

Mother's Troubles

Mother's unending work and devotion drains and strains her physical strength and leaves its mark in dimmed eyes and careworn expressions—she ages before her time.

Any mother who is weary and languid should start taking

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No Harmful Drugs.

Scott & Borne, Toronto, Ont.

DEPLETION OF POULTRY STOCK NOT WARRANTED.

Judging from the unprecedented heavy deliveries of poultry on the central eastern markets so early in the season, it would appear that farmers and producers generally are not only depleting their flocks unwarrantably, but also rushing them to the market in an unfinished condition. As a result, the current price of chickens is much below normal value at the present time, in comparison with the prices of other meats. This is directly due to the overloading of the market.

With the brisk inquiry for Canadian poultry from Great Britain, it is expected by exporters that the demand for well-finished, good quality stock will be very keen during the coming winter. Besides, there will be good demand for home consumption. The price for well-finished birds continues firm, but with so much poor stock arriving wholly unsuited for either storage or export, many buyers have recently reduced their quotations for all low grades.

The presence of pullets and young fowl has also been noted in many shipments. This is most unfortunate, considering the price of eggs. The very firm prospect for the profitable marketing poultry products points to the necessity of conserving in every possible way all suitable laying and breeding stock. Unless this is done, there will be but little poultry left in a short time on the farms in the central eastern portion of the country. Even though feed is scarce and high, it would pay farmers well to finish the birds before offering them for sale and spread their deliveries over a longer period.

Current receipts to date have consisted mainly of live poultry. The season is now sufficiently advanced, however, to warrant more liberal shipments of dressed poultry. In light of the fact that there will be a considerable movement of Canadian poultry to Great Britain, it is of the utmost importance that all poultry killed on the farms, in addition to being well-finished, be properly killed and dressed. The British market, in fact all large markets prefer poultry bled in the month and dry picked. While killing by dislocation may be preferred by some, the presence of blood in the neck and the resultant discoloration make it unsuitable for storage or export purposes.

Proper and complete bleeding is most essential. Sometimes the arteries of the neck are not completely severed, the bird fails to bleed properly, with the result that the carcass takes on a reddish appearance. With proper attention to details, a useful reputation for Canadian poultry can be established on the British market this year. It is of the greatest importance, therefore, that all poultry marketed be well-finished, well bled and dressed and packed in the most attractive manner possible.

An Easy Capture.

A British chaplain, while searching the battlefield of the Ancre for wounded hidden in the shell craters during the British advance, accompanied by a few soldiers, came upon an isolated trench containing nearly 400 Germans, who ordered the men to file out upon the open ground, preparatory to passing them back with an escort, when the German officer, seeing the small size of the force to which he was surrendering, tried to rally his men and overpower it. He was about to kill the chaplain when a British infantryman shot him dead, whereupon the other Germans again held up their hands and shouted their eagerness to be made prisoners.

German Hopes for Peace Based on Roumania.

Count Albert Apponyi, former Hungarian Premier, said last week that the opening of peace negotiations may perhaps be expected with fair prospects of success in the course of the coming winter. "We cannot expect," he said, "to see peace negotiations opened within the next few weeks while the Roumanian campaign is still undecided. However, I regard our chances for success there as excellent, and once Roumania is crushed I think both sides will be willing to consider the question of peace. Roumania was the Entente's last card and is proving a losing one. We are massing a big army against the Roumanians, and I think that the end will come shortly."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

A Moral Hero.

Among the innumerable heroes that the great war has revealed, there is none who deserves a higher place on the roll than Lieutenant Colonel Elkington of the British army. The newspapers have given his story briefly, but their accounts have done him scant justice.

He entered the army in 1886, became a captain in 1896 and a major in 1901. The last promotion came during the Boer War, in which he took a distinguished part and earned a medal with four clasps. Soon after the present war began he was court-martialed for some offense, the nature of which has not been disclosed, and was cashiered. His dismissal from the service in disgrace carried with it the forfeiture of his treasured military decorations, and seemed to have closed his career forever, not merely as a soldier, but also as a man entitled to the respect of his fellows.

It did nothing of the sort. Colonel Elkington at once crossed the Channel and enlisted under his own name as a private in the famous French Foreign Legion, a military body that included Swis, Swedes, Spaniards, Turks, Armenians and Americans, although the officers were all French. From the very day the war began, the Legion was in the thick of the fighting.

By personal bravery in the field, Colonel Elkington won the Medaille Militaire and the Croix de Guerre. The last is inscribed "Valeur et Discipline," and was pinned upon his breast by one of General Joffre's staff officers. He was severely wounded in battle—his knee was shattered by Maxim gunfire. "I am afraid," he said, referring to what he humorously termed "fragments from France," "that it has put an end to my career in the field"; but he glories in his "experience of twenty-two months in the trenches with a regiment that has gained the reputation of having the finest troops in the world."

His pay as a soldier was at first one sou—that is, one cent—a day, but was afterwards increased to five sous. He never took a higher rank than that of private.

Such a feat of self-redemption deserved and has received its reward. He is again Lieutenant Colonel Elkington in his old regiment, for the sentence of the court-martial has been quashed. His commission has been restored to him, together with the right to wear again his British medals.

Why is the Church Losing Ground?

Even before the war the Church was losing ground in many quarters and nowhere was the backward movement more marked than in England. A clergyman, whose letter is quoted in Public Opinion, endeavors to state the cause of the decline. He says this must be looked for in the lack of courage and faithfulness of the church itself. "We have," he says, "been sadly deficient, clergy and laity alike, in moral courage and spiritual faith. The great organized forces of sin in town and country do not tremble before the local Church as before a vigilant, inveterate and unrelenting foe, which will use all legitimate means to defeat and hamper them."

As one means of meeting the conditions existing the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar square, will be open continuously day and night. It is not proposed at present to hold any services during the night, but bibles, prayer and hymn books will be found in all the pews. But the extension of the hours during which churches remain open will avail little, unless from these churches comes the message that will arrest and hold the attention of the people.

A new battalion for the county of Grey was authorized. Sir Hiram Maxim, the great British gun inventor, is dead.

Jack London, the famous author and traveller, died suddenly.

A big Mohmand army was beaten by British on the Indian frontier.

British troops inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in German East Africa.

Germany claimed the sinking of 3,322,000 tons of ships since the war began.

Several British newspapers decided in favor of increasing their price to the readers.

A meeting at Massey Hall was the first gun in a campaign for Dominion-wide prohibition.

The Duke of Devonshire made his first public appearance to inspect the 202nd (Edmonton) Battalion in Ottawa.

The Countess of Carlisle emptied her wine cellar on the ground and caused a storm amongst the London newspapers.

Canada's exportable surplus of wheat this year is estimated at 99,493,700 bushels; last year it was 264,173,000 bushels.

Mr. Justice Latchford has ruled that there is no appeal from the decisions of the Police Magistrate for convictions registered under the Canada temperance act.

Seven young West Zorra farmers were fined in all \$51 and costs for tarring a neighbor in the presence of his bride, whom they also tied to a post in the barn.

Premier Sir Lomer Gouin said his Government had not been asked to make a grant for the French-Canadian minority in Ontario, and did not intend to make one.

The Furness-Withy Liner Rappahannock, missing several weeks, was sunk by a submarine on her voyage from Halifax to Liverpool. She carried 20,000 barrels of apples as part of her cargo.

The Montreal Board of Control has instructed the City Clerk to get statistics from produce houses as to the cost of food-stuffs, stocks on hand and selling prices with a view to combating the steady rise in the cost of living.

Farm and Garden

IMPROVING FIELD PLANTS.

Corn Readily Lends Itself to Producing New Varieties.

That a farmer can improve his field plants and thus increase the yield of his crops has been proved not only by the numerous experiment stations, but by farmers themselves, according to H. F. Roberts, professor of botany in the Kansas State Agricultural college. Professor Roberts is in charge of the plant genetics work at this station.

"Plant breeding is not practicable on the average farm," says Professor Roberts, "but by selecting and preserving the best types he finds in fields he can get encouraging results. Taking advantage of nature's work in crossing plants, the farmer is able to improve



SOME PRIZE CORN.

his field plants by the process of selection. There is not a single crop plant that does not offer a great many opportunities in this direction.

"Corn probably is the best example of an agricultural plant in which new varieties are produced by natural field crossing. The wind scatters the pollen of some corn plants upon the silks of others in the same or adjoining fields. This natural crossing gives rise to the large number of variations to be found in the average cornfield.

"Any farmer can begin by selecting plants in the cornfield—plants showing superior vigor, stockiness, abundance of foliage, ears at right distance from ground and other equally important points. Any farmer can thus originate his own variety or strain of corn by careful, rigid and continued selection carried on year after year. By selection the farmer is not creating new plants, as is the case in crossing, but he is saving out that which nature has provided as the result of its process of crossing.

"What has been said of corn holds true of wheat, oats, barley and the sorghums so far as selection goes, although there is little, if any, crossing by nature as far as wheat, oats and barley are concerned. It is easy to get a pure strain in working with the smaller cereals, as they are naturally self-fertilized and seldom crossed by nature and consequently generally come true from the seed.

"The sorghums cross freely. Almost any average field of Kafir, milo, feterita and the sweet sorghums shows a variety of plants that are 'off type,' due to natural crossing in the field in previous years."

Stop Those Gullies!

[M. F. Miller, Missouri station.] Small gullies that have started in the field should be stopped by filling them with straw or similar material. If the gully is large it is advisable to plow in soil on top of this material and sow to oats or later to sorghum so that the crop will come up thick and form a strong root mass to bind the soil together.

The proper use of debris for filling and rank growing plants for holding the soil will stop most washes entirely. Eternal vigilance, however, is necessary for complete success.

FARM GARDEN POINTERS

Celery will stand a pretty heavy frost, but it should never be allowed to freeze.

Place cuttings of currants, gooseberry and grape in bundles and bury in dry sand for spring planting.

The perennial sweet pea is an excellent plant for growing on fences and the like. It is perfectly hardy and improves with age.

It is almost impossible to get the garden soil too fertile. Manure the entire surface this fall with manure from pig and sheep pens.

In marketing onions the first essential is properly to grade and clean the bulbs in order that they may present an attractive appearance when offered for sale.

A few tomato plants well set with green fruit, pulled up just before the first frost of the season and hung up in a shed where safe from a frost, will give you ripe tomatoes for weeks.

SECRETS OF SPACE

What Might Be Revealed if Nature Lifted the Veil.

WONDERS OF THE INVISIBLE.

Evidence That What We Call the Universe Is Only a Part of a Far Grander and Perhaps Infinite System of Suns and Worlds and Planets.

Men of science have found reasons for believing that there may be, far off in infinite space, other material systems besides the one visible to us. We seem to be able with modern telescopes to reach the boundaries or farthest limits of the stellar system to which our sun belongs.

It is found that with increase of distance the relative number of stars decreases until, in most directions at least, a point is reached beyond which virtually no more stars can be seen. Then, too, it has been found that the stellar system has a fairly definite shape—a fact which in itself implies boundaries. The shape is that of a vast spiral, with curving arms surrounding a central agglomeration. If you will imagine floating in the middle of the room where you sit a roughly globular swarm of bright particles, distributed with a fair degree of uniformity as to distance from one another, and then outside of the swarm surrounding it, but separated from it by a space which is nearly but not quite empty, an irregular spiral ring of similar shining particles, you will have before you a picture of one of the latest astronomical conceptions of the form of the visible universe.

The central swarm will represent the assemblage of stars of which our sun is a modest member, while the enveloping spiral will represent the immense system of the Milky way, whose stars are vastly more numerous than those composing the globular swarm. The stars of the Milky way are the most distant members of the entire system, which appears to be shut in all around by black space. Viewed from afar off in the ebon depths of that space, this universe of ours would resemble a phosphorescent jellyfish, with faintly sparkling tentacles, adrift in the sea of immensity.

This being so, the question naturally arises, May there not be, or must there not be, an indefinite number of other such systems scattered through the limitless expanse of space? That question would forever remain a matter of pure conjecture if we did not have certain very suggestive facts which seem to indicate that it ought to be answered in the affirmative.

The facts of which I speak are objects of visual observation. But that does not necessarily make them parts of the "visible universe," because they appear to be unconnected with it and to lie beyond its boundaries.

These objects are known as spiral nebulae. The photographs that have been made of them in the past few years are simply amazing. The forms of many are surprisingly like that which has been described above as characterizing the stellar system. They have central agglomerations with enveloping spirals. They have knots of light which recall the globular clusters of stars found in the visible universe, but they are so distant that no separate stars can be detected in them.

They look like masses of more or less condensed glowing gas, but the spectroscopic shows that the light coming from them is not that which is characteristic of gaseous nebulae, but that which belongs to true stars. The inference is that these wonderful objects may actually be other universes lying out in the ocean of space beyond our shores.

This inference is strengthened by what we know of the distance of some of these objects. The utmost diameter of the great spiral of the Milky way probably does not exceed from 4,000 to 6,000 "parsecs," or from 900 to 1,200 million times the earth's distance from the sun. A parsec, which corresponds to a parallax of one second of arc, equals about 19,000,000,000,000 (nineteen trillion) miles. But some of the spiral nebulae appear to be at least 10,000 parsecs distant.

If that is so there exists between them and the outer frontiers of the visible universe a gap far broader than the entire diameter of that universe. It can hardly be supposed, then, that they are outlying parts of or attendants upon our universe, but it is much more reasonable to conclude that they are other universes constructed on a similar plan, but so far away that as viewed with our utmost visual powers, our mightiest telescopes, they are but gleaming specks! Perhaps the nearest of these strange objects is the Andromeda nebula, which, in a small telescope, looks like a faint spindle-shaped wisp.—Garrett P. Serviss in New York Journal.

Have a Cheery Kitchen.

One should bear in mind that the kitchen is the engine room of the home, and the comfort and happiness of the family depend upon its running smoothly and well. Lack of system, inadequate equipment, inconvenient arrangement of furniture and utensils and the total absence of beauty and cheer are the things that make drudgery of housework. Servants are as susceptible to surroundings as their mistresses, and the little aids to housework, such as cheerful and pretty furnishings, do much to secure a more loyal interest and co-operation. A harmonious environment in a kitchen will go a long way toward making a happy home.—Harriet Sisson Gillespie in Mother's Magazine.

Weakness of the Great.

The two greatest men who appear in "Julius Caesar"—namely, Caesar himself and Cicerio—are allotted but minor parts in Shakespeare's play, and to each with daring originality the dramatist has attributed a physical defect, for the existence of which history supplied him with no evidence. Caesar, for instance, confesses to deafness, bidding Antony—

"Come on my right hand, for this ear is deaf," while Brutus speaks of Cicerio's "ferret and fiery eyes," as if no one could fail to note them. Respect for those two immortals was no doubt thus diminished, but by showing them as not above human weaknesses Shakespeare made them more easily realized.—London Opinion.

Smiling at Breakfast.

One should always wear a smile at breakfast. If you are in a good humor at breakfast you will be merry and bright all day. The breakfast face is the most important face to cultivate. The other faces take care of themselves, for if the face is pleasant and easy to look upon in the morning it will improve as the day goes on. But if the breakfast face is hard, scowling and forbidding it becomes set in its disagreeable form, and it takes hours for it to smooth out into a smile, and that smile is of the sickly, half-hearted nature that only expands the heart slightly. It is worth trying.

Not Good for the Gander.

The following sign is displayed in a certain bathhouse:

"This Place Is Closed at 1 p. m. Sunday So We Can Go Home and Take Our Baths."

Which is very similar to the note a traveling man found on the door of a luncheon in a small town:

"Gone Home to Dinner."

The Largest Painting.

"Paradise," by Tintoretto, is the largest painting in the world. It is eighty-four feet wide and thirty-three and a half feet high. It is now in the Doge's palace, Venice.

A Change.

"We must economize," he said emphatically.

"I'm so glad!" his wife exclaimed. "You take the announcement more good naturedly than usual."

"Yes; it's pleasant to hear you use the plural pronoun. Ordinarily when there is any economizing needed you expect me to do it all."

Feminine Confidence.

"I shall never scold my husband again for spending so much time at the club."

"Tell me about it."

"Well, last night a burglar got into the house, and my husband knocked him senseless with a poker. I've heard several men speak of him as a poker expert. He has evidently been practicing at the club for just such an emergency."

The future is purchased by the present.—Johnson.

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Another Skin Game.

Sim Ford said at a recent supper: "These attacks on New York's dishonesty and extortion usually come from pikers."

The latest attack comes from Peleg Pease of Croydon-Four Corners, up in New Hampshire. Peleg said the other day at the general store:

"I bin to York, and it's a fine town, but crooked."

"How crooked?" asked the store-keeper.

"Wal," said Peleg, "I bought Marthy a 2-cent paper o' pins down to York, an' on the train ride home I counted 'em. They wuz marked 1,000, but, by crinns, they wuz fourteen short by actual count!"—Los Angeles Times.

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