



SKIM-MILK AS FEED FOR CALVES, PIGS AND POULTRY

Dairy By-Products as Feed for Live Stock---First of Three Articles

LESSON VI. August 5, 1917. Manasseh's Sin and Repentance.—2 Chronicles 33; 1-20.

COMMENTARY.—I. A wicked king (vs. 1-10). 1-8. Manasseh was the son of Hezekiah and Hephzibah, and was born three years after his father's extraordinary recovery from illness. At the early age of twelve years he succeeded his father upon the throne of Judah and reigned for fifty-five years. In his early years as king he must have been under the influence of advisers and it is reasonable to think that they were ungodly and idolatrous, and Manasseh was turned from the good way which his father had taken, and "did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, like unto the abominations of the heathen" (v. 2). He restored the idolatrous worship which Hezekiah had zealously destroyed. He went so far as to build heathen altars in the house of the Lord, thus rivaling Ahab in his destruction of the holy place. He set up groves, of carved wooden pillars, for the worship of Asherah which involved the most degrading and abominable practices. He worshipped Moloch, the god of the Ammonites. It is believed that a part of this worship consisted of placing children in the arms of a brazen image of the god, while the image was made hot by fires burning within it, and thus they were sacrificed to this god. Manasseh employed magic and witchcraft, giving himself up to the superstitions and deceptions of the heathen. His course was so wicked and he was so persistent in it that the Lord was greatly displeased with him, and the conditional promise which had been given to the nation could not be longer fulfilled, unless there should be a change in Judah's attitude toward the Lord. 9. Worse than the heathen—Manasseh was Israel's king and wielded a powerful influence. His reign was long, and his efforts and example were unintercepted bad for the people. Josephus says, "He barbarously slew all the righteous men that were among the Hebrews, nor would he spare the prophets, for he every day slew some of them." The nobles who took their part were thrown headlong from the rocky cliffs of Jerusalem (Psa. 141:6, 7).—Stanley, 10. The Lord spoke—By the prophets. Possibly Isaiah and Micah were among them. Tradition says that Manasseh caused Isaiah to be sawn asunder. II. Severe punishment (vs. 11-14). The Lord brought upon them—Judah was not wholly free from Assyrian domination, and the latter nation defied full submission on Judah's part. "The Lord brought" the king of Assyria against Manasseh in the sense that he withdrew his protection from Judah and permitted him to carry out his purpose among the thorns—in chains.—R. V. Assyrian kings sometimes took a hook into the nostrils of their captives, and so led them about. The practice is illustrated on many Assyrian reliefs in the British Museum.—Cam. Bib. fetters—Fetters of brass on hands and feet, to Babylon.—It is a confirmation of the sacred history to remember that just at this time Babylon, and not Nineveh, was the seat of the Assyrian Government. Esarhaddon, who mentioned Manasseh among his tributaries, was the only king of Assyria who held his court at Babylon. It was not merely that Manasseh might be made to suffer for his sins that the Lord used these severe measures with him, but that he might be brought to a state of penitence and might be made a righteous man. III. Penitence and Pardon (vs. 12-20). 12. Besought the Lord—Manasseh knew about the true God and hence had sinned against great light. In his exile and captivity he thought of the extremely wicked course he had taken. He realized that it was because of his persistent and high-handed rebellion against God that his great calamity was brought against him. When he came to himself, he called upon the Lord, humbled himself greatly—"When the rod spake he heard it (Micah 6:9), who would not hear the word (v. 10). His prison proved more profitable than his palace had been. God sent him into a dungeon to repent, as he did David into the depths, and Jonah into the whale's belly, to pray." 13. He was intruded.—It is impossible that any sinner who desires to forsake sin and turn to God will be refused mercy, after the record of pardon from God to a man like Manasseh. Does this not explain why Manasseh was permitted to live the life he did? Would the Bible be the book it is, if sin were not personified by such characters, and grace personified in Christ to meet their need?—Whittle. Heard—Though affliction drives us to God, he will not therefore reject us if we sincerely seek him, for afflictions are sent us to bring us to him.—Henry. Brought him to Jerusalem—When Manasseh is brought back to God and his duty he shall be brought back to his kingdom. See how ready God is to accept and welcome returning sinners, and how swift to show mercy. Let not great sinners despair when Manasseh himself, on repentance, found favor with God; in him God showed forth long-suffering (1 Tim. 1:16; Isa. 1:18).—Into his kingdom—Manasseh could scarcely have hoped that he would be restored to his place on Judah's throne after his deep humiliation at the hands of the Assyrians, but God saw his hearty repentance and the transformation in his character and did for him that which was apparently impossible. 14. After this—After this repentance and restoration, built a wall with-out the city—the language indicates that Manasseh built a new wall to make the defence of Jerusalem strong as possible against Assyria and all other nations. He was active in working for the material interests of his kingdom. compassed about Ophel—This was the southern slope of Mount Mariah on which the temple stood, a very great height.—Excavations have shown that a wall was built here to the height of more than seventy feet. The fenced cities of Judah—An army was organized of sufficient size to garrison the several fortified cities of the land. Manasseh sought to preserve the integrity

(By Prof. H. M. Dean.) The chief dairy by-products are skim milk, buttermilk and whey. We shall deal with these in three articles. A farmer's main business is to produce food for the consumers of the world. Incidentally, he expects to make a profit on the business and thereby add to his own comfort and happiness. The chief drawback in farming hitherto has been, that the farmer was expected to contribute too much to the comfort and happiness of others and not enough to that of himself and family. He has been regarded as a super-altruist, by a lot of persons who ought to know better. In fact, the Altruist School of Philosophy has had altogether too much to say, and too much to do, in determining personal actions, and shaping national and world-wide policies. It is a very pretty theory, but the results in practice are disastrous, as it encourages selfishness on the part of the strong and aggressive persons and nations, while the weaker individuals and nations become the prey of these super-selfish personages and peoples. THE FARMER A VICTIM. The farmer, particularly, has been the victim of Altruistic Philosophy, but he is beginning to see where "the shoe pinches," and "whose ox is being gored," by these suave, smooth-talking gents, who are out to do the farmer, and everyone else. However, not all Altruists are of this class. Some are well-meaning and would not take advantage of anyone. Nevertheless, the effects of their doctrines are almost as harmful as the teaching of the first class, except that they do not personally profit by the other fellow's weakness. It is surprising to see the large number of men who are avowedly working for the good of others, in the most disinterested manner possible, but who manage to get "take-offs" for themselves and friends at a rate that would astonish the unthinking and unwary man on the street and on the farm. But to return to the subject. SKIM MILK. Skim milk contains practically all the feeding materials found in whole milk, except the milk-fat, or what is commonly known as cream. When milk-fat is worth from 40 to 50 cents per pound, as it has been for some time, the dairy farmer may well pause before feeding it to calves or any other animals on the farm. The first thing necessary in order to save all the milk-fat possible for sale as cream, is a suitable means of recovering the fat from the milk-cream, or what is commonly known as skim milk. There are two general methods of creaming milk—by gravity, where the milk is set in pans or deep cans for the cream to rise, which is usually a wasteful method of obtaining cream; and, second, by the mechanical or separator method, which is almost perfect so far as recovery of milk-fat is concerned, where a modern cream separator is used under proper conditions. There are two forms of applying power to a cream separator—by hand, or by some mechanical contrivance, such as steam engine, electric motor, gasoline engine, tread power, etc. Both are satisfactory if properly applied. SKIM MILK FOR POULTRY. In the practical operation of cream separators, the main point to watch carefully is that of speed, because speed has a very important effect on "closeness of skimming," and on the percentage of fat in the cream, assuming that the machine is properly

constructed and is operated according to directions of the manufacturer. The law of the effect of speed may be stated briefly as follows: Double the speed, diameter of separator bowl being constant, and the centrifugal and centripetal forces, which cause a separation of the cream from skim milk, are increased fourfold. This being the case, we see how important it is to have the speed of a separator sufficient and uniform for best results. The latest types of machines have an arrangement usually in the form of a bell, which calls attention to the fact when speed drops below normal. This is an excellent device which is especially needed on the farm, where the tendency is to allow the speed to drop too low at some time during the separating. After the calf gets a start of two to four weeks on whole milk, it may be gradually changed to warm, sweet skim milk from which the foam has been removed, if fresh from the separator. Too much should not be fed at one time. A gallon at one feed is plenty for a calf up to two or three months old, after which the quantity may be increased slightly, but in no case should a calf receive more than three gallons of skim milk in twenty-four hours. It may be fed in three feeds during the first six weeks and in two feeds after that time. Calf pails should be kept clean and sweet, otherwise there is danger of stomach troubles with the calf, more especially "scours." To replace the fat removed in the form of cream, ground flaxseed, corn meal or oatmeal porridge may be added to the milk at first, then later it should be fed dry, along with clover hay and roots in winter; green feed or grass in summer. The skim milk may be continued until the calf is six months old or longer, if the milk be available. Just before, and immediately after weaning pigs, there is scarcely anything which will replace skim milk. Tankage is recommended as a substitute. The writer's experience with tankage has been very limited. He purchased 200 pounds one time for a bunch of pigs, but they could scarcely be induced to eat it. The smell of it was vile. The cattle and horses were nearly crazed by the smell of blood from it. From this one experience with tankage, we would conclude it not to be satisfactory material to have round the stables on a dairy farm. It may be all right where hogs only are fed, but other live stock do not take kindly to the odor. The best combination for young pigs appears to be milk and middlings. Later barley, or barley and corn meal, or corn on the cob, may be added, especially for the fattening stage with pigs. At the present time, when the price of live hogs is hovering between \$16 and \$17 per 100 pounds live weight, and the retail price of bacon is 40 cents per pound, "pigs is pigs" all right. Brood sows have sold at auction sales during the past winter, \$75 to \$90 each—as much as a horse, or cow, ordinarily used to sell for. FEED CALVES UP TO SIX MONTHS. The skim milk may be continued as part of the ration until the hogs are ready for sale at a weight of 200 to 250 pounds, which should be attained in about six months' time. While it is not advisable to crowd the pigs too much, it is plain that the shorter the time during which the hogs can be kept ready for market, the greater the saving of feed for maintenance. A certain amount of the feed given to any animal is required to maintain it, or keep it alive and furnish energy for bodily functions. The longer the time this maintenance is needed, the less the profits. It is a fine point in feeding to know how to cut maintenance cost to the last month, week, day and hour, absolutely necessary for best results. This is a point that confronts the feeder with each new lot of pigs, and has to be determined twice a year, with each litter when they are weaned, and while being fed for the packing house, local butcher or for home consumption. The Danish pig feeders informed the writer that they consider skim milk essential in the successful feeding of season hogs. Canadian feeders do not seem to have fully realized the value of skim milk for bacon production. As noted above, usually the increases in importance we may expect dairy farmers to pay more attention to the value of dairy by-products in the production of what promises to be one of the most important side lines in the dairy industry of Canada. Dairy cows, bacon hogs and good fat sheep are the three best things a farmer can keep. The hen, as a sideline in farming and backyard gardening, is receiving considerable attention at the present time. Some of those who have been engaged in poultry farming on a small scale estimate that their eggs did not cost them much over one dollar a dozen during the winter of 1916-17. However, others think they were able to reduce this cost considerably in spite of the high price of feed. On the dairy farm, where dairy by-products are available, eggs and fattened chickens can be more profitably produced than elsewhere. The New Jersey Experiment Station reports during the past winter that "Egg producers can afford to pay 40 to 80 cents per 100 pounds for skim milk." For best results in feeding poultry, it is found advisable to allow the milk to sour, as the lactic acid produced by souring seems to have a beneficial effect on the digestion of their food by poultry. It is claimed also, that sour milk will stop the habit of eating eggs, which is quite common in winter when hens are unable to secure their natural food supply. While it is undoubtedly true that the most economical way to utilize skim milk is directly as human food, milk to sour, as the lactic acid produced by souring seems to have a beneficial effect on the digestion of their food by poultry. It is claimed also, that sour milk will stop the habit of eating eggs, which is quite common in winter when hens are unable to secure their natural food supply. For persons, it is not likely to be used to any great extent in the diet of Canadians for some time to come. In European cities it is largely used. At the time of the writer's last visit to Copenhagen in Denmark, he was told that nearly as much skim milk was sold in the city as whole milk. The price of skim milk was about one-half that obtained for whole milk. In America, if it were known that certain families were buying skim milk, the children would likely be taunted by the expression, "O, see of boasting among our people that they buy the most expensive foods regardless of their nutritive qualities. When shall we learn to buy food with economy?"—The Canadian Countryman.

III. A reformation proclaimed. I. A national covenant broken. Manasseh violated a covenant made at Sinai which had been repeatedly renewed in the history of the Hebrew nation. There has never been in any land a greater change, a sadder reaction, than that experienced by Judah, when the godly Hezekiah was succeeded by the apostate Manasseh. He imitated the heathen. He dishonored his father. He defied Jehovah and repented the admissions of his holy prophets. During Manasseh's long reign the true character of the nation's sin, the essential nature of the nation's sin, the inherent wickedness of such apostasy from Jehovah, was unmistakably revealed. The image set up in the temple was the summing up in symbol of the whole apostasy of the people, the formal token of their breach of the covenant, the integrity of which depended upon the possession of the land. Carried away by the impetuosity of youth, Manasseh threw himself into a movement directly opposite to that instituted by his father. His deeds were a repetition of the worst deeds of his predecessors. He sinned under the light of revelation. He was king of a nation to which God had made fully known the truth of His existence, which had laws and statutes given to it, that no other nation possessed, and which had the ministry of holy prophets. Manasseh's sins were of a very heinous character and were committed under circumstances which greatly aggravated their enormity. II. A foreign religion adopted. Manasseh restored Canaanite abominations. He revived Baal and Moloch worship. He extended star worship. He plunged into the mysteries of sorcery. In a short time he completely changed the whole religion of the kingdom. He welcomed heathen, idolatrous creeds and rites of all kinds, from all sources. He seemed to aim at nothing less than a complete suppression of the worship of Jehovah and the reorganization of the religion of the nation upon foreign models. Judah changed her God for senseless idols. These were the abominations for which God had cast out the original inhabitants of the land. Manasseh reinstated them in full force. He exceeded Ahab in the zeal with which he imported idolatry from foreign nations. There was a vigorous idolatrous party at court. Though it was suppressed by Hezekiah, with Jehoiakim's help, the spirit of idolatry was not eradicated from the country nor greatly weakened in its energy.

Eyes of Rubber. Artificial eyes of rubber are taking the place of the old style glass optic in Europe. The rubber eyes have the advantage of being unbreakable, and as they are of pneumatic construction they maintain an elastic contact between the eyelids and the back of the orbital cavity. To make the new rubber product a cast formed of liquid plaster is made of the orbital cavity, and from this is constructed an eyeball, the face being of vulcanite. The front and back parts are made of soft rubber, there being a space between the two parts which is occupied by air, making the eyes pneumatic.—Popular Science Monthly.

Key of Tibaldo. The "key to death" is a large key which is shown among the weapons at the arsenal at Venice. It was invented by Tibaldo, who, disappointed in love, designed this instrument for the destruction of his rival. The key is so constructed that the handle may be turned around, revealing a small spring, which being pressed a very fine needle is driven with considerable force from the other end. This needle is so very fine that the flesh closes over the wound immediately, leaving no mark, but the death of the victim is almost instantaneous.

THE WAY OF PEACE. I sought the way back to peace— So long I sought and far— A place where naught might enter in, My happiness to mar. I sought, and sought in vain, Until, with fainting heart, I turned about and found a place where I could bear a part. In lifting heavy loads, In sharing others' woes; And in the path of duty, lo! I found my heart's repose. —Edith Virginia Brady.

IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN. I think that one of the most interesting verses in the Bible is that which tells us that our Lord grew "in favor with God and man." So many people seem to have the idea that, so long as they are doing what they believe to be right, it doesn't matter a bit what anybody thinks of them. To a certain extent this attitude may be all right, but I am sure it can easily be carried too far. To grow "in favor with God and man" is, it seems to me, far better. Anyway, our Lord managed to combine the two, so there is no reason why we should not try to do so.

DOWNWARDNESS. (By the late Rev. H. T. Miller.) The Divine downwardness is uplifting. This brings us to a paradox. If you go down you are in company with the humble; if you go up you are liable to be burnt with the fever of the proud. God looks down in majesty and meekness. Man looks up in feebleness and hebetation. God's hands are full, and man's hands are empty. God's people sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, others toil along, hard-bested and hungry. The prayer of the lowly is: "What in me is dark illumine, what is low raise and support! That to the height of this great argument I may assert eternal Providence. And justify the ways of God to men." The prayer of the worldly-wise is to make a chart of the ways of man to God. His lantern is dull, he travels in a fog, his oil is scanty, his pilot is not sure, at the end he says: "I do not know." Do I speak to teachers and preachers? Here is your calling. To justify the ways of God to man. That means that you walk with God as Enoch, that you listen to Abraham, that you tremble as Jeremiah when he said: "Preach the preaching that I bid thee, lest I confound thee before them." The rain comes down from heaven, with constant blessing. The sparks from the fire of man's mental furnace go up a little way. They flicker and go out in darkness. There is much in attitude when the soul is well furnished. "I stand in the presence of God," said one. Milton stood in dignity when he asserted Eternal Providence; and every true man to-day, whether in the pulpit or on the sidewalk, stands arrayed in the panoply of God; the powers concentrated in him are not seen, the secret is not known. Lo these are part of His ways, and yet how little is known of Him. I look into the wallet of the downward servant, and I find a feast of good things. I look into the basket of the man who is upward in his look, and I find a few crumbs of faith, very precious. The man means well, but his attitude towards God is laborious, and his apprehension of God's attitude toward him is very largely astray. Men dress for certain functions. The woman dress for a party or a ball; the general dress for parade, the kind dresses for great state occasions. But how should great before the Lord? Is it with great attire and avalanche of offerings? Nay! But it is an empty, lowly, humble heart. This is the sacrifice that is well pleasing to God. Think of His line coming down and reaching even to you, then your gratitude will shine in jewelled garments in the light of the Father's face. "Day by day His tender mercy, Healing, helping, full and free. Sweet and strong, and oh, so patient, Brought me lower, while I whispered, Less of self and more of Thee. Higher than the highest heavens, Deeper than the deepest sea, Lord, Thy love at last hath conquered. Grant me, now, my supplication, None of self, and all of Thee!" —H. T. Miller.

THE SADNESS OF A WEDDING. There is something sad about a wedding. The young groom is leaving a home in which he always has had his way and is going into one in which he never will have his way. Although his parents do not go through the formalities of giving him away at the altar, they know well enough that in a few minutes he will be a son-in-law to another woman, while to them he is nothing but a son. There he comes, with another man holding to his arm. It looks as if he might have made an attempt to escape and that the strong best man captured him and brought him back. He is as happy as he is nervous and so trustful that he has no fear for the future.—Claude Callan in Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



TORONTO MARKETS. FARMERS' MARKET. Dairy Products, Retail. Eggs, new, per doz. \$0.40 \$0.47. Butter, farmers', lb. 0.45 0.50. Spring chickens, lb. 0.25 0.45. Roasters, lb. 0.25 0.28. Frying fowls, lb. 0.25 0.40. Live hens, lb. 0.25 0.25. Spring ducks, lb. 0.25 0.35. Poultry, Dressed— 0.25 0.40. Spring chickens, lb. 0.30 0.60. Spring ducks, lb. 0.30 0.60. Geese, lb. 0.18 0.81. Fowl, lb. 0.18 0.81. Turkeys, lb. 0.20 0.60. Squabs, per dozen 3.00 4.00. MEATS—WHOLESALE. Beef, forequarters, \$15.00 \$14.00. Do., hindquarters, 15.00 14.00. Carcases, choice, 16.00 17.00. Do., common, 13.00 15.00. Veal, choice, 18.00 20.00. Do., medium, 12.00 14.00. Heavy hogs, 17.00 18.00. Sheep, 20.00 21.00. Mutton, light, 15.00 16.00. Do., heavy, 12.00 15.00. Lamb, yearlings, 15.00 17.00. Spring lambs, 2.00 14.00. SUGAR MARKET. Local wholesale quotations on Canadian refined sugar, Toronto delivery, in effect July 16:— St. Lawrence, granulated, 100 lbs. \$8.34. Latite granulated, 100 lbs. 8.34. Royal Acadia, granulated, 100 lbs. 8.34. Recpath, granulated, 100 lbs. 8.34. Dominion crystal, 100 lbs. 8.34. No. 1 yellow, all refiners, 100 lbs. 7.84. No. 2 yellow, 100 lbs. 7.84. No. 3 yellow, 100 lbs. 7.84. Dark yellow, 100 lbs. 7.84. TORONTO CATTLE MARKETS. The demand for cattle was slow, but prices were fairly steady. Cows were weak hogs slightly steady. Calf prices were Export cattle, choice, 11.25 11.50. Butcher cattle, choice, 10.25 10.75. Do., do., medium, 7.75 8.00. Do., do., common, 7.75 8.00. Butcher cows, choice, 8.00 8.50. Do., do., medium, 7.75 8.00. Do., do., canners, 5.25 5.75. Do., bulls, 5.00 5.50. Feeder steers, 7.50 8.00. Stockers, choice, 7.50 8.00. Do., light, 6.50 7.00. Milkers, choice, each, 40.00 100.00. Springers, 40.00 100.00. Sheep, ewes, 6.00 7.00. Pucks and culs, 5.00 5.00. Lambs, 12.00 15.00. Hogs, fed and watered, 15.75 17.00. Calves, 10.00 14.00.

OTHER MARKETS. WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE. Wheat—Open, High, Low, Close. Oct. 2.34 2.34 2.29 2.29. Oats— 0.75 0.80 0.75 0.75. July 0.65 0.65 0.67 0.67. Dec. 0.65 0.65 0.62 0.62. Flax— 2.86 2.97 2.84 2.85. Oct. 2.89 2.89 2.84 2.85. MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET. Minneapolis—Wheat, July closed \$2.32; September, \$2.21; cash, No. 1 hard, \$2.30; No. 1 Northern, \$2.28 to \$2.35; No. 2 Northern, \$2.29 to \$2.30; Corn—No. 3 yellow, \$1.21 to \$1.22; Oats—No. 3 white, \$1.20 to 78c. Flour unchanged. Bran, \$31.00 to \$33.00. DULUTH GRAIN MARKET. Duluth—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$2.31; No. 1 Northern, \$2.30; No. 2 Northern, \$2.27; October, \$2.27. BUFFALO LIVE STOCK. East Buffalo, Dispatch—Cattle receipts 500; slow. Veals, receipts 100; steady; \$5 to \$14.25. Hogs, receipts 1,000; mixed; heavy, \$16.40 to \$16.50; strong \$16.35 to \$16.45; Yorkers \$16.25 to \$16.40; light Yorkers \$15.50 to \$16.75; pigs, \$15.25 to \$15.50; roughs \$14.25 to \$14.50; stags \$12 to 13. Sheep and lambs, receipts 300; active; steady and unchanged. CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Cattle, receipts 16,000. Market weak. Revealers, 825 14.00. Western, 8.60 11.60. Stockers and feeders, 8.25 9.20. Cows and heifers, 14.25 11.80. Calves, 9.75 14.00. Hogs, receipts 16,000. Market slow. Light, 14.56 15.50. Mixed, 14.45 15.50. Heavy, 14.25 15.50. Rough, 14.25 15.50. Pigs, 11.50 14.50. Bulk of pigs, 11.50 15.75. Sheep, receipts 20,000. Market weak. Others, 7.75 11.00. Lambs, native, 5.90 12.00. ONE RIVER SYSTEM. Australian Continent is Unique in This Respect. There are in Australia no Colorado or Columbus or Tennessee, branching plateaus and crossing mountain chains, and no counterpart of the thousands of spring-fed brooks and streams issuing from lakes widely scattered over the country. The large area in Utah and Nevada from which dwindling streams never escape to the sea is represented in Australia by an enormous expanse of territory, comprising fully half of the continent. The heart of the United States is a well-watered land of fields and woods and cities; the corresponding part of Australia is dry and barren and thinly populated. The Murray-Darling is the one great river system of Australia. It drains five-sixths of New South Wales, more than one-half of Victoria, and nearly one-seventh of the entire Australian continent. Because of its unfavorable outlet, its small volume, its snags and sand-bars and great sinuosities, navigation of the Murray is limited to small light draft steamers towing one or two barges. Regular traffic in grain and wool is maintained during seven months of the year from the mouth of the river to Wentworth, 600 miles and small boats reach Albury. In the flood year of 1873 a steamer went beyond the Queensland border along a river 60 miles wide, and in 1890 steamers on the Darling between Wentworth and Burke travelled for hours without seeing any land, and in one instance discharged cargo 25 miles from the ordinary channel of the river. But a few years later (1912-1913) the Darling ceased to flow for eleven months. During exceptional years the bed of the Murray is partly dry and the waters near its mouth become too salt for stock.—U. S. National Geographic Magazine. An eastern physician says girl babies begin talking earlier than boys. We could add something to that statement, but we know better than to do it.—Macon Telegraph.