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fourth of 1 per cent. Fruit attains its maximum in September, when it amounts to 22 per cent of the whole food, but the average for the year is only 10 per cent. The seeds of weeds constitute the bulk of the diet of the linnet, and in August, the month of least consumption, amount to about 64 per cent of the food. The average for the year is 86 per cent.

From the foregoing it is evident that whatever the linnet's sins may be, grain eating is not one of them. In view of the great complaint made against its fruit-eating habit, the small quantity found in the stomachs taken is somewhat of a surprise. But it must be remembered that the stomach contents do not tell the whole story. When a bird takes a single peck from a cherry or an apricot, it spoils the whole fruit, and in this way may ruin half a dozent in taking a single meal. It is safe to say that the fruit pulp found in the stomach does not represent more than one-fifth of what is actually destroyed.

That the linnets are persistent and voracious eaters of early fruits, especially cherries and apricots, every tourist in California will bear testimony. It is true that it is serious no one will deny. It is noticeable, however, that the earliest varieties are the ones most affected; also, that in large orchards the damage is not perceptible while in small plantations the whole crop is frequently destroyed.

When Hiram Missed the Mark

(Continued from page 12)

Her voice stopped suddenly as she entered the kitchen, and with a sudden recollection Hiram arose and followed her. The key to the pantry was still in his pocket. He drew it out and then halted, facing his wife, and the two stood staring at each other.

Strange sounds were issuing from behind the closed pantry door. Hiram drew where, like the breath of an asthmatic hog, and ending in a repeated at regular intervals.

Hiram strode across the room, unlocked the pantry door, and jerked it open, then stood gazing blankly at the scene within.

The room presented a littered and mussed appearance, in direct contrast to its usual tidy order, while seated with his back against the wall, with his head thrown back and mouth wide open, was the much-tattered and badly soiled figure of a man.

There were crumbs in his grizzled beard; his pockets bulged, and even in sleep his features wore a blissful and well-fed grin.

Hiram's disgust was all contained in one sentence: "The same old tramp."

He stepped forward wrathfully, seized the intruder by his jacket collar, and dragged him to his knees. "Open the door, Emily," he ordered. His startled wife obeyed, and the tramp was assisted from the house.

After some brief but busy moments Hiram returned to find his wife standing in the pantry door, holding in her hands a plate on which were the remains of a large and beautiful frosted cake, whose crumbled fragments still emitted a most appetizing odor.

"I'm very sorry, Hiram," she remarked demurely. "It was your birthday cake."

Hiram's face was already flushed from his exertions, yet it reddened perceptibly as his sheepish eyes met the quiet one of his wife.

"Emily," he returned irritably, "I guess I've been pretty much of a fool."

And Emily's reply was a wise little smile.—Farm and Home.

Appreciated Labor Savers

Mrs. J. T. Clark, Victoria Co., Ont.

WHEN reading Farm and Dairy a few weeks ago I noticed you asked for letters from women telling of the labor savers they had in their homes. At the time I thought "Why, I have nothing worth while writing about," but like my blessings I needed to count them before I appreciated what I had.

My first purchase a few years ago was a good sewing machine, which has been a big help to me; moreover, I came a double boiler that solved a knotty problem of how to help milk in the morning and cook the porridge for breakfast. The same year I invested in a Chatham incubator. I have used it for several years, sometimes with good success and other times not very good; but yet it has saved me a lot of work looking after the hens, besides providing me with more spending money than I otherwise would have had.

Two years ago I planned on a fruit raiser in California but was frustrated; so with the money I expected to use for my trip, I purchased a portable bath-tub, a vacuum cleaner and carpet sweepers combined, also a set of good ironing boards. I was disappointed, as anyone who does not go on a visit very often will understand, but my purchases helped me forget my disappo-

I also have a washing machine, although not the latest improved, but I would not want to be without it. Another thing I consider a big help in the home is the rural telephone.

A person does not realize its worth till the line is out of business for a day or two, then its aid is certainly appreciated.

Last, but not least, is a good organ. Some will say "I do not see how it helps." I will tell you. When a person feels like having a fit of blues and sits down and plays some long or sings one of the good hymns it drives the blues away.

Miles of Steps Saved

"Turn Ann," York Co., Ont.

HERE I am, at the tail-end of the "Utility Contest," but oh, what a busy month is December! "dumb waiter," or "lift," and that piece of furniture is my joy and pride. People admire it. "What is this, a china cabinet?" Then I open the door and reveal the shelves full of eatables. "Oh, a dumb waiter! Well done for you!" It is a handsome piece of furniture, the cabinet being made of southern pine, and shining with the natural grain of the wood.

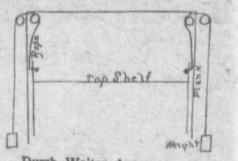
showing. It stands against the wall, beside the "vellar door, so that the shelves when down are close to the cellar steps, and just a step from the swing shelf, the bread box, and in fact far from the reservoir for all the things to be eaten; that fill a farm cellar.

In the dining-room it is only two or three steps from the table, so it is a step saver. In the cold weather it is a food cupboard, generally stationary. There is always a current of fresh air around the shelves, so that there is no stale odor. But in the summer, its shelves, laden with food, or batches of pies or jars of fruit, carry all safely down to the cool lower regions, saving several trips in the preparation or clearing of each meal.

The cabinet is six feet high, three feet two inches wide and two feet deep, neatly finished at the top with a moulding. The door has a neat frame and fastening. The carpenter made the cabinet at his shop, and brought it ready to set up. He cut a

hole in the floor at the desired place. Two uprights of iron and a half inch plank extending from near the top of the cabinet to the cellar floor fit into the ends of the hole, and the board joining them at the top has a small pulley on the lower side of each end, also a pulley on the outside of the plank. A frame containing four shelves fits into this larger stationary frame. Strong rope is fastened into the boards at the top shelf, passes over each pulley, and down the outside of each plank, and end in a weight attached to each of the two ropes. This is the clear in the accompanying diagram.

It cost less than \$10.00. How did I get it? I had planned the position years before I got it. When the carpenter were working at the barn building a shed, I showed them where I wanted the waiter, measurements were taken, and during the winter the



Dumb Waiter Arrangement.

Junber was bought and the work was done, and well done. It is a step saver for which we are thankful.

A Valuable Scrap Book

THE people in a rural district who throw their homes open to the young folks of the neighborhood are doing much for the social life of their community. In the home where such social gatherings are held rather frequently, it is sometimes quite a problem to find something new in the line of entertainment. In glancing through various periodicals, we often come across ideas that appeal to us as being very good, and we think we will store such an idea away in our memory book. Somehow, however, it gets away from us and the very time we wish to make use of the idea, in all probability we have forgotten it altogether or have such a hazy idea of it that we cannot put it into force with any degree of satisfaction. Here is an idea that may help us out.

Hunt up an old book that is of no further use, probably one of those agricultural bulletins that come into the house and which are now out of date. Some such book and a pot of paste or glue, is all the equipment necessary for the working out of this suggestion.

It is surprising how many things one comes across in the line of entertaining ideas when they are on the alert for them when they have a place for them when they are found. One good place in which to find these ideas is in the Amusement columns of Farm and Dairy. As fast as a bright suggestion appears in any paper that comes to the home, the best plan is to clip it right on the spot and either paste it into our scrap book or slip it in an envelope and make a pasting box occasionally when a considerable number have been accumulated.

There are different ways in which this scrap book idea may be worked. If desired we might have sections for children's games only, another for indoor and outdoor amusements for grownups, and we could also devote part to plans for refreshments and possibly home-made prizes and souvenirs. Such a scrap book in the home should do much to keep the social life of a community alive and save a great deal of worry and planning as well.