Practical Talks and Plain Precepts for Farmers.

Edited for the Farmer readers of the MONITOR by an Annapolis Valley Agriculturist

BEEF JUDGING.

To those of our readers who did not attend the Fat Stock Show at Amherst and who may not have one of our excellent Maritime Agricultural papers, we intend giving some of the articles embodying the lectures at that show.

In this issue we give the lectures of Prof. G. E. Day. As will be seen he showed the different good and bad points of the beef animal both before and after slaughter.

THE POINTS OF A BEEF ANIMAL.

Prof. G. E. Day.

I have selected an animal that is perhaps not above critisism, but at the same time an animal which brings out some very good points, an excellent animal of the kind.

Although it is not an important point from a butcher's standpoint, still it is an important point from the feeder's standpoint, that the animal should have what we call a good head; and the question arises, what constitutes a good head? In the first place we like to see the head fairly short from the eye to the muzzle. It is true that an extremely short head is sometimes an indication of a short body, and a very short body is objectionable.

Then we like to see the nostrils large, because the nostril indicates the size of the breathing organs. They are the exterior organs of the respiratory system, and consequently are an indication of lung power.

We like to see a good big mouth, because the mouth is the external opening of the digestive organs, and secondly if the animal has a large mouth it is an indication that he has well developed organs. The head should be comparatively small in proportion of the body. It is a waste part of the animal; consequently, a very large head is objectionable. The head should be moderately small, neat and clean in appearance and bear a nice proportion to the rest of the animal.

The neck is a cheap part of the animal, and consequently we like to see the neck as short as possible. In some of the best animals of the beef type, you would think the neck was almost set down to the shoulders. While the neck should be short, it should not be light or narrow. And when you find a light, lean, scrawny neck you will almost invariably find it followed by a lean fore quarter. You understand the difference between a short neck and a thick neck. Length of neck is objectionable, but at the same time a thin neck is objectionable.

The part in front of the shoulder-point is what we call the neck vein. We like to see that filled out level and full so that you can hardly tell where the shoulder leaves off and the neck begins. Where you have that neck formation, you have a shoulder covered with flesh, and where the neck sets in you will find a poor raw handling shoulder.

Coming to the shoulder we like good width. Because if the animal is sharp on top of the shoulder he could not carry much beef. While the shoulder is a cheap part of the carcase, at the same time, unless the animal has width there, he could not have width back of it, and consequently we like good width of shoulder, blending smoothly into the neck and front, so that you see no projection of the shoulder whatever, perfectly smooth. More than that, the shoulder should be covered with flesh wherever you touch it, no tendency to bareness or rawness. That covering is desirable for the reason that if the shoulder is bare it indicates a lack of flesh in proportion to bone, and consequently we insist upon a well-covered shoulder.

From shoulder point to shoulder point, we like good thickness, not to give width to that end of the carcase but if the animal is not thick enough through there, he cannot have a good heart. If the animal is thick from shoulder point to shoulder point, it shows that he has a large cavity there for the heart and lungs, which is very important from the standpoint of constitution and the ability to stand heavy feeding and forcing. If the breast is narrow and the legs stuck close together it is a sure indication that the animal is lacking in heart room, which would be an indication of a rather slow feeder and an animal that could not stand heavy forcing, and for that reason we like to see distance between the legs.

A big hanging brisket is not necessary, from a butcher's standpoint, it is objectionable. It is not necessary that the brisket should come away forward, nor yet hang down, because you will very often find that it is nothing but loose flabby fat. We like to see a good width of chest making a good full front which indicates a large heart cavity and lung room.

Coming back to the shoulder, the animal should be full. There are two reason for that. One reason is that if the animal is well fed around there and thick through the top of the foreflank it indicates he has a large barrel large room for the heart, and lungs, and is consequently an animal of good constitution. And there is valuable meat there. We can get valuable roasts out of that part and we like to see the animal well covered over the back of the shoulder. As for the barre,, or centtre part of the body from a butcher's standpoint, we like to see a good lengthy one between the shoulder and the hook point, because it is here where we get the valuable meat, and consequently the animal with good length there will give more valuable meat than an animal that is very short. Now it is possible to have too much length in that part of the body. When you go beyond a certain point you are apt to get weakness. The back will sag down, and if there is extreme length you are not to get shallowness with it. So there is a limit beyond which we cannot go.

From a feeder's standpoint, the more depth we get the better, so long as it is not merely depth of paunch. To determine whether the animal has actually depth of rib, we must take the general underline. If he comes well down at the fore and hind flank and does not bag down between these points where he has depth, and at the same time is a desirable animal. If he is cut up between these points it does not matter how far he comes down between it still makes it more objectionable. The underline should be as nearly straight as we can get it and the top line the nearer straight we can get it, the better we like it. A good full, strong, straight top line is an indication that the muscles in that part are strong and well developed and able to hold up the back. Where tha back of the animal sags very much it is an indication of the absence of muscle and consequently the lack of lean meat, because the lean meat is muscles, therefore we like to see a strong straight back.

We like to see the rib sprung out quickly from the back bone giving good width of back. If you take a line from the shoulder point of the animal back to the true hip point, you have the most valuable part of the carcase above that line. Consequently we like to see the carcase well developed above that line. We like the line as broad as possible and the hook points here wide enough to give a broad back, but no wider than necessary, because if they are too wide it indicates hareness. If the hook point stands out prominently it shows an absence of valuable meat. If you take a line over the hook point you get what is naturally called sirloin, and from that forward is the loin proper, or the part from which we get what are called porter house steaks. So that you see it is extremely important that this part should be well built back of the hooks, because we have valuable neat back of them, and more than that it is extremely important that the loin should be broad because that is the highest priced part of the whole carcase. In front of the loin we have the rib roast, which is also a valuable part of the carcase. So that you see it is important that the animal should have a well-developed top on it all the way along, broad and smooth, and more than that it should be covered with flesh.

Below that line we like to see the animal trim and underline straight. You can have too much development below that line. The breeder does not object to that so much as the butcher would. The breeder would rather have the animal a little too deep than faulty the other way, and that makes one difference in judging from a breeder's and butcher's standpoint. The butcher would like to see it nearly all top.

Then back of that line we have what is called the rump, and then when you get below that we have the round Now the round is worth a good deal less than the top of the animal, and while we like to see a good heavy heavy hind quarter on the animal, at the same time in judging from a butcher's standpoint we put the main stress upon the top because that is the higher-priced meat. And that is why we especially emphasize this top and the rib. The heavy hind quarter will not compensate for a bad back.

As to the handling qualities. It is extremely important in the feeding of the animal. We like the hair to be fine, more like fur than hair, and the skin should be soft and elastic so that when you pick it up you do not feel any harshness about it whatever. We like the flesh to be mellow without being soft, and to be firm without being hard. We had some animals here that handled too hard indicating rather an inferior quality of fat, it had become ordiently somewhat gristly.

This steer I have here, considering the amount of fat he has on him, handles well. He is comparatively firm and not hard, and carries his flesh on the valuable parts. He is really too fat for the best market. If I had been judging from the consumer's standpoint alone I would have put the third prize animal first, but we were instructed to judge from the breeder's and feeder's standpoint, as well as the consumer's. We like to see an animal set on short legs. I have no use for these great sky rakers. The legs are no use except for carrying the animal round, and these long legs are no use. It indicates an excessive amount of bone in proportion to the meat. Extremely heavy bone is objectionable.

Q.—What breed is that animal? (referring to W. W. Black's Pan-American sweepstakes steer.)

A.—Angus foundation with two crosses of Hereford.

Q.—Has that steer got too much brisket or too little?

A.—He is not overloaded considering the amount of fat he has on him, and more than that, he is not particularly flabby.

Q.—Ought he to be killed pretty soon?

A.—He should have been killed long ago to make the best beef, unless an animal has more flesh on it you cannot tell whether it will make a first-class beef animal or not, and that leads very often to animals getting too fat. If we judge animals in a thin condition we might make serious mistakes.

THE BEEF CARCASE.

Prof. G. E. Day.

We have here a rough sketch of a side of beef, and from it you will see, which are the most important cuts, and which part of the carcase pays best, and you can also see the method of cutting up beef by the wholesale butchers of Chicago. The relative price of the different parts vary very much, depending upon the market to which it is sent, and these prices are subject to great variations in different localities. The carcase is cut off at the loin and then at the short ribs. From the hook point back is where they get the sirloin cuts. This cut includes both the sirloin and the loin proper, and from that comes what is called Porter house steak, and also roasts. We have in front of that the best rib cuts. The loin is valued the highest but the ribs come next. The flank is only worth two cents and three and one-quarter cents, and the shank two cents, and from these figures you can see that it is the upper part of the carcase that has the highest value, and in judging fat stock we have emphasized that fact, because if we were to breed animals that possess valuable properties from a butcher's standpoint, we must look for these in the parent and consequently a well sprung rib and broad loin are extremely important in an animal for the butcher, or a breeding animal. You can well understand that the butcher would be willing to have the animal all back and loin, but the breeder knows that in order to have constitution you must have depth and for that reason there is a difference in judging an animal from a butcher's standpoint and from a breeder's standpoint. A real good animal has considerable cheap meat on it, in spite of all you can do, but at the same time we like to see the lower part of the animal trim and without a lot of blubbery fat on it.

Yesterday we had instructions to judge from both the feeder's and consumer's standpoint, and this animal was out first in its class, and received second place in the sweepstakes. The reason it was put back to second place was not from a butcher's standpoint, but from a feeder's standpoint, because this animal would never have been slaughtered had it not been an undesirable animal from a breeder's standpoint. It had a very hollow back and showed a marked weakness in that respect. The animal we gave the sweepstakes prize to was merely a calf. It had a good constitution and a good strong level back. From a butcher's standpoint I regard this one as probably the best animal in the whole lot. I don't think there is an animal in the building that would kill out a better carcase than this one.

One of the next faults with the carcase of a fat animal is to find great thickness of fat at this point over the ribs. If there is a great thickness of fat over that part there will be a great amount of waste. If I find an animal with a great roll of fat rolled up on the back rib in a ridge I feel inclined to turn it down, because it indicates bad quality.

While this cow is too fat from the ordinary consumer's standpoint, at the same time she approaches very closely to what is wanted in the best markets, and if you go through the large packing houses, such as Swift's and Armour's, you will find carcases of that kind hung among the selects whereas the thinner carcases go to the cheaper trade, and the extremely fat ones it is difficult to find a place for at all. Th cow when alive was a very smooth handling animal, her worst fault was the hollow back. We like a particularly smooth shoulder blended well into the neck. A long neck is not desirable. The butcher would want a light neck, but in order to have a good feeder he must have an animal with a thick neck, especially where it joins the body. It may be thin at the head. As a rule we find animals with a long thin neck are very objectionable from a feeder's standpoint. The prices on the chart do not convey a correct impression of the relative values of the animal in our home markets. A great many people will condemn an animal because he is light in the hind quarters. I do not think that is right, because we like to see an animal carrying flesh down there, at the same time a defective round is not so objectionable as a defective loin or rib. In judging we have to balance one defect against another and consider which is the most serious.

A Member—I do not see where they get the Porter house steak? Is it at the back part of the loin?

Answer—Between the hook point and the thirteenth rib would be the Porter house steak, right over the short ribs is what we call the loin, this is the Porter house steak.

Q.—What would these prices figure out per hundred dead weight.

Answer—I am not sure, I never made that up. I should say it would run in the neighborhood of nine or ten cents.

Q.—Does not this round, when the shank is taken off, sell higher than any other part?

Answer—No, the loin is the most valuable part. If you take an animal that has a great bunch on each side of the tail there is more loss in a carcase of that kind.

THE TWO BRIDGES.

Sir Edwin Arnold contributes an article entitled "The Two Bridges" to The School Bulletin and New York State Educational Journal. It reads like a romance, and is well worth the attention of parents and teachers who have "stupid" children to train.

One afternoon there came to the gate of my school in Egbaston the boy I considered the most stupid in all my classes. He was tall and ungainly, though good looking; very shy and silent; docile and respectful enough but always behindhand with some of his tasks, and, consequently, forever at the bottom of his form; the sort of lad no master troubles himself about. I must confess I had given up all idea of making anything out of him, at any rate as regarded certain important lessons—a helpless, dull, unwilling, profitless dunce—so I imagined; and so I had reluctantly come to treat him.

With him came into my garden one day a pretty girl, a year younger, who explained that Trotter wanted badly to see me, but did not dare venture alone; and so, being his friend and living with his mother, he had accompanied him. Possibly that made me more indulgent to the hulking, stupid, silent youth; for there were great, bright tears in the girl's blue eyes, and she held the big nervous Fellow by the edge of the coat as if she feared he would run away from shame and fright. And when she softly related how good a boy he was to his mother and how hard he worked to learn his school tasks, and how miserable he became at his repeated failures and his perpetual ignmony at the bottom of the form, and how all important it was that he should pass a forthcoming examination on which his future bread and meat would depend, and that she had accordingly persuaded him to come to me, and now desired very ardently to make me understand that Trotter was burning with desire to win my good opinions, and that she and her mother thought he could not be really stupid, because there were other lessons outside of geometry and what not, which he always did well, and he had, moreover, invented two or three remarkable improvements for a steel rolling factory.

* * *

So I made the poor lad speak for himself; and then he ruefully explained how he had never for one fleeting moment understood any atom of Euclid, or why it was written or taught at all, with other special difficulties in his course—certain subjects being all the time, as I myself well knew, easy enough to him. The truth was he was no more stupid than the average "Brummagem" boys. He was a proud, silent, well-meaning lad, who had been wisely taught at the beginning; for teaching is a fine art, and very few really understand it.

His humility and earnestness melted me, as well as the tears in the blue eyes of his little friend. I sent her home and made him stop to tea, and that afternoon we tore up Euclid by the roots; we divested ourselves of all false terrors inspired in young minds by that ancient name; we went behind the old Alexandrian geometer, and found him out in his plan, his purposes, his beginnings, his fallacies, and his merits.

I told Trotter not to be ashamed of any little personal difficulties, since King Ptolemy had boggled like himself at the foot of the "Asses' Bridge" and had asked Euclid one day, in Alexandria, if he could not make it all a bit easier, to which the ancient mathematician replied that "there is no royal road to learning." "But there is, Trotter," I said, "a very broad and good King's highway, by means of which nothing is difficult, nothing abstruse. I was just as easy to learn the binomial theorem, or Persian or Sanskrit, or Euclid, or navigation, or chemistry, as it is to mow grass or to shear sheep. The secret is to be rightly taught, or to teach yourself rightly from the beginning making sure of every step taken, and bearing in mind that most learning is very simple, and that most school books do their very best to render it obscure and senseless."

Well, with that we built up Euclid for ourselves. Trotter came to me privately day by day, and we attacked that fatal proposition on the first book as Napoleon did his enemies at the bridge of Arcola. We surveyed it, we made colored sections of it so that he ended by knowing all its intricate triangles. We mapped out and marked its angles and lines, so that we came to be able to prove the theorem by colors or numbers just as well as by letters. We worked out deductions and corollaries from it, until, like a kind of geometrical Clapham Junction or the big railway bridges one over the other at Birmingham, we had all sorts of supplementary propositions built over it and under it.

And, as he grasped the raison d'etre of Euclid, his terrors changed to pleasure. The lad became the finest demonstrator in the class, always at the top for geometry.

* * *

Well, that was one bridge. As I was crossing Canada, many and many a year afterward in the new and wonderful region which extends between Vancouver and Winnipeg, we came upon a "junction" and right upon a very important ceremony, the opening of a very remarkable bridge, built over a most impetuous unrestrainable river, and connecting in a most momentous manner for commerce and intercourse the sister states of a great province. We had to stay over night at the station, and decided to be present at the inauguration of the new bridge.

Having received a polite invitation to attend, I repaired to the superintending engineer of the district in order to obtain some particulars of time and place.

Inquiring at the door I was told that the superintending engineer was for the moment out, but his wife, whose name I did not catch, would see me. Looking round the walls of matchboard in a casual manner I saw to my astonishment, among pictures of various kinds, a photographic view of King Edward's school at Birmingham, and close beside it the fifth proposition of the first book of Euclid, with the angles and triangles done in divers colors, and underneath it written, "My First Bridge." Near at hand was a truly superb picture of the new Canadian bridge in all its glory of iron and timber, with the rushing, forest born river innocuously whirling ice slabs and slags beneath its wide arches; while in the corner I read the words, very neatly inscribed, "His second Bridge."

Just then the door opened and there came in the nicest, brightest, most openfaced matron that can be imagined, leading a handsome boy of 10 or 12 years by the hand. In an instant, after all these years we recognized each other. She was the very same girl with the blue eyes who had brought Trotter up to me in his deep woe about Euclid; and Trotter—none other than the melancholy Trotter—was the great and glad mechanical hero of the occasion, the triumphant engineer who had spanned the Red River with his world-admired bridge. —Michigan Presbyterian.

TRIED TO STOP THE MARRIAGE.

A friend sends the following interesting account of how Miss Hull's pet colt interrupted her wedding.

A wedding in rural high life was interrupted in a peculiar fashion at Walnut Hill, Conn., a few days ago.

The parents of Miss Nellie Hull, who was to become the wife of Mr. Anson Gear, thought it would be the thing to celebrate the wedding in church.

The contracting parties were pleased with the suggestion, and preparations were made for an elaborate wedding.

All the people on the hill were invited, and all went. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers. Built over the path leading from the road to the church door was an awning, and on the ground was laid a strip of carpet.

Miss Hull was very fond of pets, and among the animals on the farm she had a pet cow and a pet colt. Her affection for these animals was warmly reciprocated. Either of them would follow her about like a dog. Daisy was the name of the pet colt. It happened that Daisy had his eye on the preparations for the wedding. He stood with his head over the pasture bars and saw his mistress climb into the family carriage and drive down the road. A short time after, according to the testimony of the hired man, the colt cleared the bars at a bound and with tail up and heels in the air went down the road at a lively gait in the direction his mistress had taken.

The wedding party was in the church and bride and bridegroom were standing before the minister ready to take their vows, when there was a commotion in the vestibule. Every man, woman and child in the church turned towards the door just as Miss Hull's colt stuck his head through the opening. Seeing his mistress at the altar the animal walked down the aisle and thrusting his head between the bride and bridegroom rubbed his nose against the bride's shoulder, whimpering affectionately.

The preacher stopped, the bride's father attempted to drive the colt out of the church, but it refused to go until induced to do so by its mistress, who led the way. When the horse was outside, the door was closed to keep out the animal and the young woman returned to the altar and was married.

When the wedding procession set out for the Hull residence, where refreshments had been spread for the guests the colt trotted along by the side of the carriage in which its mistress rode.

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—An ingenious woman has found a way to fix candles on the top of holiday cakes. In the flame of a candle she heats the eye of a needle, pushing it while hot into the lower end of a small candle. The needle point pressed through the icing makes the tiniest puncture, permitting, too, the closer use of the candle, often desirable for a birthday count. If desired, tiny stars or circles may be cut from gilt or colored paper, so that the paper forms a little mat on which the candle rests.

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—There was recently sold in London at public auction what is probably the rarest stamp in the world. It is the Roumania-Moldavia 1854 issue, eighty-one paras blue on blue, unused, with nearly full gum and large margins. After lively competition it was knocked down for $1,100.

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Best of Stock used in all classes of Work. Painting, Repairing and Varnishing; executed in a first-class manner.

ARTHUR PALFREY.

Bridgetown, Oct. 22nd, 1890. 26tf

Closing Out!

The few remaining Carriages that we have.

These are the Nova Scotia Carriage Co.'s goods and need no talking to sell them.

New Ox Waggon,

New Horse Truck Waggon,

A few Road Carts to go at Cost,

A few setts Harnesses at Cost,

☞A large number of good second-hand single and two seated Carriages.

Call and see these bargains, or write and agent will call.

JOHN HALL & SON.

Lawrencetown, July 17th, 1901

Notice to the Public

As I am an authorized agent of the Herbaroot Medical Company, of Montreal, for the sale of Herbaroot Tablets and Powders, the great family medicine and KING OF BLOOD PURIFIERS, for the cure of Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Scrofula, Torpidity of the Liver, Jaundice, Sick Headache, Constipation, Pains in the Back, Female Weaknesses, and all impurieties of the blood, I would say to those in poor health that I will send by mail, to any address on receipt of price, Herbaroot Tablets,

200 days' treatment, with guarantee, -	$1.00
100 " " -	.50
Herbaroot Powder, per package	.50
Inhaler	.25

Herbaroot Powder cures Catarrh, Sore Throat, stops Headache and relieves Asthma.

T. J. agleson, Bridgetown, N. S.

The Household.

CRETONNE APPLIQUE PILLOWS.

Now that the Christmas work is completed and safely in the possession of its destined owners, the devotee of fancy work is sighing for more worlds to conquer. She cannot do better than turn her attention to sofa pillows for the coming summer. Every one knows that the end of the season of outdoor life sees piazza and hammock cushions in a state of decrepitude that quite unfits them for use the next summer, so new covers are always in order.

A handsome cushion may be made of denim, with an applique of cretonne flowers. The new floral cretonnes are charming for the purpose, as the flowers are so beautifully printed that they seem as if painted. Indeed the designs are painted by the most skilful flower artists, whose work is faithfully copied. One cushion recently seen was of the finest quality of denim, dark blue in color, with red roses and green leaves cut from cretonne and arranged in a garland in the middle of the ground. The shading of the roses was so perfect that no needlework was required except around the edges where they were buttonhole stitched to the denim with black linen floss.

One would be surprised to find how much artistic skill can be applied to the evolution of a pretty cushion from such simple materials. The better way is to buy the cretonne and then select a suitable ground. In most cases the color that forms the groundwork of the cretonne is a wise choice, although occasionally it can be improved upon.

A peculiarly delicate design is of apple blossoms and leaves that seem almost to possess fragrance, so lovely are their varied tints. This is printed on a gray ground, but the flowers are even more effective on soft green. If the desired tints cannot be produced in denim a heavy sateen serves admirably, and is really to be preferred for the more dainty colorings.

Another design with large yellow sunflowers may be effectively applied to a dull green background. The arrangement is, preferably, in a corner design—that is, a sunflower and leaves in every corner, leaving the centre free.

A clever and effective cushion cover may be made of a bright sateen, red, yellow, blue or green, with large meshed "wash blonde" net, in which tiny bows of baby ribbon or French knots are tied at regular distances, over it. The appearance is not unlike that of a certain kind of Oriental silk much liked for such purposes.

NOTHING LIKE A COUCH.

A feminine authority on house furnishings has recently delivered herself as follows: "A room without a couch of some sort is only half furnished. The smoothest life is full of ups and downs, and sometimes all that saves the sanity of the mentally jaded and physically exhausted fortune fighter is the periodical good cry and the momentary loss of consciousness on the old sofa in the sitting room. So, distracting things would straighten out and the way would make clear before me, ever and often, if only there were a long comfortable couch at hand on which we could throw ourselves, boots and brains, unmindful of tapestry and tidies. When the head throbs and the soul yearns only for dreamless endless rest, 10 minutes respite on a couch means physical and mental salvation. A comfortable, convenient sofa is a positive means of grace. There isn't a doubt that the world of a nap is often mistaken for a longing to die.

"In nearly every reception or living room, of course, there is an article of furniture that answers to the name of sofa, but it is not worth the space it covers or the time taken to keep it in order, so far as real comfort is concerned. The raison d'etre of the two armed, velvet tufted yard-and-a-quarter sofa continues to be as much of a mystery to me as the domestic economist's motive in purchasing those limber-legged, carpet faced 45 degree lounges one sees 'marked down' in front of cheap furniture houses. To make a home truly homelike, give me the broad low, hospitable couch, whose very presence is an invitation, a benediction and delight."

HOUSEWIFE SUGGESTIONS.

Sugar is an admirable ingredient in curing fish or meat.

Paint spots on window glass are easily removed by rubbing with a cloth dipped in vinegar.

Soiled spots may be removed from white silk or satin by rubbing with a flannel cloth dipped in alcohol.

Pineapple extract is a delightful substitute for wine or brandy and other flavorings in pudding sauces.

To clean cut glass wash articles, let them dry and afterwards rub them with prepared chalk and a soft brush carefully going into all the cavities.

Icing may be whitened by the use of lemon juice, given a pink tint by using strawberry or cranberry juice, or made yellow by using the grated rind of an orange strained through a cloth.

Loops for hanging up garments are continually breaking. A serviceable loop is made by cutting a strip of kid from an old glove, rolling in it a piece of coarse string and sewing the edges of the kid neatly together.

—The care of the piano is an important matter, the more so because neglect of that piece of furniture soon makes itself felt. Dampness is the worst foe that the piano has. It should not stand, therefore, near an open window, and it should not be pushed close against the wall. The keys, when they need to be cleaned, should be rubbed with a soft muslin cloth which has been dampened with alcohol. Soft silk, such as an old silk handkerchief, makes the best sort of duster for use about the piano.

—When shoes are too large at the heel and are rendered unpleasant by slipping, a piece of velvet should be cut out and fitted in the heel. Glue this velvet to the inside bottom of the heel and the slippings will be stopped, as the velvet clings to the stocking and prevents it.

—Blankets should take the place of the old-time comfortable, which collects and retains the waste particles from the breath and body during the night. Blankets can be washed, sunned and thoroughly purified frequently.

—Shaping one's work by his feelings will never do. The surest way to court failure is to sit by waiting for the spirit to move. The spirit will move when we move, but never before.

—Nowadays oilcloth is cheaper than elbow grease, so tack it liberally over shelves and tables.

—Minard's Liniment cures dandruff

HOOD'S PILLS

Rouse the torpid liver, and cure biliousness, sick headache, jaundice, nausea, indigestion, etc. They are invaluable to prevent a cold or break up a fever. Mild, gentle, certain, they are worthy your confidence. Purely vegetable, they can be taken by children or delicate women. Price, 25c. at all medicine dealers or by mail of C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Joker's Corner.

THE DISGUSTED HENS.

A certain well known real estate dealer who lives out in the suburbs is very fond of his garden and of his household pets and more especially of his chickens. This special fondness was the means of involving him in an Easter joke that is quite too good to keep—although the real estate man himself may be of the opinion that it should be preserved as carefully as any other family secret.

It appears that the lady of the household boiled a large number of eggs in honor of the day and for the special delectation of the children and after placing them in a basket, set them away in the cellar. A little later the man of the house suddenly took it into his head that he would "set" two of his favorite hens. So he went down cellar to secure the eggs, and noticing the basket, took out enough for two settings and carried them to the barn. He arranged them all right and when he turned away, the hens had started in on their long task. But he happened to look back as he neared the house, and then he noticed that the hens were very much disturbed about something. They were as excited as could be, scratching as they were scratching and pecking at the eggs in a highly offended manner. He went back and tried to soothe them, but instead of being reconciled they flew away, squawking angrily. He went back to the house and said: "I don't understand what's the matter with those blamed hens. I can't make them set."

It was suggested to him that perhaps they didn't work on holidays, and just then the lady of the house appeared and wanted to know who had disturbed the eggs she had placed down there in a basket.

"Eh!" cried the real estate man. "Why I took some eggs to set those hens—but they won't set."

"The eggs I mean," cried the lady, "were boiled."

"What!" cried the head of the house "b-b-boiled!"

And that explained the mystery of the insulted hens.

POLITICAL CHAMELEON.

Thomas M. Patterson, the new senator from Colorado, is principally known in his state for the frequency with which he changes his politics, says the New York Times. Within the last eight years he has been a Democrat, then a Populist, and then a Democrat again, besides supporting independent local tickets at various times in Denver. In Washington this winter they are telling a story of something that happened at Denver once. A young and green political canvasser had been put on to canvass the election district in which Mr. Patterson lived. He rang the bell of the magnificent Patterson home at the corner of Pennsylvania and Eleventh avenues and of the sable servitor who appeared demanded the name of the occupant.

"Mistah Tom Patterson,' responded the colored boy.

"What is his politics?" asked the canvasser, adhering strictly to his list of printed questions.

"Why, laws-a-mawsy, boss," said the serving man, "I don't know. He ain't been home since breakfast."

A CERTAIN DUKE AND AN UNCERTAIN BOY

A certain Duke, while driving from the station to the park on his estate to inspect a company of artillery, observed a ragged urchin keeping pace with the carriage at his side. His grace, being struck with the cleanliness of the lad, asked him where he was going. The lad replied:

"To the park to see the duke and sogers."

The duke, feeling interested, stopped his carriage and opened the door to the lad, saying he could ride to the park with him.

The delighted lad, being in ignorance of whom he was, kept his grace interested with quaint remarks till the park gates were reached.

As the carriage entered it was saluted by the company and guns, whereupon his grace said to the lad:

"Now, can you show me where the duke is?"

The lad eyed his person all over, then, looking at the duke, replied very seriously:

"Well, I dunno mister, but it's either you or me."

—He had sailed down hill over rough stones until he was jolted into nervous despair. He was hoping for a better way back, but in his desire to find new roads and new experiences he had wandered far and he was lost. He dismounted and leaned disconsolately over his bicycle. Suddenly a native came around the bend of the way.

"Can you tell me how I can get to the town?" he asked.

"Ye can go the way ye came, but I guess ye'll have to carry that thing on yer back."

"Yes, I know; but is there no other road?"

"Ye can go 'round by the schoolhou