

The matter which this page contains is carefully selected from various sources; and we guarantee that, to any intelligent farmer or housewife, the contents of this single page, from week to week during the year, will be worth several times the subscription price of the paper.

A BOY IN THE HOUSE.

There's a boy in the house, a lively boy, "Father's hope and mother's joy." With eyes that sparkle and dance with fun, With feet that swiftly on errands run, With a voice that laughs, and talks, and sings.

There is a boy in the house, a frolicsome boy, Who plays all day with many a toy; Sometimes he is marching up and down, Sometimes he's a judge in stately gown; Sometimes our house is upside down; Sometimes it's the noisiest house in town.

There's a boy in the house, a serious boy, Who lays aside his book, or toy, And many a question, quaint and queer, He asks about the things we hear: Together we read "God Holy Word," And together pray our gracious Lord, To richly bless our boy.

There's a boy in the house; our Father, hold In Thy strong arms, this lamb of the fold, That he never from Thee may stray; May he walk through life the narrow way.

THE HOME.

The Courage of One's Convictions. In olden times various herbs were sought and various artificial means were sought to chase away doubt and give courage. Our ancestors appreciated as well as we do to-day that however wise a man may be, unless he has strength of purpose and courage enough to stand by his convictions he is a worthless fellow.

The man who starts out in life with but a small capital of knowledge or native ability, like the man with but a small bank account, but who uses well and wisely the talents that are given him, reaps a far greater reward than his better equipped brother who fails to use his talents to the best advantage.

It is not wise to doubt all that you do not understand. The peasant father of Robert Burns understood as little the genius of his son as the narrow-minded school-teacher who condemned him as a stupid fellow. The best that the wisest parents can do to guide their children is carefully as they can from evil companionship and evil ways.

A Word to the Elderly.

Among all the housekeeper women, young, bright, active, sober, middle-aged, earnest, benevolent, and spiritual, there must always be some who are getting past the centre of life's stream, and who are looking longingly at the quiet waters beyond the boiling, eddying, wildly hurrying tide against which they have for years bravely battled.

church, and growing irritable and dyspeptic for thirty-three years. I contrast her with some old ladies seen of late, who keep up at seventy-five the pleasurable things which they loved in earlier years, dress prettily, do fancy stitches, laugh and chat with the girls, attend every good philanthropic gathering, and have their hearts fresh and young after all the hardening, wearing things behind them. Don't give up until Providence shows plainly that you must, for of all nice things the nicest—Lusk Cooper.

Summer Food.

Half the illness that occurs at one season I think I can safely say, is due to improper dieting taken at another. We hear of people feeling weak in the spring, or suffering from those different ailments due to malnutrition, such as boils, skin diseases, obesity or debility. Now this would not be so if the person adapted his diet to his requirements and to the season.

A Lightning Calculator.

Prof. Truman Henry Safford, of Williams College, is one of the most remarkable lightning calculators now living. A gentleman who had heard of his power and wished to test it said to him one day: "I have a little problem for you, Professor Safford. I was born Aug. 15, 1852, at three in the afternoon. This is June 20, 1883, and it is just three o'clock. Now can you tell me my age in seconds?"

The Boy Everybody Knows.

"Where's my hat?" "Who's seen my knife?" "Who turned my coat wrong side out and slung it under the lounge?" There you go, my boy. When you came into the house last evening you flung your hat across the room, jumped out of your shoes, and kicked 'em right and left, wringing out of your coat, and gave it a toss, and now you are annoyed because this article has not gathered itself into a chair to be ready for you when you dress in the morning.

Now, then, my way has always been the easiest way. I had rather fling my hat down than hang it up; I'd rather kick my boots under the lounge than take them in the hall; I'd rather run the risk of spilling a new coat than to change it.

An orderly man can make two suits of clothes last longer and look better than a slovenly man can do with four. He can save an hour per day over the man who flings things helter-skelter. He stands twice the show to get a situation and keep it, and five times the show to conduct a business with profit.

Over Pine as Hedge Plant.

Our ever-kind friend, Mr. Cheever, of The New England Farmer, writes to us thus, in response to request for information, about the white pine for hedges: "I have planted out a great many white pines in hedges on the highway; on lines where old tumble-down stone walls stood; have set them as a border between cultivated gardens and lawns, and as wind-ways and walks; on the cold, windy sides of gardens and orchards; as screens for poultry-yards, and as retreats for poultry when running at large; also upon barren knolls to cover unimproved lands, or to cover a barren soil in the fall, and remove temptation to plough and cultivate land that could not be cultivated at any profit; and also a fence for stock, and in these various ways my pine hedges have made very satisfactory fences."

"Be sure you get Ayer's" is an important caution to all in search of a thoroughly-reliable blood-purifier. Ayer's Sarsaparilla being the one in which there can be no manner of doubt. It has stood the test of nearly half a century, and has long been considered the standard.

THE FARM.

Ways Right and Wrong.

A "greenhorn" drives a nail so it splits the lumber almost invariably; a mechanic puts it in place so it hardly shows, or even becomes an ornament. The educated man of the plains knows how to throw the lasso; one jerk of his strong arm, while riding full tilt, will send it flying to fall just over the horns of the desired steer. A thoughtful man will throw a blanket on his horse and then walk around the animal several times to pull it in. We peel a tree correctly by first removing a 4 ft. length of bark around the trunk next to the ground before felling it and taking off all the bark; thus none is wasted on chips and stumps.

The two-year-old Jersey bull I am proud to own comes at my call and allows me to catch him by his ring as I stand by his feedbox; and with all reasonable precaution I hope always to keep him thus gentle. A wise way for all concerned is to have bulls trained to work, and thus make them safe as well as useful. The life of many of them is lost in the way of a fly or worm, leaving the weaker prisoners to go hungry. This will, of course, result disastrously to one's little zoological garden. But a novel plan presented itself. I had been in the habit of digging a mass of earth from a neighboring anthill, and feeding the toads by dropping this mass into the keg. Then the ants began to crawl out the toads would form around in a circle and snap them up. Now the plan was to keep the keg directly over the hill, and by boring holes in it, the ants would be allowed to enter when out in search of food and thus save me considerable trouble.

Feathered Friends.

It is said, I know not how truly, of the owl family—wise birds that they are!—that they manage to bring up a large family without working so hard as do other feathered folk. They do it in the way of the mother lays two eggs, and sits on them till they are hatched; then she lays one or two more, and lets the warmth of the baby owls hatch them out. Meanwhile the youngsters are growing up, and she has a few more laid, and she has a few more hatched the first one can feed themselves, or at any rate are much less care. Thus she does not have to work herself nearly to death, as do birds who bring out their whole five or six at once. There are many queer things to be said about owls. They are very intelligent as pets in the house, being scarcely ever afraid of anybody. Their way of eating is curious. Sometimes they swallow the mouse, or whatever it may be, whole, and then, after a while, throw up a ball of the fur and bones. Every one who has spent much time in the country has heard owls hoot; even the owl's baby cry is a faint hoot.

The owl is one of the most useful of our feathered friends. He is ready for something to eat just about the time when mice and other little creatures come out to get their supper in the gardens and fields. By destroying numbers of these pests he does great good, and does it in a better way than to be killed and nailed up on a barndoor. Woodpeckers are among our most useful servants. Every one kills thousands of insects in the summer, digging them out of the bark and wood. If they were to stop work many fruit and nut trees would die. Yet because they cut holes in the bark, which scientific men say does not injure the trees, farmers give the birds a bad name, and kill them whenever they can. The more people find out about the uses of the owl, the more they know that birds are almost always the best helpers farmers and gardeners can have. They do, to be sure, sometimes eat fruit, but they have paid for every bit a dozen times over in the insects destroyed.—Christian Union.

For Scrofula

"After suffering for about twenty-five years from scrofula, from the legs and arms, trying various medical courses without benefit, I began to use Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and in three months my cure was complete. Five bottles sufficed to restore me to health."—Bouffard, 327 E. Commerce St., San Antonio, Texas.

Catarrh

"My daughter was afflicted for nearly a year with catarrh. The physician was unable to help her, my pastor recommended Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I followed his advice. Three months' regular treatment with Ayer's Sarsaparilla and Ayer's Pills completely cured her."—Mrs. Louise Rielle, Little Canada, Ware, Mass.

Rheumatism

"For several years, I was troubled with rheumatism, and was unable to do any work. I tried many remedies, but for the last two years, whenever I felt the effects of the rheumatism, I used Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and have not had a spell for a long time."—E. T. Hansborough, Elk Run, Va.

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poles spiked to them, making a fence that was never jumped or forced. It was the cheapest and handsomest fence I ever built. I have never tried it as a pasture fence; nor do I believe it could be made sufficient by itself.

But after such a hedge is four or five feet high, if lined on the outside by a row of cheap posts, with one or two strands of barbed wire, it would probably be respected by ordinary well-fed cattle. The trees should be planted when quite small—say a foot high—and kept shortened in, to make them thick, once a year, soon after the new growth is well started. Stray limbs must be cut back in summer or fall, to keep the surface even and smooth. I have had best success moving pines late in spring when the new growth has pushed out one or two inches; but have succeeded when planted out early in April. I never go to the woods, but select small healthy seedlings standing by themselves in old pastures. The root must not be allowed to dry, and a damp or cloudy day is best for the work.—The Chronicle.

Treatment of Taurus.

The ably edited agriculture of the Tribune is usually to me the most attractive part of the paper, and its teachings in regard to treatment of domestic animals are the most advanced; but I was interested to read the correspondent's suggestion that to make a bull safe should have a sound whipping once or twice a week! The advocate of such a course had had that plan tried on him when a boy what would he have thought of the justice of it? Not to whip a child for being naughty, but for fear that he might be! Now I call such treatment the meanest kind of abuse. It seems to me that any animal trained through fear is far more likely to be treacherous. A successful Jersey breeder, keeping several bulls (one twelve years old), told me they "pet them all."

Some common garden toads had been captured, and were quartered in an old nailkeg. So, in a few days it became necessary to procure food for them. Only one who has tried to provide for thirteen ravenous toads can realize what a task it is. The larger will snap up a delicate morsel, in the way of a fly or worm, leaving the weaker prisoners to go hungry. This will, of course, result disastrously to one's little zoological garden. But a novel plan presented itself. I had been in the habit of digging a mass of earth from a neighboring anthill, and feeding the toads by dropping this mass into the keg. Then the ants began to crawl out the toads would form around in a circle and snap them up. Now the plan was to keep the keg directly over the hill, and by boring holes in it, the ants would be allowed to enter when out in search of food and thus save me considerable trouble.

A Struggle for Existence.

But hardly had I arranged the automatic feeder when the ants set upon the toads in such numbers and with such ferocity that they drove the poor prisoners down into the hollows, and caused them to crawl as if dead. On my return, a half-hour later, I found the ants in complete possession of the keg. Once in a while one of the toads, being neglected for a moment by the victors, would rise up and snap a few morsels, in the shape of fat black ants. But soon one of the lively little tyrants would bite Mr. Toad on some sensitive spot, and he would immediately give up, as if conscious of his inability to cope with his brick little enemies. Had I not removed the prisoners they would without a doubt have been eaten; and I should have had only the cleaned bones remaining as a result of the hope to rid myself of the duty which the naturalist must always meet.—Christian Register.

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