meet. The children, sick and hungry, were in need of medical attention as Miss Jennings had ascertained the day before when she met some of the children during physical examination in school.

On the way back we stopped at rural schools where Miss Jennings examined the children for adenoids, bad tonsils, defective teeth, posture, etc. She also took a sample of the water from the school well to be ex-

amined in the state laboratories. Then we rode into the hills again to visit a crippled girl of three years who had never walked and who should be taken to a clinic for crippled children. But our nurse found the parents afraid to have a specialist see their child feeling it would mean an operation in Portland so Miss Jennings was obliged to make a long visit here to establish first her friendship and then her plea for the child. She wove into the conversation what she was trying to do in her work and asked these people to help her in their own way. Before she left they told her of another crippled child in that same remote region and also of a sister-in-law who was expecting her first child. I learned later that Miss Jennings made several more visits there, succeeded in arranging for both cripples to attend the clinic and had advised the expectant mother and put her name on the mailing list for monthly letters written by experts under the Shepard-Towner Act.

It was almost five o'clock when I left her and she was on her way to headquarters in Jacksonville to make notes on the day's work, mail health charts to a school near Prospect which she had visited recently, and to telephone final arrangements for a clinic she was conducting in Ashland the next day with the help of the other members of the County Health Unit and the health group of Ashland.

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**PRUNES COST MORE THAN LOCOMOTIVES**

While still less costly than prunes and not half so expensive as butter, the price of locomotives has increased more than ten cents a pound since 1915, according to J. H. Dyer, general manager for Southern Pacific company.

With prunes quoted at 19 cents and butter at 40 cents a pound, the company last year paid an average price of 17.3 cents a pound for 11,218,600 pounds of locomotive, as compared with an average cost of 7.09 cents a pound in 1915.

"Public interest has occupied itself largely with the advancing cost of living," said Dyer. "Few people, however, are aware of the fact that during ten years in which food stuffs prices advanced 46 percent, the cost of locomotives advanced 140 percent. The Pacific type locomotive that in 1925 cost \$25,585 now costs approximately \$75,000.

It takes an even temperament to do what she does. I hanged my idea—"maybe not so poetic a business, but how essential!"

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"Other costs of railway equipment and operation have increased proportionately. Meanwhile railway income, restricted by legislation, has shown no increase corresponding with either the mounting cost of living or the swollen expense of railroad operation.

"The company's gross revenue since 1914 has increased only 24.5 percent per freight ton mile, and 28.2 percent per passenger mile.

"In view of the high cost of railroad living only the increased efficiency of railroad administration and operation enables the carriers to do business at even a slight profit."

5-acre tract for sale, good soil, plenty water in dry years at low rate, well drained, 1/4-mile from Grants Pass on state highway. Land values increasing, good market for strawberries, etc. \$1200 cash if taken soon. Address P. O. Box 173, Central Point.

House for Rent—Five rooms, close in. Inquire at this office.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday school 10 a. m. Preaching services 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Christian Endeavor 7 p. m. Preaching services both morning and evening by the Rev. I. G. Shaw.

Mrs. J. E. Weaver, S. S. Supt.; Mrs. J. O. Isaacson, Supt. of Primary Dept.; Mrs. A. Hermanson, Supt. of Cradle Roll Dept.; Mrs. G. C. McAllister, Pres. of Ladies' Circle; Bernice Shaw, Pres. C. E.; Mrs. Warner, Choir Director. Rev. Shaw, Pastor.

**JACKSON COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY**

Abstracts of Title and Title Insurance. The only complete Title System in Jackson County.

Medford - - - Oregon

**The People of Central Point and Vicinity**

**\$1.00 Union Suits 79c**  
Ladies' fine guaze, bodise top, light knee, \$1.00 values, Sale Price—  
**79c**

Certainly Appreciate the many real values to be had at

**\$1.00 SILK HOSE 49c**  
Ladies' semi-fashioned silk hose. Colors, Tan, Brown and Buck colors. \$1.00 values; Sale Price—  
**49c**

**FABER'S Big Closing Out Sale**

**\$1.50 SILK HOSE 78c**  
Ladies' full fashioned silk hose; Tan, Brown, White, Grain and Flesh color. \$1.50 values, Sale Price—  
**78c**

OF DRY GOODS, HOSIERY, SHOES, UNDERWEAR and MEN'S FURNISHINGS.

**60c VESTS 39c**  
Ladies' fine Gauze and Silk Stripe Vests, Bodice tops, regular style, 60c value, Sale Price—  
**39c**

**25c GINGHAMS 19c**  
Chambiras in plain colors and 32 inch Gingham in all colors and patterns, 25c value, Sale Price—  
**19c**

We Mention Just a Few Items Picked at Random. There Are Many Others—Better Drop in, it Will Mean a Big Saving to You.

**\$1.50 SHEETS 98c**  
Good quality Bed Sheets, 81x90, seamless, \$1.50 value, Sale Price—  
**98c**

**ONE LOT OF DRY GOODS 37c**  
This consists of guaranteed fast color Fabrics, Dimities, Sateens, Poplins, Lingette, all in plain colors; also Zephyr Gingham in colors and patterns, 50c and 60c values, Sale Price—  
**37c Yard**

All Corsets 1/2 Price.  
All Embroideries and Laces 1/2 Price  
All Wool Goods 1/2 Price.  
All Khaki Clothing 1/2 Price

**REMNANTS**  
Hundreds of all kinds of Remnants have accumulated during this sale; yard goods of all descriptions and all qualities. These are on sale

**One Lot of Boys' Shirts and Drawers**  
Summer weight. Sale Price  
**15c**

**MISSES' and LADIES' KEDS**  
In Black and White \$1.25 Values; Sale Price—  
**79c**

**At Real Close Out Prices!**

**MEN'S KNIT UNION SUITS**  
Short sleeves, ankle length, \$1.00 value; Sale Price—  
**79c**

**GOOD WORK SHOES FOR MEN**  
\$3.00 Values, Sale Price—  
**\$1.89**

**MENS HEAVY WORK SHOES**  
In regulars and High Tops, \$5.00 values, Sale Price—  
**\$3.25**

**BOY'S BLOUSE WAISTS & SHIRTS**  
Good quality Percal, light colors, \$1.00 values, Sale Price—  
**69c**

**FRIDAY and Saturday**

Special Values in Boys' Shoes

\$2.50 VALUES \$1.69  
\$3.00 VALUES \$1.89

\$3.25 VALUES \$2.39  
\$3.75 VALUES \$2.75