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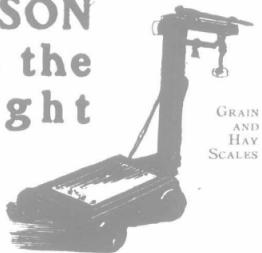
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BOOK REVIEW. MEADOWS AND PASTURES—A NEW BOOK.

A new book entitled "Meadows and Pastures," by Joseph E. Wing, has just been issued by the Gazette Press. This handsome volume comprises 418 pages, with upwards of 60 illustrations. The book represents the work of years of investigation and observations made in every State of the Union, as well as in foreign lands, together with the extended experience with common grasses which Mr. Wing himself has had.

The need of a book on this subject for America is quite evident, and the subject was first suggested to the author when riding through the meadows of England one day in May, 1907. The well-kept pastures of the Old Land are famous the world over, and the contrast with those of America suggested the writing of the book.

"Pastures feed mankind; they are the bed-rock of civilization. Cows are the foster mothers of the human race. They are alchemists, transforming the green carpet of nature into milk yellow with cream, food for mankind. The pastures clothe mankind, and the races who wear wool dominate the world. While the sheep comforts mankind and the cow nourishes, the horse makes man what he is—strong, swift, bold and daring, and all this comes from pasture."

The importance of pasture is seen from the foregoing passage, and we very often do not esteem meadows and pastures as we should. It is the purpose of the book to bring before the people the importance of these crops, and the methods of improving them. It is stated that an acre of blue grass has produced 500 pounds of beef in Virginia, while, with a 40-bushel crop of corn, which Mr. Wing states is above the average, fewer pounds of either beef or pork would result. Little work has been done by the experiment stations with the grasses, especially by way of holding and feeding meadows, and this book is of value in this respect.

All the commoner grasses (Gramineae) are dealt with in the first section of the book, in which it is pointed out that many of the grasses listed as useful are not in use, and the reason given is that farmers have followed the lines of least resistance, and, as a rule, found the plants which give them the best results. The sowing of clovers and grasses together is put forward as being a very desirable mixture. Timothy is the most popular American grass, and is most nourishing when cut in bloom, or very shortly after. Brome grass resists drouth. Orchard grass is one of the best grasses, and yields over 3 1/2 tons of hay per acre under favorable conditions. Kentucky blue grass is set forward as one of the most universal grasses for lawns, roadsides and pastures. Canada blue grass does not require so rich a soil as Kentucky blue grass, and it will often crowd out the latter on poor soil, while the reverse occurs on rich soil. Grasses which are considered bad weeds, are quack grass, nimblewill and Bermuda grass.

The phenomenon of nitrogen accumulation and fixation by the legumes, is capably handled, and the importance of seed inoculation is emphasized. Legumes grow best on soils containing an abundance of carbonates of lime, because this is conducive to bacterial life and growth. Humus is also given as an aid in producing nitrifying bacteria, consequently the need for organic fertilizer on soil devoted to legumes. Legumes and grasses go together because the fertilizers used by the one are furnished to some extent by the other. The clovers and alfalfa are the most important fodder legumes, and each variety is discussed separately, everything being considered from the amount and time of seeding to the cutting and curing. Red clover, says Mr. Wing, has done more than any other legume to benefit American agriculture. By stating the amounts of seed required per acre, and the kind of soil best suited for each crop, together with methods of harvesting, pasturing, fertilizing, etc., much useful information is given which is very valuable, especially with the more common crops.

Alfalfa has considerable space devoted to it. Bone-meal or acid phosphate—300 lbs. per acre—gives good results as fertilizer for this crop, which should not be pastured or cut the fall after seeding. A very useful section of the book is

that devoted especially to the care and management of meadows and pastures. Contrary to general practice, Mr. Wing advocates giving the meadows the best soil, claiming that infertile soil can be made yield better returns as a result of tillage than if left to meadow. Sheep and underdrainage, lime and manure, are all advocated as useful to the pasture if properly used.

The entire book is a very practical work, and is well written, containing a variety of valuable information in a concise and readable form, equalled by few, if any, other books on the subject. Those interested in the subject and wishing to purchase this valuable volume, can secure copies through this office, at \$1.50 per copy, postpaid.

An Irishman and a Scotchman were discussing the horrors of living in a prohibition State, when the Irishman remarked:

"Sure, an' you might get used to it after a while. Ye know they say a camel can go eight days without drinkin'."

"Hoot, mon!" retorted the other, "it's little ye know about the Campbells when ye say that. There is nae one o' them could go eight hours wi'out a drap o' something."

Which ended the discussion.—New York Times.

UPON THE PUN.

The best pun in the English language, says the Washington Post, is Tom Hood's:

"He went and told the sexton,
And the sexton tolled the bell."

The worst pun is that of the man who fell into a ditch, and rose with the remark, "How very ditch-tressing!"

Dr. Johnson said that the pun was the lowest order of wit; but to this Goldsmith replied, "The pun, in other words, is the foundation of wit, eh?"

Every Latin master likes to tell his boys two puns. The first is a punning derivation of restaurant—"Res, a thing, taurus, a bull; a bully thing." The other is a derivation of virgin—"Vir, a man; gin, a trap; a man-trap."

Among newspaper humorists the pun is dying out. In the old days, the good old days, the Burlington Hawkeye man and the Norristown Herald man and the Arkansas Traveller man would pun at each other like this:

"We don't care a straw what Shakespeare said—a rose by any other name would not smell as wheat."—Arkansas Traveller.

"We have made an oat of the above."—Burlington Hawkeye.

"Such puns are barely tolerable; they amaze us; they arouse our righteous corn and they turn the public taste a-rye."—Norristown Herald.

THE DECEITFULNESS OF LOOKS.

One day I was travelling in a car when a woman came in whose countenance was the least attractive I ever saw in an honest and respectable-looking person. She was of the elderly, middle-aged, dried-up type; withered skin, pinched lips, which looked as if they had not kissed anyone for twenty years, cold eyes which had forgotten how to smile, the whole person frigid; virtuous, no doubt, to an uncomfortable degree, but unlovable. Such would have been the verdict had one been asked to draw a character from the externals. But as this passed through my mind, I mused that probably those unlovely lines on the face had a totally different significance, for I am not a believer in character being easy to read from a few physical externals. At this moment a poor young working woman struggled up the steps of the car with an infant in her arms, and a wee tot blubbering at her feet. The car was packed, and we sat at the door. Immediately the unattractive woman rose to her feet, took the young mother by the shoulders and kindly pushed her into the vacant seat. Then she stooped to the weeping child, spoke to him gently but briskly, patted him and gave him a sweetie, and continued to stand just outside the door, smiling—and it would almost have been called a "sour" smile—at the little family group.—Scottish Farmer.

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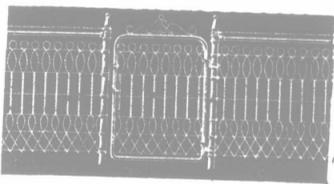
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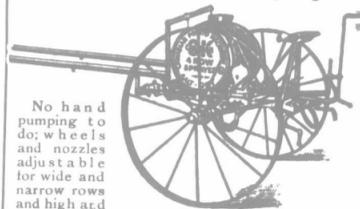


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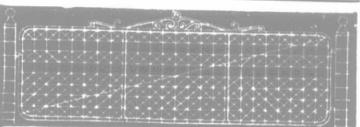
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