

SCHOOLS AND CHURCH.

—Secret societies at Princeton College have been abolished, and fewer jobs are put up on the professors.

—Prof. Palmer, of Harvard, finds that one-third of the students there spend under \$700 a year, one-half under \$1,000 and three-fourths under \$1,200.

—The latest statistics give the Evangelical Lutheran church in the United States an aggregate of 950,000 communicants, making it numerically the third in rank among the Protestants of this country.

—G. W. McCormick, a wealthy citizen of Thomasville, Ga., who is not a member of any church, surprised the several white pastors of the different churches in that city recently by presenting each of them with a house and lot. In executing the deed he mentioned no other consideration than that the preachers' lives had been spent in "going about doing good."—*Savannah News*.

—Captain G. W. Lane has forty Sunday-schools of his planting among the families of fishermen along the coast of Maine. For many of them his visits are the only reminders of the interest of Christians in their welfare. Last year he was obliged to make his journeys in a little boat eighteen feet long, where he cooked, ate and slept. This year his friends in the Sunday-school propose to raise the money to buy him a new and more suitable boat.—*Chicago Advance*.

—The Church Army of the Church of England, which is at work among the poor by methods modeled, to some extent, after those of the Salvation Army, has brought forward for confirmation over three thousand adults, mostly gathered at the street corners and from public houses; has one thousand more adults waiting confirmation, and has over six thousand adult communicants, who are humble speakers and laborers in the cause of Christ.—*Indianapolis Journal*.

—A funny incident in connection with the work of women on the New York school board is told. A janitor of one of the schools came one day with a complaint to the principal. He said that he had been janitor of that building for nineteen years, and no one had ever asked to see the basement until one of the women of the school board came and said that she wanted to make an examination, "and that basement wasn't in a fit condition for any one to see," he added, plaintively.

RICH MEN'S SONS.

Victims of the Popular Idea That the Sole Use of Money is Amusement.

A wealthy broker of New York began life as a farm-hand in New Jersey. He had the craving natural to a poor boy for fine clothes, a splendid house, luxury of every kind. To acquire these, he worked hard with brain and body. As he rose in life, he was thrown in contact with educated men, great financiers, rulers of commerce, artists, teachers, scientific men. His own intellect, strengthened by its work, was bold and broad enough to appreciate them all. By the time he was fifty, he cared little for the physical luxuries which his money could buy for him. His pursuits, apart from his business, were noble and elevating—those which belong to a many-sided, enlightened American, who keeps abreast of his time in its great movements.

His son, on the contrary, was born in the lap of riches. Luxuries, the lack of which urged his father to incessant activity, were as familiar to him as the air and daily sunshine. Fine clothes, rich food, amusements of all kinds, gave him little pleasure, they were matters of course. He knew no life of which they were not a part. He did not work at school or at college. Why should he? Other men worked to make a place for themselves in the world. His place was already made for him. He needed no more millions

than his father could give him. He had literally nothing to do but to amuse himself. Now, there is but a limited number of amusements in the world, and after a certain time the senses, the nerves, the whole body, grow jaded with each of them. By the time this young man reached the age of twenty-five, he was as sated with pleasure as a gray-haired debauchee. Cards, wine, sport, travel, bored him; his physical strength was exhausted; his mind though still immature, was almost imbecile. When a sudden attack of illness carried him out of this world, nobody in it was sorry; himself, perhaps, least of all.

The story of this rich man and his son has been repeated countless times in the lives of our rich men. The "gilded youth" of our great cities grow weary of balls, of steam-yachts, of even the theaters, gambling and drink. Their jaded appetites crave stronger diet. In the great centers of riches and folly some of them crowd in the small hours of the morning to dens unknown to the police, to see brutal combats between prize-fighters. At a recent fight between a woman and a dog the ring was surrounded by men worth millions. "The only real sensation I have enjoyed for years," said one of this class lately, "was in China last July, when I saw the executioner chop off five heads in an hour."

At heart these lad's are made of as good, manly stuff as others. They are victims to the popular idea that the sole use of money is amusement. Even when weighted by huge fortune, as Napoleon Bonaparte once wrote to his Marshal: "Surely we should endeavor to do something; to say that we have lived; to leave some impress of our lives upon the sands of Time."—*Youth's Companion*.

—Wet, muddy feet and legs are fully as injurious to the lower orders of animal life as they are to men. Instinct teaches the animal in a state of nature to avoid such unwholesome exposures, but man has obliged them to grovel in such miserable places and is therefore responsible for the results.—*St. Louis Republican*.

—It is said that in the first ages of Christianity Satan sought to destroy the church by persecution and failed, but that when he joined the church and patronized it with worldly power and prosperity, he succeeded in well-nigh smothering the life out of it. It looks much as though he had succeeded in retaining his membership in some of the churches of the nineteenth century.—*Words and Weapons*.

—Dr. Mary Taylor Bissell, sister of the president of Vassar, who is in charge of the girls' gymnasium in New York City, is interested in the project of a college of physical training for girls. Whenever the college is ready to receive pupils they will be measured on entering, and an average gain of two and a half inches about the chest, five inches about the waist, one and a half inches about the arm and an inch above the forearm is what is looked forward to as the desirable result of the first year's bodily training and exercise of the typical slim girl of seventeen.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—In Russia 255,000 persons are engaged in the tobacco industry.

—The petroleum refiners of the United States consume about nine million pounds of sulphuric acid per month.

—The subject of premature baldness is one in which a vast number of persons take a direct and lively interest. According to the *Lancet*, there is little doubt that such baldness is increasing, and it is difficult to give any satisfactory scientific explanation of the fact. That journal does not attribute much importance to the suggestion that tight hats are injurious, but it declares that harm may be done in time by washing the head every morning, and neglecting to replace the oily material thus removed.—*N. Y. Ledger*.

FREEDOM FOR HENS.

How the Ordinary Farm Crop is Affected by Roving Fowls.

Who could live for a number of years in the country without hearing this refrain from the farmer's calendar?

April—"We're sowing oats—shut up the hens!"

May—"We're planting corn—shut up the hens!"

And so on through the long summer months. Their natural propensity to scratch for a living makes the hens seem to do a great deal of damage. During last spring we either had to stop and build a poultry-yard fence, or let out the fowls. In this locality farm help is necessarily scarce, for our near neighbor gives men one dollar and seventy-five cents per day in his quarries. So, in self-defense, we let forty fowls "run the farm" for us all summer. Unwilling to trust them in the garden, we made one at a distance from the house.

The fowls watered themselves at the spring, and fed themselves from the field, with the exception of a quart of grain each night. They went to the field as soon as the drill and scratched away as if determined not to leave one oat. They followed the plow to the corn lot, and ran opposite to the harrow in pulverizing the soil. After planting, they stayed there much of the time, but the corn came up remarkably well, the acre near the barns best of all. No field within range escaped their notice. They gathered the fallen fruit in the plum orchard, and picked up all the Red Astrachans apples by daylight each morning. They picked the cherries from small trees, and preserved the currants and red raspberries. The expense of keeping was slight. All that they really destroyed was some fruit. Profit came when the labor item was left out.

The past season has been a sober one to many farmers. A serious drought checked every thing but wheat, and almost every crop we have has been a costly one. Looking forward, it seems that we must increase our income by increasing productiveness or reducing expenses. On a small scale, I have done both in my poultry-yard by giving the hens their liberty.

How they did lay! Such a commotion and rivalry among the hens! Such a rejoicing by the Spanish tenors! They began to lay early in the season, and continued steadily until the fall fashions came, and they ordered new suits. When the berry crop was a partial failure, and the prices way down, it was a little solid comfort to have so satisfactory an income from the fowls.

To those who have fancy poultry-houses, well-fenced yards and plenty of money, this summer freedom may seem a venture; but to the many who have little time and money to spend, it will be satisfactory to know that the ordinary farm crop is improved rather than harmed by the depredations of the fowls. Strictly fresh eggs are easily sold for more than market prices; a few plump fowls can be dressed and sent to market any time at a fair price, and chickens are always in demand.

Let us fence in our gardens or find new places for them, and when the warm spring weather comes, and you start whistling for the field, call back your orders with the new refrain—"Let out your hens!"—*Cor. Country Gentleman*.

SOIL ASSISTANTS.

How to Form a Correct Estimate of the Value of Land.

The acquirement of knowledge will naturally induce us to seek by art to assist or even to improve upon nature, and well considered preferences will be accorded to certain cultures and breeds of cattle, while into the soil will be introduced those elements of fertility in which it has been proved to be deficient. Sufficient attention will be paid to drainage, the necessity of freeing the land from an excess of water being

even greater than the introduction of fertilizing elements; for although under the proper conditions the latter will increase the quantity and value of the crops, too much water will effectually prevent us from drawing any crops at all. Nothing, therefore, can ever be done with land anywhere, if it be not properly drained where there is too much moisture, or properly irrigated where the necessary natural water supply is not forthcoming.

It is because of the vital importance of this question that we are thus emphatic at this early stage. To ascertain whence an excess of water proceeds is not by any means a matter of difficulty; a very damp climate, a spongy and retentive soil, the existence of underground springs—all these, or any of them, may be the causes of disastrous effects, which can be easily remedied by those possessed of such knowledge as we have attempted to describe. In the first of the cases named, the evil may be overcome by ordinary surface drainage, but in the second it is only after ascertaining the true composition of the soil that we can effect such mixtures with other soil, or combinations with lime or sand, as may suggest themselves as necessary, while in the third case, the construction of deep under-drains alone will carry off the water from the sub-strata without allowing it to reach the surface.

Wherever there exists a faulty or careless system of drainage, no correct estimate of the agricultural value of a property can possibly be formed; for although from its excessive dampness a soil may remain unproductive, it may, nevertheless, contain all the necessary elements of fertility.—*Wyatt's Modern High Farming*.

—The Louisville high school has opened a post-graduate course for young women in type-writing and stenography. It will strike a great many people that this is more sensible than German and drawing.

—How easily some of the active members take cold! After being warmed in a good prayer-meeting they afterward sit down in a draft of worldly conversation, and before they know it they are chilled through.—*Indianapolis Journal*.

—The disestablishment of the Roman Catholic State Church at Pondicherry is now an accomplished fact, and the ecclesiastical affairs of the ancient capital of French India will henceforth be administered by a foreign missionary society, independent of local control and free of cost to the Government.—*Chicago Advance*.

—Rev. and Mrs. William H. Gurick, who have for some years been missionaries of the American Board in Spain, are attempting, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to raise \$100,000 for the school for higher education of girls at San Sebastian, of which they have for some time had charge.—*United Presbyterian*.

—The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions has issued a tabular statement of Catholic schools among the Indians. There are twenty day and thirty-five boarding-schools, with 2,190 boarding pupils and 870 day pupils. For these 3,060 scholars the Government allows \$231,880, besides \$40,000 for subsistence, clothing, etc.—*N. Y. Independent*.

—The discovery of a new gas is a rare and important event to chemists. Such a discovery has been announced in Germany by Dr. Theodoro Curtius, who has succeeded in preparing the long-sought hydride of nitrogen, amidogen, diamide or hydrazine, as it is variously called. This remarkable body, which has hitherto baffled all attempts at isolation, is now shown to be a gas, perfectly stable up to a very high temperature, of a peculiar odor, differing from that of ammonia, exceedingly soluble in water, and of basic properties. In composition it is nearly identical with ammonia, both being compounds of nitrogen and hydrogen.—*Public Opinion*.