

## THE POOR THING

(By D. J. Walsh.)

WELL, it was nice to be going somewhere. That train whistle this morning would not be laughing at her the while it invited. For she, Annis Randall, was going somewhere. Up at 5, she had done a good day's work before pleasuring. And so she would have a good time. Nice of those club women to remember that her mother had been a member, nice of them to take her mother's daughter to the federation meeting.

She drew her little black "crush" down over her soft hair, got her gloves, pressed a tiny perfume bottle against her handkerchief, went out into her yard. Oh, there they were. The long shining blue car came to a gentle stop; its marvelous door opened. She put her small foot on the step and there she was on a soft cushion between Izzy Hall and Iona Wright. The middle for her, they said, because she was small. The two women in front smiled good morning. The car swept into Main street and out into the country.

Mrs. Durant was a good driver, Annis knew. But how fast the country flew past. She had wanted to see it. But it was merely a glimpse she had of Holsteins, black and white, against a pasture rich green. She tried really to see a tiny black cabin under a flaming creeper. She had to do merely with knowing it was there. Izzy Hall and Iona Wright were mountains, she could neither tunnel, scale nor go around. And Mrs. Coulter in front had her curtain down. My, how hot. All the glass tight shut to keep out "drafts." Years ago when the went buggy riding she had to dress some even on a rather warm day. This car was hotter than she ever kept her house. Well, when you could afford to be hot you were, she supposed. But, oh, my, she felt sick, very sick. But she mustn't be. Mrs. Wright pressing on her right side. Mrs. Hall on her left, she couldn't be sick. She couldn't move. If she listened to what they were saying maybe she would forget. She listened.

"My, I've got a full week before me," Mrs. Hall was saying. "Today and tomorrow the federation. Wednesday the Country club benefit bridge. Thursday the Rotary Inn luncheon, and Mrs. Durant's dinner. Friday I've just got to go to Joplin to get me some shoes. Saturday—"

"Yes," agreed Mrs. Wright. "A body never has any time any more. I've got all you have and more. Doctor wants me to entertain those Loomises, missionaries from India. I suppose I'll have to but Doctor is always feeding those people going around talking about old foreigners."

"Well, when you're so busy it does seem a shame."

"I never have any time, always somewhere I've got to go or some body I've got to entertain or a club paper to write or a bazaar to make something for—H'm, here we are—"

Annis was glad the doors opened. She staggered, but nobody noticed her. After three breaths of air of course she felt better. Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Wright groaned as they climbed the stone steps leading up to the church where the federation met. Why did they make so many steps into a church? No wonder people didn't come much! Annis behind them wished there were more steps. She needed the exercise, air. But it was nice to be going somewhere. She felt interested in things.

The church was big. It had a pipe organ. Perhaps some one would play it! Sunshine came in through stained windows. What a lovely color effect the hats and dresses and coats of the club women made. Flowers, too, were everywhere; crimson dahlias, cosmos, zinnias, palms against the organ. Was that lady up on the platform speaking? She might be. She nodded her head, lifted her right hand, smiled, her lips moving. A gentle murmur. Yes, she was speaking. She bowed, left the platform. A patter of applause. Another lady came to the front of the platform, said dickets for the luncheon were in the vestibule. A speech by a man about Nicaragua, Geneva, the World court. This was very interesting. She had read about these things. Mrs. Hall whispered to Mrs. Wright that she was going to die of sleepiness! What did they want to hear about Nicaragua for? Reports from clubs were called for. Some of these Annis heard, some she did not. The country women's clubs interested her most. Lunch time. They got those tickets in the vestibule, and a great crowd began to swarm down the stairs to the basement dining room. Little Annis got squeezed nearly to death. Scared and faint, she wiggled into a corner to stay until the crowd went past her. Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Wright were in front of her. They were talking. They did not know she was near them.

"The poor thing! I'm glad she came. Just stays there in that house of hers, never goes anywhere. What an empty life!" Mrs. Hall in her thick voice said.

Mrs. Wright was smiling. "I was the one to suggest to Mrs. Durant that she bring her. 'Who would like to go to Iona?' she asked me, and I had happened to look out from my sleeping-porch and see Annis hoeing—she does all sorts of men's work, you know—and I said, 'Annis Ran-

dall.' And so the poor thing got one happy day, one day of real living." Her sides gouged by elbows, her feet mashed by stepping clubwomen Annis tried to realize that she was having a happy day, a day of real living. She ate cold mashed potatoes and cabbage slaw, prodded with her fork an invincible, apparently petrified chicken back, drank lukewarm coffee out of a thick handleless cup and felt better. The afternoon program concerning legislation was not uninteresting, if you had read anything in the newspapers. She sat beside Mrs. Durant who took notes. She admired sober, efficient, intelligent, wealthy Mrs. Durant, always trying to do her duty.

The ride home was much like the morning ride. She had to imagine the country. Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Wright discussed housecleaning, bridge, soap reducing diet.

"Thank you, very, very much," she trilled as she got out of the big car in front of her old pillared, shabby house. She smiled at the four women regarding her. But they did not smile. They felt sorry for her.

She breathed and breathed the sweet air of the late afternoon. A baby boy of three came toddling from a neighbor's, smiled up at her. She bent and kissed him. "Come and get your cookie," she told him.

Her cat arched his back against her ankle welcoming her.

She changed her dress, went into her garden, pulled two tomatoes, cut off some leaves of lettuce, cooked potatoes and a chop, set her table, a bowl of yellow chrysanthemums in its middle. A young girl came in with material for a party dress, wanting a design. Joey Cooper brought her mail. In the peace of her quiet, ordered, flower-fragrant house she opened a letter postmarked New York. Her latest designs had been eminently satisfactory. Could she send more? The demand for her handkerchiefs was steadily increasing.

She sat presently with squares of linen beside her, a drawing-board before her, a pencil between her fingers. She began to work, to create beauty.

"The poor thing!" she heard a thick plying voice ejaculate.

The poor thing smiled.

### Small Animal Provides

#### Sustenance for Whale

How the largest animal in the world catches one of the smallest for its food is shown by an exhibition at the Natural History museum in London, to illustrate recent investigations of the lives and habits of whales.

Last year a British government vessel, the Discovery, took a party of scientists on a voyage to the Antarctic ocean, now the greatest whaling ground of the world. The chief food of the gigantic sea animals was found to be a tiny water creature like a shrimp, but smaller. Living by millions in the icy Antarctic waters, these shrimps are scooped up by the whale in gigantic mouthfuls, filtered out of the sea water and swallowed alive.

In the exhibition in London are shown samples of this living whale food, also of the still tinier microscopic plants called diatoms, which live in the surface layers of the sea and form, in turn, the chief food of the shrimps. Like all other terrestrial creatures, the Antarctic whales get their food, the scientists of the Discovery found, from the rays of the sun.

These rays fall on the surface of the sea, are absorbed by the tiny diatoms and enable these plants to manufacture food, just as sunlight works the food-making process of ordinary plants that live ashore. Then the uncountable billions of diatoms are eaten by millions of shrimps.

### Always Handy

Brown's wife was musical. She had other faults as well. But Brown was a good husband, and when she showed a desire to learn the violin he promised to make her a present of one.

"A violin for your wife?" said the assistant at the music shop. "Certainly, sir. One with a chin rest?"

"Yes," said Brown. Then, as a brilliant idea came to him, he hurried after the assistant and caught him by the sleeve.

"Make it a detachable chin rest," he said, "so that she can still use it when she is not playing the violin."

### Uses for Animals' Blood

For the most part the blood of animals that are slaughtered for food has gone in tankage to be worked up as fertilizer. In the past few years many other uses have been found for it. It is separated into a clear-colored serum and a red liquid. Both are then reduced to powder form. The commercial haemoglobin is used in finishing leather, as a binder for sawdust, and to a limited extent it is introduced into the feed for animals. The blood albumen is used in the tanning, textile, paper and wood-working industries.

### Gambling Institution

A "bucket shop" is an office where people may gamble in fractional lots of stocks, grain or other commodities which are bought and sold on the exchange. The bucket shop uses the terms and outward form of the exchanges, but differs from them in that there is no delivery, and no expectation of intention to deliver or receive securities or commodities said to be sold or purchased.

### Meteor's Fast Trip

What is said to be the most brilliant meteor ever seen and probably the largest ever observed in flight was that of August 18, 1783, which traversed Europe from Shetland to Italy at 30 miles a second.

## POULTRY

### GET CHICKS OUT OF WET HOUSES

#### Muddy Runs and Yards Encourage Parasites and Ills.

Get the chicks out of the mud. Long-continued sloppy weather, muddy runs and yards, furnish ideal conditions for the parasite which causes the disease coccidiosis, as well as making things unpleasant around the brooder houses for the owners who take care of the flocks.

"The brooder houses ought to be moved to grass sod," says E. L. Dakkan, head of the poultry department of the Ohio State university. "Even if the chicks are moved only 50 feet, from bare, muddy soil to grass, they will miss a lot of the infestation of parasites which have made their homes in the old runs where the grass has been destroyed."

Coccidiosis or white diarrhea results from the activities of a parasite which will infest the soil where chickens have been kept for a year or more. Sanitary measures which include moving the flocks away from the infested soil, have been found more satisfactory control measures than trying to treat the disease with medicine after it has started in a flock. Under the conditions which have existed for a month or more, the parasites have been flourishing.

For late chicks which are showing signs of rickets because it has been impossible on account of weather conditions to get them outdoors as much as they should have been, should have their cod-liver oil ration increased to 2 per cent of their feed, Dakkan says, in order to counteract the lack of sunlight.

### Quality Eggs Can Be

#### Produced on Any Farm

Eggs unfit for food cost farmers from one to three cents per dozen. Approximately 17 out of every 100 eggs marketed are unfit for human consumption, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. This means a loss of about \$4,000,000 annually to farmers. An egg buyer of Clinton county, Indiana, recently reported to Purdue university that one-half of the eggs delivered to him were not good enough to eat.

Two principal causes for the large volume of inedible eggs are as follows: Improper care of eggs at the farm, and neglect in marketing them more frequently, according to E. R. Menefee of Purdue.

Quality eggs can be produced on corn belt farms if producers will follow the suggestions which he makes. Remove all the males from the flock. Immediately. Males are not necessary for egg production and fertile eggs will not keep their quality in warm weather.

Remove all broody hens from the nests promptly. The body temperature of a hen is 104 degrees and will reduce the quality of the egg in a few hours' time. Gather the eggs twice a day in hot weather and place them in a cool room promptly. A basement or cellar if not moldy or containing any peculiar odors furnishes about the best place on the farm for holding eggs.

### To Distinguish Sex

#### of Guineas Is Hard

There is no sure way to tell the male guinea fowl from the female by looks. Usually the wattles of the male are a little larger than the female's, but this is not always noticeable—nor is it true in every case.

But their cries are different, and will reveal which is which. The female has a two-syllable cry which sounds like "backwheat, backwheat," or to some folks "pot rack, pot rack." Anyhow it's a two-syllable cry. But the male has only a one-syllable sort of shriek. Sometimes too, he makes a chattering noise and often says "quit, quit, quit."

But don't try to tell the two apart when they're frightened or excited. Both the male and female then make the one-syllable cry.

### Oats Cause Trouble

The use of ground whole oats containing an abundance of indigestible fiber has caused many losses among young chicks when such material has been included in the home-made starters. A laying mash containing a lot of ground oat hulls has less feeding value than a mash without so much fiber. There should be a good demand for hullless oats for chicken feed if they can be raised as economically and are as good feed as oats which have been hulled.

### Remove Litter Daily

Daily removal of soiled litter from the henhouse is important. If the dampened litter is left on the floor, ideal conditions are created for spreading of disease. The soles of shoes that have come in contact with such litter should be disinfected. Contamination is easy unless every caution is used. This risk can be greatly reduced by wearing a special pair of rubbers and by having a pan of disinfectant outside the brooder house to use when entering and leaving.

## DAIRY

### STERILIZATION OF DAIRY UTENSILS

#### Thorough Cleaning to Destroy Bacteria Important.

(By C. K. JOHNS)

Of the various sources of contamination to which milk is subject, the dairy utensils have been definitely established as one of the most serious, capable of contributing a high percentage of the bacteria found in milk. Consequently the sterilization of cans, pails or other containers cannot be neglected if milk containing few bacteria is to be produced. Thorough cleaning is essential, but in itself is insufficient. Steps must be taken to destroy as many as possible of the bacteria still remaining if the keeping quality of milk is to be improved.

For sterilizing, steam under pressure, the most satisfactory agent, is seldom available. In its absence, a sufficient quantity of boiling water gives good results. Pails, strainers, etc., after washing are scalded by pouring a pint of boiling water over the entire inner surface; cans are best treated by pouring in a quart of boiling water, replacing the lid, and rolling the can along the floor to ensure thorough scalding of the inner surface. As the temperature of the water drops over 50 degrees Fahrenheit during this operation a fresh quantity must be provided for each utensil.

Because of the saving in time and fuel, chlorine solutions are being used in some districts to replace the scalding treatment, and where used intelligently have equal or superior sterilizing efficiency. Cans and pails are carefully rinsed with chlorine solution as in the scalding treatment, or immersed for one minute in a tank containing the solution. Either is satisfactory, provided the utensils are well washed and the chlorine solution is up to strength.

### Feeding Cows Grain in

#### Summer Is Profitable

There are some splendid lessons to be learned from cow testing associations because of the records they keep. One herd of eight cows that was fed an average of three pounds of grain per day during June and July last year produced 3,550 pounds more milk and 186 pounds more fat than the same cows produced during the corresponding two months of the year before, when no grain was fed to supplement the pasture. Valuing the grain mixture at \$30 a ton, the extra feed cost \$22.50. If we assume that the 186 pounds of butterfat had a value of 40 cents a pound, the increase in the gross income was \$74.40. The net profit from grain feeding during those two months, therefore, amounted to \$52, or \$3.25 per cow per month. As a rule the better the cows the larger will be the returns from grain feeding on pasture.

### Dairy Cow Production

#### Shows Large Increase

Great changes have taken place in the past few years in the dairy industry. For one thing, the average production of our cows has increased greatly. The census figures in 1920 show that there were 23,750,000 dairy cows in this country and they produced a total of 89,500,000,000 pounds of milk.

In 1923, the total number of cows in this country had dropped to 22,100,000, but they produced a total of 120,750,000,000 pounds of milk.

That's 7 per cent fewer cows, and they gave 34.7 per cent more milk, quite a remarkable change in a few years' time. This change is a tribute to the value of educational endeavor, promoting better breeding, better feeding, and better care of dairy cows, but especially better feeding.

### Increase in Number of

#### Cows Tested in Country

Cow testing associations in the United States showed a remarkable growth during 1923. There was a 15 per cent increase in associations, with a total of 465,804 cows under test.

California leads in the total number of cows under test, and also in the percentage of cows which are being tested. There are four states that beat California in the number of herds under test, as most of her herds were large. Wisconsin stands second in total number of cows under test and first in number of herds. Minnesota ranks third in number of cows and Iowa fourth. Iowa now has 2.7 per cent of her dairy cattle under test.

### Valuable Cow Feed

Beet tops are a valuable feed for cows although as they contain only about ten pounds of dry matter per 100 they should form but a part of the roughage ration. In feeding value they are worth about half as much as the same weight of good corn silage. Beet tops are readily preserved in a silo of any kind. In Germany where enormous quantities are used for feed the trench silo is in general use. If put in as cut they carry too much water.

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### Easy Living

United States Attorney Sawyer Smith was talking in Covington about a bogus missionary.

"The man," he said, "held prayer meetings all over the country, and the money he took in for missions in Dahomey and Senegal enabled him to live like a prince for many years."

"It reminds me of the little girl who was asked:

"What does your father do for a living?"

"He takes up the collection in church," she answered."



### DR. CALDWELL'S THREE RULES

Dr. Caldwell watched the results of constipation for 47 years, and believed that no matter how careful people are of their health, diet and exercise, constipation will occur from time to time. Of next importance, then, is how to treat it when it comes. Dr. Caldwell always was in favor of getting as close to nature as possible, hence his remedy for constipation is a mild vegetable compound. It can not harm the most delicate system and is not habit forming.

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### Carried a Spare

Mrs. Fatleigh (at the beach)—My chin is getting all sunburnt.

Her Friend—What do you care? You've got another,—Smith's Weekly.

Russ Ball Blue delights the housewife. Makes clothes whiter than snow. At your Grocer's.—Adv.

### Treat 'Em Rough

Perhaps if your bees haven't been doing so very well it's because you have been treating them too tenderly. The latest bulletin from a well-known bee expert says: "Don't coddle your bees."—Kansas City Star.

### Surprising the Waiter

"For the first time since I've dined at this restaurant the charge is reasonable," said the guest.

"Reasonable?" echoed the waiter, surprised. "I had better have another look at the bill. There must be some mistake,"—Inverness Courier.

### Saved Into Cache

For years John Betts had seen an old log lying in his farmyard near Eldorado Springs, Mo. Recently he needed firewood and decided to cut the log into stove lengths. He sawed it open and revealed \$250 in gold dust hidden in a can thrust into an auger hole.—Indianapolis News.

### Wary

The Automobile club of southern California has several members who are more than ninety years old.

"I simply can't understand it," protested Secretary Stan Mitchell. "As nearly as I could ever figure it out, a man who has lived to be ninety has either never seen an automobile or else he has been smart enough to have seen them all before they saw him."

### Frank Comment

During a trip to England an American woman engaged a guide to show her around.

After he had explained the principal attractions of the neighborhood she remarked, as she handed him his fee: "I trust that what you have told me is absolutely true; I never feel as though I should pay for untruths."

"Well, ma'am," said the old fellow, scanning the coin, "truth or untruth, you've had your money's worth."

### To Go Around

"Miss Strong," asked Mrs. Human Dynamo, unbending a trifle, "may I ask why you are trilling the corners off that stationery?"

"You told me to get up a circular letter,"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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