

Your Gawky Boy.

That gawky boy of yours—ungainly, gaunt, shy, unprepossessing, as he is,—writes Henry A. Shute in the *March Delineator*. You nag him. You laugh at him and ridicule him. Did you ever realize how it hurts? You ought to realize it, for it is not long since you knew how it felt. You would have stood pain like a man, and so does your boy. You would have borne privation like a stoic, and so does your boy, and there would have been a grim sort of enjoyment in it, for the joy of resistance is fully awake at fourteen.

But you could not bear ridicule, and he cannot, and yet there is scarcely a day when you do not cause him sharp discomfort.

The boy's mother never does this. She loves every awkward movement of her boy. She loves his long legs, and she loves to hear his raucous voice. She smiles at it, too, and at him, and it is a smile of genuine amusement; but there is love in the smile, and love in her eyes, and he knows it, and adores her for it.

If he becomes depressed and despondent, he confides his troubles in his dog, which sits in front of him gazing at him with an almost human expression of sympathy, and puts his paw on his master's knee.

A bit unfortunate, isn't it, that your own boy is obliged to depend on his mother and his dog for sympathy and affection? He gets none from you, and but little from his brothers and sisters. It is true, isn't it?

My friend, if you paid as much personal attention to the proper development of your boy as you do in raising the two-minute trotter, or the blue-ribbon Guernsey, or the Black Strain Jubilee of Orpington, or in beating bogy, or in your game of whist, you would be astonished at the results.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Glass water pipes are used in Germany.

A locomotive engine which consumes all its own smoke and waste steam, allowing none to escape into the open air, is now in use in Belgium.

Since they were first known to Europeans, the mines of Mexico have produced over four thousand million dollars worth of the precious metals.

A promising new fruit from Uruguay is described as having the size of an apricot and the shape of an apple, a bright red and yellow color when ripe, a delicate perfume and an extremely agreeable taste.

There is a continuous increase in the number of immigrants coming to Canada. The total number for the last seven months is nearly fifty per cent greater than for the same period ending with January of last year; and it is expected that the total number to arrive in 1907 will

be fifty per cent more than the number of arrivals in 1906. While exaggerated reports of the very severe winter through which we have passed may deter some, it is expected that the number coming from the British Islands will be greater than ever before.

The failure of last year's crops in the valley of the Volga has brought famine to whole provinces of the Russian Empire lying north of the Caspian Sea. The Russian government is doing what it can do to relieve the distress; but funds are exhausted, and it has been obliged to ask for help from abroad.

The new parliament has not brought peace to Persia. The revolutionary movement is said to be spreading; and there is much disorder, especially at Teheran, where the parliament is in session, the populace refusing to acknowledge the authority of either the parliament or the Shah.

The first elections to parliament under the new constitution of the Transvaal have taken place, and the colony is now under representative government.

The International Exposition at Jamestown, Virginia, where the first English settlement on this continent was established, will be opened with imposing ceremonies on the 25th of April, the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing.

A new ice breaking steamer, the *Lady Grey*, has been built in England for the Canadian Government, for service on the St. Lawrence River, to maintain an open channel to the sea during the winter months.

A battle in the air is no longer among the remote possibilities of the future. It is possible to-day. The British Government has for months past been making experiments looking to the formation of a fleet of airships, and men are being trained to manage them. The plans are said to include the use of kites as observatory stations, dirigible balloons for transport, and aeroplanes for actual fighting.

Another war has begun in Central America. Nicaragua has declared war against Honduras, and one or more of the other little republics will probably be involved. Disputed territory and border raids are the immediate cause; but the possibility of some one state absorbing the others and founding a powerful Central American nation is always borne in mind.

It has long been known that the leaves of some of our wild cherries, notably our black cherry, though perfectly harmless when fresh, are more or less poisonous when wilted. This is due to the development of prussic acid in the drooping leaves. An English botanist in India has discovered that the same thing occurs in other plants under rare conditions; and mysterious poisonings of farm stock may be traced to some ordinarily wholesome fodder plants becoming suddenly poisonous.

The Ontario government is providing for the teaching of agriculture in all the county high schools of the province.

A German scientific expedition has discovered in Central Asia a large collection of ancient manuscripts in different languages and dialects, including one or more languages hitherto unknown to modern students. It is probable that some important ancient writings will be found among them.