



"When I want advice from you I'll ask you for it," said the bill clerk, smiling. "I've heard all that sort of talk before."

"I can easily believe that," rejoined the cashier. "There is nothing new under the sun. Wisdom is as old as the everlasting hills and older. You have ears—rather long ones, Johnny; though of course, that isn't really any fault of yours."

"My ears aren't any longer than other people's," said the bill clerk, "and if they were it isn't any of your business. My tongue isn't loose at both ends, anyway."

"No," agreed the cashier. "That's true and, in fact, self-evident. It would be a physical impossibility, Johnny, as you would know if you had ever studied physiology. Still, as I was trying to tell you, the size of your ears is really unimportant. Unthinking persons may remark upon it and say that it is an indication of your mental asinity, but they are mistaken in that. Your ears might be perfectly normal in appearance and yet be just as big an idiot as you now are. I have a second cousin who is what is known as a natural-born fool, and his ears are as exquisitely shaped as my own."

"If you don't let up on my ears I'll do something to your nose that you won't like," said the bill clerk.

"I don't wonder that you're sensitive on the subject," said the cashier. "I would be myself, very likely. Believe me, I have no desire to hurt your feelings in any way. I apologize if I have offended you."

"You just let it go at that," said the bill clerk. "I've got something else to do besides listening to you. I have not got the snap you have. I've got to work."

"I wouldn't do anything to stop you for the world," said the cashier, earnestly. "I'm rejoiced beyond measure to hear you speak that way. I

don't allude, of course, to your crude and somewhat offensive phraseology, but to your realization of the fact that you are paid wages in this office for something else than killing time. Has our venerated chief been hauling you over the coals?"

"He has not," replied the bill clerk. "Don't be angry with me, Johnny," pleaded the cashier. "You ought to know that I had no intention of being officious when I offered you that little piece of advice. Of course, as you say, you have heard it before. I should think you would have heard it. Any true friend of yours would at once see your crying need of it, and give it to you. Not as an original idea of his own, not on the supposition that you had never heard it before, but as a sort of reminder. You know we are all more or less forgetful. We read things and we forget them in just a little while. Solomon, long years ago, gave us good advice, but how few of us can recollect it all! I'll be bound that you have forgotten what Solomon said about fools."

"Did he say anything about their shutting their mouths when other people are trying to add up a column of figures?" asked the bill clerk.

"Not that I remember," replied the cashier.

"Well, he ought to have," said the cashier. "In a general way he regarded them as incurable," said the cashier. "His counsel was rather with the object of preventing people from making fools of themselves. He sort of epitomized human wisdom. But that didn't deter Benjamin Franklin from doing the same thing and I don't see any reason why I should not follow in Franklin's footsteps. When I said to you, 'Get busy or you'll get fired,' I only repeated what my illustrious predecessors have said to you before. But you get mad at me. Why aren't you mad at Solomon?"

"Solomon had a little sense," said the cashier.—Chicago Daily News.

TWO HORSES THAT DIVE.

They seem to enjoy the fun as much as their audiences.

The intelligence displayed by many of our animals, both wild and domestic, is surprising. Dogs and horses, especially, from their long association with man, and because of their natural temperament, can be taught a great many interesting and beautiful tricks. We have all seen dogs carrying bundles, papers, or baskets along the street, and know how faithful they are to their charges, neither stopping to play with others of their kind, nor allowing any one but their master to relieve them of their burden. Other feats that these faithful creatures often perform are: "Begging," "rolling over," walking and dancing on their hind legs, and jumping over sticks or through the arms. Horses, besides performing many feats which are taught them, often show considerable intelligence in unfastening gates or letting down bars so that they may escape from the pasture.

One of the most beautiful feats that I have ever seen performed by horses is the high diving by "King" and "Queen." These two beautiful animals were raised on a western American farm; they are both snowy white and perfectly formed. King has dark, lustrous eyes, while his mate has light blue ones; both have plunkish muzzles, and both are kept immaculately clean and carefully groomed, as such valuable animals should be.

It is said that they were kept in pastures on the opposite sides of a river, the bank on the side on which King was kept being high and overhanging the water. Both animals had always shown a fondness for the water, and one would often make the plunge into the river and swim across to join its mate. From watching this performance was conceived the idea of training them to exhibit in public, an idea which was carried out with the greatest success.

A "knock-down" staging was constructed, and is carried about with the horses and used at every performance; it has an incline of about thirty degrees, and the top is about thirty feet above the water; about two feet below the top platform is a small one, on which the horses place their feet just before making the plunge; this is so that their bodies may take a more vertical position, and that they may strike the water with the least resistance.

They require about twelve feet of water in which to make their dive. They are most often shown at places where there is a natural body of water for the purpose; but frequently a pit is dug, and the bottom covered with canvas which is filled with water, and in this improvised tank they do their "stunt" twice daily—in the afternoon and evening.

The two horses are stationed at the point where they are to leave the water, and one of them, usually Queen first, is led to the foot of the incline. With a toss of her head, she quickly runs to the top of the staging, looks over to see if the course is clear, then without hesitation drops her fore feet to the small platform and makes the leap. They strike the water with their

fore feet extended and the head thrown back on the shoulders, so that the shock is not unduly great. They are under water from three to six seconds; then, with a shake of the head to clear the water from the eyes, each makes for the spot where the mate is standing. King is apparently prouder and more deliberate than Queen; he goes up the incline slowly, and pauses at the top to look about at the crowd of people below, often whinnying, apparently to attract attention to himself. He makes the more graceful dive of the two, keeping his fore feet straight, while Queen has hers doubled when in the air. As soon as they come from the water they are rubbed dry, covered with blankets, and led to the stable, where they are carefully groomed.

Occasionally we find some one who thinks it is cruel to "make" horses dive from such a height; but the fact is that they do not appear to dislike it at all, and they certainly like to be in the water. How much more fortunate are they than many of their kind that have to do the hardest sort of work from morning until night, and often upon scanty or insufficient rations! These horses have the best of care, the best of food, and plenty of exercise, and apparently are in the best of health and humor. They have been exhibited from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean and in Europe.—St. Nicholas.

His Position.

In time a new insurance company was planned. The organizers secured thousands of stockholders, and the scope of the company was to be great indeed.

To them came the richest man in the country, who begged that he might be permitted to have a part in the concern.

"Certainly," said the organizers; "we have planned a place for you. You are to have the most conspicuous position in the affair."

"Ah, thank you! Count me in. What have you in view for me?" "You are to be the policy-holder,"—Judge.

Sarcastic Boarder.

"I am glad to see the butter is convalvescing," remarked the sarcastic boarder.

"Why, what do you mean, sir?" queried the landlady.

"I mean," explained the sarcastic boarder, as he nerved himself for the effort, "that it is growing stronger daily."

And the other boarders forgot their troubles long enough to join in a grin.

Inconstant.

"Tom doesn't love me."

"How do you know?"

"His last letter."

"Chilly?"

"Typewritten."—Cleveland Leader.

No Deception.

Man calls his wife his "better half."

But that's a sort of bluff;

He can't deceive himself, for she's

The whole thing, sure enough.

—Philadelphia Ledger.

We do not know the dictionary meaning of the word, "conversation," but the real life meaning is this: Conversation is other people's troubles, and other people's jokes.

HUNTERS OF SHARKS.

Crews for Work Are Made up Mainly of Descendants of Vikings.

This strictly commercial business of shark hunting is done in small sloops, whose headquarters are in the more northerly Norwegian ports, says Pearson's Magazine. The crews are for the most part made up of pure-blooded descendants of the vikings, who are still to be found in any number among the cod fishers of Hammerfest and Tromsø. And a magnificent race of men they are! Accustomed from boyhood to a life of hardship, they have a way of treating Father Neptune with a slightly contemptuous toleration, like an old friend of somewhat uncertain temper, whose rapid changes from smiling benevolence to wild, blustering anger are on the whole rather amusing than otherwise.

They care nothing for danger, and little for suffering—in themselves or in others. Why, then, should they stop to think that perhaps a maimed, but still living shark can feel?

The fishing is done off the coast of Iceland in about eighty fathoms of water. Three or four gallows-like structures are rigged up around the sides of the sloop, and from each of these hangs a pulley-block, over which runs a strong rope; and to the end of this the baited hook is fastened. A plentiful supply of ground bait is thrown out to attract the quarry, and such is the eagerness with which the sharks take the bait that sometimes each one of the gallows-like fishing rods will have its fish hooked and fighting for life, all at the same time.

There is no "playing" the fish; it is not necessary or possible and the powerful tackle is hardly likely to break, no matter how fiercely the hooked shark may struggle. But the shark is not, for his size, a game fish, and, excepting when he is actually being hoisted up out of the water, there is no very serious strain on the tackle. If he does now and then get away, it is not because he ever manages to break the line, but because a lightly fixed hook easily tears through the soft cartilaginous skeleton of his head and so sets him free.

As soon as the shark has taken one of the baits, the hauling tackle attached to his particular gallow is manned, and without any superfluous fuss or ceremony he is hauled up to the sloop and hoisted just clear of the water.

He is not brought on board at all, but with a few bold dashes his liver is cut out as he hangs and is thrown into a tub, to be further dealt with later. Then his eyes are put out and he is cut adrift to go and complete the tardy process of dying where and how he pleases.

All this sounds very horrible, but there is one curious fact which goes far to make us believe that this death cannot, after all, be such a cruel one as at first appears. It is this: the fishermen say that, unless they put out the shark's eyes he will afterward cause them a lot of trouble by coming and taking the bait a second time.

It sounds incredible, but the statement is thoroughly well authenticated by eye witnesses who have seen a liverless shark do just this very thing. Scientists, doubtless, are right in saying that the shark (which by anatomical classification is one of the lowest of the fishes), does not feel pain in the way more highly organized animals feel it. We will cling to that belief, for it is consoling—to us, if not to the shark, who is thus sacrificed that his liver may supply us with—what?

It is a secret not to be spoken aloud. Norway is one of the great centers of the cod trade, and from cod is made cod-liver-oil, and—shark liver-oil tastes and looks much like it.

SEEING BERNHARDT AT HOME.

At Her Little Theater in Paris It Costs Very Little.

"When I hear what prices they are paying to see Mue, Bernhardt here in New York," said the traveled girl, according to the New York Press, "I can hardly realize that it is true the price I paid to see her in Paris. She has the most beautiful little theater in the world near the Louvre, with 'Sarah Bernhardt' in big shining electric letters straight across the top of it, so you can see it a mile.

"For some reason I had to go alone. I took several ten-franc pieces with me, expecting to pay at least one of them for the pleasure of gazing on the great actress. I followed the crowd, which happened to be composed mostly of American tourists. They went to the little grated window, where one after the other of them paid their money and began to climb stairs. I followed. 'I handed out my 10-franc piece and nearly fainted when they handed me back 9 francs. That means I got a ticket for 1 franc, which in our money is just about 20 cents.

"There isn't a poor seat in Sarah's theater in Paris. Not one. It is small, but perfect. She was playing 'L'Alphonse' that night. It was marvelous. I have never seen anything more beautiful than the stage setting, the flowers, the little lighted trees brought in for the garden, and Sarah with her wonderful voice, and all for just about 20 cents in American money.

"Do you know I really think it pays to take a trip to the old country to see the plays, to hear the operas. You will never guess what I paid to hear 'Gotterdammerung' in Munich on my way to Oberammergau. The privilege of gazing on the wonderful Rhine maidens and weeping salt tears as they bore Siegried up the purple gray mountains and into the clouds cost me exactly half a dollar."

HIDDEN WEALTH OF INDIA.

Much Gold Has Been Gathered and Secreted in That Country.

It would be an immense benefit to all mankind if the stores of gold now held by individuals in India could be made available for general use. Ever since the dawn of history that country has been gathering and hiding it away. Treasures of almost incalculable value are possessed by many Indian princes, says Spare Moments.

When the maharajah of Burdwar died the stock of gold and silver left by him was so large that no member of the family could make an accurate estimate of it. A report made to the British government by a secret agent stated that on the estate of the deceased maharajah were a number of treasure houses, one of them containing three rooms. The largest of these three rooms was forty-eight feet long and was filled with ornaments of gold and silver, plates and cups, washing bowls, jugs, and so forth—all of precious metals. The two other rooms were full of bags and boxes of gold mohurs and silver rupees. The door of this and other treasure houses had been bricked up for nobody knows how long.

These valuables, according to an ancient custom, were in the custody of the maharajah's wife, the vaults being attached to her apartments, but none of them was allowed to be opened save in the presence of the master. One vault was filled with ornaments belonging to different gods of the family. The natives of India commonly bury their hoards and among the poorer classes a favorite hiding place is a hole dug beneath the bed. Disused wells are sometimes employed for the same purpose.

It is undoubtedly a fact that many hoards thus deposited are lost forever. Gold is also valued on religious grounds. The gods take up great quantities of gold, silver and precious stones. The temples contain vast amounts of the yellow and white metals. The habit of hoarding seems to have been induced by ages of misgovernment, during which oppression and violence were rife. No feeling of safety existing, it was natural that the natives should adopt the practice of removing their wealth to a concentrated shape and hiding it.

ECONOMY OF LUCIN CUT-OFF.

Saving in Operating Expenses More than Paying for Investment.

On the 18th of September, 1904, passenger trains were first sent over the cut-off, and from then until the middle of last January only thirty-four minutes, all told, were lost by them on the new track, far less than the average delay on the old road. Dec. 23, 1904, was the last black day in the record. That was 200 feet of fill near Rambo went down a little more than a foot. The Lucin cut-off is complete, and Mr. Towel, the engineer, is justified in his faith. So, too, is Mr. Harriman, the banker; for in January, 1905, the operating expenses of the new road were \$61,000 less than the operating expenses of the old road in January, 1904, although the traffic was greater.

With 600,000 tons of through freight annually, and that amount increasing, the old road had reached its limit. It took three locomotives to haul 950 tons, and often required from thirty to thirty-six hours. Over the cut-off a single engine has hauled 2,360 tons in less than nine hours. Passenger trains that used to go in two or three sections, each with two locomotives, now run from fourteen to seventeen coaches with one engine.

When you sit in the observation car and gaze at these miles of fill and trestle you will not see a strikingly spectacular piece of engineering accomplishment, but you will see the monument of one of the greatest exhibitions of pluck and endurance ever made. And when you talk with one of the men who made it, he will tell you of this or that sink, and joke at the recollection of those almost despairing days.—Century.

Odd.

"Well, now, that's a funny thing."

"What is?"

"Miss Passay was an old maid before she married, and now that her husband is dead she has become a young widow."—Philadelphia Press.

The Minimum Carload.

A warm protest should be registered by our shippers and fruit growers generally, against the increase of weight for minimum carload from 30,000 to 40,000 pounds. The change will be a decided blow to the smaller shippers, although it will doubtless be to the advantage of the railroads since it will be nearly as cheap to haul 40,000 pounds as 30,000 pounds. The effect of raising the weight will be to make it more difficult for small jobbers to combine and then secure the advantage of carload rates. Thus it favors the large shipper and stifles the smaller dealer. There should be some means found for holding the railroads to give equitable treatment to all shippers.—Orchard and Farm.

Continental Radish Supply.

The radish requires quick growth to become crisp and tender. This is easy to achieve in California, where heat is usually sufficient and irrigation water at hand. By successive planting, radishes may be grown nearly every month in the year in favored localities, and for an extended period in almost any situation in the spring. Winter radishes, however, require at least two months to mature, and they should be planted in August and September for holiday use. Gardeners usually plant about two-thirds of an ounce to the 100 feet. The soil should be light, well worked and very rich to secure rapid, succulent growth.

IN FIELD OF HUSBANDRY

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS AND ORCHARDISTS

Rural House Grounds—Individual Responsibility
—Plowing Under Green Crops—Cucumber Culture—Liming the Soil—Immense Business in Sheep.

Rural House Grounds.

One's training for the work of life is begun in the home and fostered in the school. This training is the result of a direct and conscious effort on the part of the parent and teacher, combined with the indirect result of the surroundings in which the child is placed. The surroundings are more potent than we think; and they are usually neglected. It is probable that the antipathy to farm life is formed before the child is able to reason on the subject. An attractive play-ground will do more than a profitable wheat crop to keep the child on the farm.

Bare, harsh, cheerless, immodest—these are the facts about the average rural school ground.

Children cannot be forced to like the school. They like it only when it is health giving. And when they like it they learn it. The fanciest school apparatus will not atone for a charmed school ground. A child should not be blamed for playing truant if he is sent to school in a graveyard.

It would seem that land is very precious. Very little of it can be afforded for a school ground. A quarter of an acre of good land will raise four bushels of wheat, and this wheat may be worth three or four dollars a year. We cannot afford to devote such valuable property to children. We can find a bit of swamp, or a sand hill or a treeless waste. The first district school I taught was on a heartless hillside. The premises had two or three discolorated oaks and an old barrel was stuck in the top of one of them. The second school I taught was on an island in a swamp. The mosquitoes loved it.

The school building is generally little more than a large box. It has not even the charm of proper proportions. A different shape, with the same cost, might have made an attractive building. Even a little attention to design might make a great difference in the looks of a school house; and the mere looks of a school house has a wonderful influence on the child. The railroad corporation likes to build good looking station houses, although they have no greater capacity than homely ones.

The following sentences are extracted from the "Report of the Committee of Twelve on Rural Schools," of the National Educational Association (1897):

"The rural schoolhouse, generally speaking, in its character and surroundings is depressing and degrading. There is nothing about it calculated to cultivate a taste for the beautiful in art or nature."

"If children are daily surrounded by those influences that elevate them, that makes them clean and well-ordered, that makes them love flowers, and pictures and proper decorations, they at last reach that degree of culture where nothing else will please them. When they grow up and have homes of their own, they must have them clean, neat, bright with pictures, and fringed with shade trees and flowers, for they have been brought up to be happy in no other environment."

"The rural schoolhouse should be built in accordance with the laws of sanitation and modern civilization. It never will be until the State, speaking through the Supervisor, compels it as a prerequisite for receiving a share of the public funds."—L. H. Baily in Cal. Cultivator.

Individual Responsibility.

There is no excuse for ugliness, either public or private. The beautiful house, the beautiful surroundings, need cost no more than the ugly ones. In no community is the most expensive house the most artistic. Beauty comes out of the beautiful mind, the fine spirit, and is not definitely related to the pocketbook. Nearly all fail to finish their homes by neglecting the grounds. That which would yield the most for the least expense is omitted. Many have lost a great opportunity in the neglect of yards and particularly backyards, in which beautiful gardens might be built. Who is it that may not buy seeds? The cost of flowers counts for nothing. The price of theater tickets or a few street car rides, and one may have the joy of flowers from the seed or from plants for a whole year.

Plowing Under Green Crops.

It is not safe to delay plowing under green crops much longer. The fiber of the plants will rapidly toughen from now on and the more fiber the plant contains, the more moisture and the longer time will it take to decompose it. It should all be disintegrated before the summer weather comes on or a great deal of the benefit will be lost. A heavy growth that lies near the surface causes the soil to dry out and besides it is always interfering with the cultivation. A large part of the benefit that would be derived from it during the coming year will be laid over if not entirely lost, for that which the cultivator drags out is usually bunched and burned or carried off the land to get rid of it. A good method is to disc the peas before plowing. This cuts them in small pieces which prevents their bunching at plowing time. The disc alone is supposed to do both jobs at once, but where the peas are very heavy they will even bunch up with this machine.—Cal. Cultivator.

The principality of Montenegro is the only country in Europe which possesses no railways whatsoever.

Cucumbers like heat but cannot endure drought. A light mellow soil is best, though good crops are frequently grown on heavy soils so long as they are not permitted to bake and crack. Plow deeply and thoroughly. Mark out the ground five feet apart each way and at the intersection incorporate a large shovelful of well rooted farm-compost. In the hills thus formed sow eight or twelve seeds which will allow for half being destroyed by insects. When the plants begin to send out runners thin to the best three or four plants remaining. Keep the ground well cultivated and free from weeds.

A good preventative from insect injury is to dust the plants with Buchach, hellebore, or tobacco dust, especially on the under side of the leaves. For a few plants it is worth while to protect the fruits with mosquito netting. The planting of radish or turnip seeds with the cucumbers has been recommended as some insects will attack these in preference to the main crop.

Frequent gathering of the fruits as they attain a satisfactory size tends to lengthen the bearing season of the plants, and permitting the fruits to ripen on the vine is certain to cut the season short.

Liming the Soil.

An article by an eminent European authority reviews quite fully recent investigations, including those of the author and his associates, on the use of lime as a fertilizer, concluding that the results confirm the author's well known views regarding the necessity of maintaining a definite relation between lime and magnesia in the soil in order to insure the highest productivity. It is also necessary that neither lime nor magnesia should fall below a certain limit. For this reason it is urged that soil analysis determinations should always be made of the magnesia as well as of the lime.

Immense Business in Sheep.

During the year just closed Haley & Saunders of Salt Lake bought and sold 760,636 sheep, purchases being made in California, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Eighty per cent of the vast number of sheep purchased were shipped directly to eastern markets, the remaining 20 per cent being disposed of on the ranges.—Salt Lake Tribune.

Why Dairy Farming Pays.

H. W. Potts, of the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, in Australia, thus summarizes the advantages of dairying:

1. It takes less fertility out of the soil than any other form of agriculture, and hence it is useful in following a well regulated system of rotation.

2. It can be combined readily with other forms of agriculture or horticulture.

3. The dairy provides in winter a quantity of stable manure in which the straw from the barn is profitably utilized.

4. The by-products from the cow skim-milk, whey, and buttermilk, are a source of income in raising pigs and calves.

5. Dairying gives constant and regular employment of a light character to every member of a farmer's family.

6. Dairying inculcates habits of punctuality, industry, cleanliness and thrift on the farm.

7. Cheese and butter are condensed products, and the cost of carriage, in comparison with their value, is less than that of any other farm product.

8. The demand for good butter and cheese on the world's markets is unlimited, and, so long as the quality is maintained, an all-round, even and profitable price can always be secured.

9. The monthly check from the factory provides the mainstay in the household, as against the precarious returns from yearly crops.

10. In mixed farming, the income from the dairy is the most reliable.

11. The farmer's household, as a result of the dairy work, is always supplied with fresh milk and cream, butter, cheese, pork, bacon and veal.

12. Storekeepers, traders, bankers, financial men and politicians all fully realize, after years of experience, that wherever dairy farming is conducted farmers are most prosperous, mortgages are rarely found, and the value of landed property becomes considerably enhanced.

Feeding the Land.

After the home resources in the enrichment of the soil have been exhausted it is time to turn to commercial fertilizers to supply deficiencies. It is a very simple matter to spread around the trees each year the contents of a few fertilizer bags. This is much easier than spreading several loads of manure or sowing and plowing under a green manure crop. It takes less time and less worry. Hence many people who own a few fruit trees come to rely upon commercial fertilizers alone, neglecting the other sources of fertility that have been mentioned. This is a great mistake. The home fruit grower should use commercial fertilizers to supplement—not to replace—tillage, green manures and barnyard manures. Some fruit gardens, like some farms, are fertilizer sick. They have been dosed with large quantities of high-grade fertilizers, but the humus content of the soil has not been kept up. If fertilizers are used, and usually they must be, let them be in conjunction with manuring. The purchaser of commercial fertilizers is in the way of many pitfalls, for some fertilizers, like breakfast foods, are not as nourishing as the advertisement suggests, and they are very frequently used without definite knowledge of what the soil needs or what they contain.—S. W. Fletcher, in the March Garden Magazine.

Taking No Chances.

"Perhaps," suggested the waiter, "you would like a Welsh rabbit."

"No," said the austere customer, "I am a vegetarian."

"A Welsh rabbit is made of cheese, you know, sir."

"I know it. As I said before, I am a vegetarian."