

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

Published weekly by  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited).

JOHN WELD, Manager.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"  
Winnipeg, Man.

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the percentage had risen to 19.4. During the last ten years the number of swine affected with tuberculosis has increased practically 100 per cent. Owing to the fact that swine are usually slaughtered before the disease gains much headway in them, the loss is not in proportion to the total number of condemnations. The disease usually finds lodgment in the head, tongue and throat, but the number of swine affected is a good index to the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis in the country, for it is from cattle usually that the infestation comes.

In the United States, during seven months previous to February 1, 1920, 363,244 cattle were tested in connection with accredited herds, and slightly over 4 per cent. reacted.

This question of tuberculosis in Canada's live stock should not be viewed altogether from the standpoint of monetary loss. There is a steadily increasing menace to health and human lives, and every citizen, whether he be a producer or consumer, is only safeguarding his own interests when he throws himself wholeheartedly into this cause which has for its object the reduction of disease in Canada's live stock.

### An Unique Experiment.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

The newspapers are not as interesting these days as they were about four or five years ago. We're not anxious to see another world-war just yet, but something like that has the effect of making one anticipate the coming of the mailman each day in a way that we cannot feel in the calm that follows the storm. Oh no, it's not very calm yet, we know that, but the clouds are beginning to break a little, and in the course of a few years, probably, the sun will be shining again. But the fact remains that it requires an effort just now to get really interested in the papers, unless it be that part of them that contains the market reports. These still hold their charm—for the producer.

However, there is an oasis in every desert, they say, and when we reach it we appreciate it all the more because of the dry sands over which we have travelled in our search. A case in point is the story of Fannie Hurst, a well-known authoress of New York, who has just lately announced her marriage on the fifth anniversary of her wedding. Five years ago she married a Mr. Danielson with the understanding that it was an experiment, pure and simple, and that, if it didn't

turn out better than the average thing of the kind, it would be called off, and they would be no worse friends.

But the unexpected happened, as usual, and Fannie Hurst has come to the conclusion that it's safe now to take the public into her confidence and tell them that she's on the sea of matrimony for a life-long voyage, and in a ship of her own designing, at that. She seems to have been taking note of some of the wrecks she has been passing in the course of her travels, and it probably aroused in her the resolve to steer clear of the rocks on which her sisters had come to grief. Anyway, she states her case partly as follows:—

"Being firmly of the opinion that nine out of ten of the alliances I saw about me were merely endurance tests, I made certain resolutions concerning what my marriage should not be.

"I decided, first, that married life should not interfere with my studies, or my work as a writer. My husband and I decided to live separately, for the time being, and to see one another only as we felt inclined, not as a matter of duty.

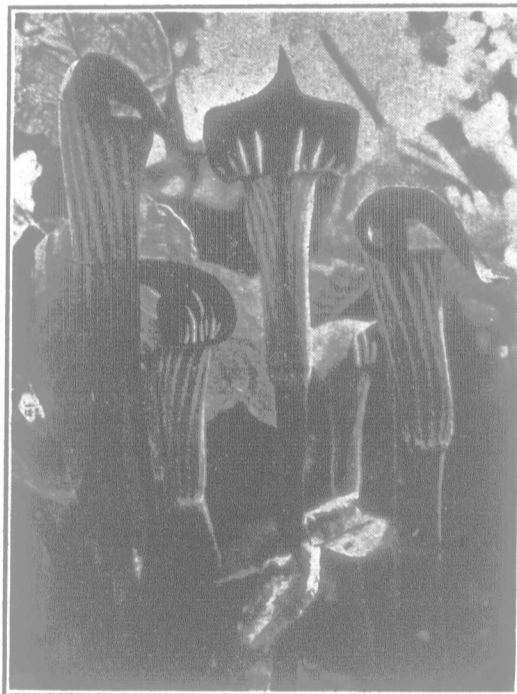
"We decided that seven breakfasts a week opposite to one another might prove tiresome. Our average is two.

"We decided that always being invited to the same social gatherings would end in the usual married wrangle of dragging one another to places we did not want to go. We have kept our separate group of friends.

"We decided that the custom of a woman casting aside the name that had become as much a part of her personality as the color of her eyes, had neither rhyme nor reason. I was born Fannie Hurst and I expect to die Fannie Hurst.

"We decided that accounting for our time to one another would prove troublesome, so for five years we have enjoyed our personal liberty just as we did before marriage.

"We decided, that since Nature so often springs a trap as her means of getting two people tangled up in matrimony, we would try out marriage for a year and if, at the end of that time it had proved itself a liability instead of an asset, we would quietly separate and no one be the wiser or the worse. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. The one year stretched into five and here we are, announcing instead of annulling."



Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

Our authoress thinks that this experiment could hardly have been tried any place but in New York, and we are inclined to agree with her. It is the city of original ideas and actions. Also, it is a city where people cannot very well pay much attention to the affairs of their neighbors. There are too many of them to keep track of. It's a good place to realize ideals—or to have them smashed.

Now it isn't to be expected that many of our young men and women will follow the example of Fannie Hurst and her husband. They'd probably get into more trouble than they were trying to escape, if they did. But many of the conditions that are often found in connection with domestic life might be changed for the better if some of the ideas expressed above were put into practice.

One thing is evident from what our authoress says, and that is that she and her husband retained their respect for one another by the method she has outlined. And mutual respect is the only sure foundation on which to build. Without it those who have undertaken to live together for the rest of their natural lives have said good-bye to happiness, to put it mildly.

Conditions on the farm are not always the most favorable for keeping this respect for one another that is so necessary. We probably see too much of one another, if Fannie Hurst is right. Familiarity breeds contempt, I suppose, and appearances count. It's pretty hard for the farmer, or his wife, to be always looking their best, or to be wearing the latest style clothes. It's hard to even be always neat. But it's in that direction that the answer to the problem lies. When a woman wears a dress that looks like "a bran-sack that has been run through a threshing machine," as I heard it put once, she loses any claim she might have

had to the respect of her husband. And, of course, it works the other way as well. When a farmer goes around with his trousers hitched up by one suspender and his boots laced with binder twine, his wife has a right to wonder what has become of the man who induced her to leave the perfectly good home she had with her father.

There are other ways of keeping the respect of our friends; and ways perhaps more important than those we have mentioned. Such as honorable dealing and the practice of the various virtues mentioned in the decalogue. But we haven't time to go into this phase of the question just at present, and it will probably be enough, for the time being, if we look into the merits of the conditions we have spoken of. And if in doubt go to Fannie Hurst.

### Nature's Diary.

BY A. BROOKER KLUGH, M. A.

#### The Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

A plant of much interest found in our spring woods is the Jack-in-the-Pulpit or Indian Turnip. This plant is a member of the Arum Family to which the well-known Calla-lily and the Skunk Cabbage also belong.

"The Pulpit", that is the sheath which surrounds the central portion, is termed the spathe, and is really a leaf modified for the protection of the flowers. The central portion, ("Jack"), is called the spadix and on this the flowers are borne. Sometimes the spadix bears flowers of both sexes, sometimes of one sex only, the percentages of the different kinds usually being: staminate plants 54 per cent., pistillate plants 36 per cent and plants in which the spadix bears both stamens and pistils 10 per cent. A plant does not always bear the same kind of flowers from year to year, neither does it annually alternate from pistillate to staminate, as has often been stated. The amount of food stored in the corm (the underground bulb-like part of the stem) does not determine the sex of the flowers, as has been quite generally supposed, but Pickett, who has studied this species extremely carefully, finds that a shortage of water at the time of bud-formation, and the resultant checking of growth, causes the formation of staminate spikes.

Pollination in this species is brought about by small insects, mainly flies and beetles, which appear to seek the spathes as suitable places in which to hide. From the spathes containing staminate flowers these insects can easily emerge, as there is plenty of room between the wall of the spathe and the spadix, but egress from the pistillate plants is not so easy on account of the narrowness of the space towards the bottom and many insects remain in these spathes until they die.

The buds of the spadix, spathe and leaves for next year's growth are formed on the tip of the corm, just beneath the base of the present leaf-stalks, in June, and when the plant first appears above ground in the spring it looks like a sharp mottled peg. This peg consists of an outer sheath, within which the leaves are rolled lengthwise to a point, and within these rolled leaves is the spathe, also rolled lengthwise, and containing the developing spadix. At the time of flowering the leaves are not fully expanded but are flaccid and wrinkled.

Staminate plants develop more early than pistillate ones, and when both kinds of flowers are borne on a spadix the staminate ones mature first. During early summer the spathe withers and falls away, revealing the green, rounded, shining berries, and the leaves are fully expanded. In suitable locations, that is, where there is plenty of moisture, the leaves of mature plants often reach very large dimensions, and along the borders of woodland streams I have found plants with leaves over three feet in height. By August both the spathe and leaves have withered, and only the spadix, with its bright scarlet berries is left. These berries are not any more crowded on the spike than are the ovaries at the time of flowering, because as the fruit grows the spike elongates and enlarges by the increase of its air-spaces. The fruits are carried by birds, mice and chipmunks, and are dispersed in this manner.

Seedlings of the Jack-in-the-Pulpit produce a single, simple ovate or cordate leaf the first year. In their second year they produce a single trifoliate leaf, and in subsequent years they may have one or two, and sometimes three, trifoliate leaves.

This species, like all our spring-flowering plants, is a perennial, and the underground portion is a large flattened corm with a circle of roots round its upper border. This corm gives off little corms, so that the species spreads in this vegetative manner as well as by seeds, and this fact accounts for the usual occurrence of this plant in clumps. These little corms, which measure about half an inch in diameter, produce a leaf the next year, and bear leaves only for the following three years; in the fourth, fifth or sixth year they produce a staminate spadix and spathe.

The corm of the Jack-in-the-Pulpit is extremely acrid to the taste, and this biting property is not due to some peppery substance, but to the presence of minute, sharp-pointed crystals of Calcium oxalate, which penetrate the tongue and the mucous membrane of the mouth. These sharp spicules, which are known as raphides, are produced in special cells, and though they are found in nearly all parts of the plant, such as the leaf and the leaf-stalk, they are particularly abundant in the corm. When the corm is boiled these sharp raphides are dissolved so that it then becomes edible and it is because of its use in this condition by the aboriginal tribes of North America that the plant received the name of Indian Turnip.

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