*** The matter which this page contains is carefully selected from various sources; and we guarantee that, to any intelligent farmer or housewife, the contents of this single page, from week to week during the year, will be worth several times the subscription price of the paper.

A LESSON.

A little lass with golden hair,
A little lass with brown,
A little lass with raven locks,
Went tripping off to town.
"I like the golden hair the best,"
"And I prefer the brown,"
"And I the black,"
Three sparrows said,
Three sparrows of the town.

"Tu-whit! Tu-whoo!" an owl cried
From the belfry in the town,
Glad-hearted lassies need not mind
If locks be gold, black, brown.
Tu-whit! Tu-whoo! so fast, so fast,
The sands of life run down,
And soon, so soon, three white-haired dames
Will totter through the town.
Gone then for aye the raven locks,
The golden hair, the brown,
And she will fairest be whose face
Has never worn a frown.

—SELECTED.

THE HOME.

Moods of Depression.

We should take stock of ourselves, our capabilities, our attainments, not in our moods of depression, but in our moods of exaltation. True, to be on the crest of the wave to-day may imply being in the trough of the sea to-morrow, and yet we are worth more now than then. In the world-beloved story of the "Pilgrim's Progress" it was Giant Despair who reigned with Mistress Despondency over Doubting Castle, in which were dungeons black as death. No man or woman is in a condition to do good work or to make others happy when in the clutches of a low mood. Our moods are not always within our control, being dependent on our vitality, our environment, our digestion, our health or illness; but of one thing we may rest assured, we are not likely to achieve any conquest of importance when scourged by the lash of a mood of depression.

It belongs to this uncanny mood to take to itself a kind of demoniac possession. Refusing to believe that the sun shines in the heavens, it is fain to blow out every candle of encouragement that sympathising friends try to light. The depressed person apparently entrenches himself in depression as in a citadel, ill-temper and perverseness being his warders to banish returning cheerfulness.

To the kindred and acquaintance of a gloom-enveloped victim the trial is well-nigh unendurable. To live as neighbor to the east wind, to shiver under an impending storm, are faintly disagreeable in comparison with this experience. At times self-defence obliges the most tenderly sympathetic to escape for a while from the spell, so contagious is a mood of depression.

The perverse nature of the malady—for malady it is—is shown in the fact that it is seldom consequent upon real trouble. To meet real trouble the soul girds itself with strength, and summons all its reinforcements. The intangible, the fancied, the impalpable ill is usually at the bottom of the baleful mood. One can fight the tempest, but in the fog one is bewildered beyond remedy.

The wise physician insists that the sufferer from depression can be cured by change of scene, by repose, by tonics, by sleep. A woman of wide observation and of loving heart declares that relief is found only when the poor depressed mortal gets out of himself and becomes interested in others, depression from her stand-point being only a subtle form of selfishness.

In any case, prudence dictates the keeping bodily health at high-water mark if possible. Health and gravity of spirit are often twins walking hand in hand. Yet who that has has seen serenity of countenance and heard invincible cheer in the tones of some sufferer shut in a chamber of pain for half a life-time, will not hesitate to claim physical vigor as the invariable companion of equable and even spirits?

At all events, let us take account of ourselves at our best, not at our worst. Let us be ashamed of our low moods, and deem it no merit to go about as though the world and we were at odds. —*Harper's Bazar.*

Smoking by Boys.

That the essential principle of tobacco—that which gives it all its value to the smoker—is a virulent poison, is universally admitted. It is agreed, also, that its primary effect is upon the brain and spinal cord, with a paralyzing tendency. Even Board, who defends the moderate use of tobacco, admits that its effects are disastrous upon some classes of persons. It withers some, he says, while fattening others; causes in some dyspepsia and constipation, while upon others it has a contrary effect. It is soothing to some, but induces in others all the horrors of extreme nervousness. He adds that among the brain-working classes of our population the proportion of those who can use tobacco with impunity is yearly diminishing, as a nervous tendency more and more prevails amongus.

Now, whatever may be urged in favor of moderate smoking later in life, all intelligent persons who have given the subject attention unite in condemning the use of tobacco by the young.

Young persons do not know whether or not they belong to the class most liable to be injured by tobacco. No one denies the danger of its excessive use, and the young have neither the intelligence nor the self-control to resist the tendency of smoking to grow into an uncontrollable habit. Further, the brain and nervous system of youth are specially susceptible to the baneful influence of the poisonous principle of tobacco.

That commanding medical authority, the London *Lancet*, says: "It is time that the attention of all responsible persons should be seriously directed to the prevalence and increase of tobacco-smoking among boys. Stunted growth, impaired digestion, palpitation and other evidences of nerve exhaustion and irritability have again and again impressed the lesson of abstinence, which has been far too little regarded."

It cites a case which lately came before the coroner of Liverpool—death from a fatty change in the heart, due mainly to smoking cigarettes and cigar ends—and adds: "This, of course, is an extreme example. It is, however, only a strongly colored illustration of effects on health which are daily realized in thousands of instances. Not even in manhood is the pipe or cigar invariably safe. Much less can it be so regarded when it ministers to the unbounded whims and cravings of heedless urchins." —*Exchange.*

Christianity Adapted to "Flats."

Persons may make themselves disagreeable by asserting what they call "their rights" on every occasion, or they may make themselves beloved by their thoughtful consideration for others. A gentleman living in a city "flat" was accustomed to arrange his fire for the night by putting on the coal, piece by piece, with the tongs. "Why do you do that so noiselessly?" asked a visitor. "The people down stairs retire very early, and I try not to disturb their dreams." It was nothing to him that his neighbors chose to go to bed at nine, while he preferred eleven; he had an undoubted right to rattle coal over their heads as long as he pleased; but he preferred to take such precautions as would leave their rest unbroken.—*Youth's Companion.*

Our Stomach.

Acids in the stomach naturally result from indigestion, the food remaining in the warm stomach fermenting, decaying, while it is supposable that the carbonic acid gas thus formed is naturally used in promoting the digestion of the remnant,—being thus utilized. If true, it is unwise to neutralize such by an alkali, it being safer to allow to remove it in her own time, by eructations, a free drink of warm water aiding in this respect. It is better to prevent indigestion—prevention is always easier than cure—by taking a reasonable quantity of food, such as may be digested, at regular intervals, nothing, not even fruits, at other times, nothing at bedtime, or within two hours of it, always selecting simple and easily digested food, the grains, as a class, being safer than any other, while such fruits as apples, pears, peaches, the small berries and the like, may be taken as a *relish*,—only as a part of the meal. A light supper is in order, the stomach often being fatigued at night.

A Small Swarm of B's.

Be earnest! Half-heartedness will not accomplish one-half so much as whole-heartedness will, rightly handled. Be earnest!

Be honest! "Honesty is the best policy," and the best policy will often be found along the way which honest men travel. Be honest!

Be straight! Not only "straight as a string," but rather "straight as an arrow," if you would be sure to "hit the mark." Be straight!

Be watchful! "Watch out," and "watch in," as well." Also "watch and wait," if you would not let opportunity slip by unnoticed. Be watchful!

Be considerate! "Consider your ways and be wise," and having found the ways of wisdom, walk therein "all the days of your life." Be considerate!

Be amiable! A "cross-patch" may pass by on the other side without being asked to "come back our way," while all the world likes to go hand in hand with amiability. Be amiable!—*Good Housekeeping.*

Praying for Father.

Living in the town of G——, in a home made destitute by the father's thirst for intoxicating drink, lived a Christian mother with her little daughter, seven years of age. It was a pitiful sight to witness the father's shame; and while he never abused his little girl, yet she often ran and hid her face when she heard his footsteps approaching.

It was Emma's habit to repeat by her bedside each night the Lord's Prayer. One night, after having finished it, in her simple, childish way, yet full of quiet reverence, she said, "Mamma, may I add something more?" "Certainly, dear," was the answer. Clasping her little hands together she cried, "O God, save my dear papa! O God, save my dear papa!" The father, who had entered the adjoining room in a half-intoxicated state, heard the earnest cry of his child, and was sobered by the words. He fell upon his knees and wept tears of bitter remorse, and when his wife entered the room ten minutes later she found him still upon his knees, and joined him there, earnestly crying to God for guidance and strength.

Emma's prayer was answered, for her father joined the temperance society, and lent all his influence in helping those who had, like himself, fallen into sin. The man who had been weak in sin became a strong help to his fellows. So God listens to and answers the cry of His little ones.—*Selected.*

Hints for the Housewife.

CHOCOBATE PUDDING.—One pint of dry cake crumbs browned in the oven; roll after they are dry; one pint of milk, or half milk and half water, one egg well beaten, small cup half filled with grated chocolate stirred into the mixture; one spoonful of sugar if you use all cake-crumbs, if part bread-crumbs two spoonfuls of sugar; add a dust of salt, and bake half an hour.

FORCE MEAT.—Mix with one cup of finely chopped cooked veal, one half-cup of stale bread-crumbs, one tablespoonful of chopped parsley, one-quarter of a teaspoonful each of marjoram and thyme, one teaspoonful of onion-juice, one teaspoonful of salt, and very little grated lemon-peel, mace, and cayenne pepper; mix thoroughly, then work together with the yolks of two eggs.

BANANA SAUCE.—Peel and slice with a knife four large red bananas; put in a deep dish, and mash with a wooden masher; add gradually one cup of powdered sugar, beating all the time; when smooth add one teaspoonful of thick cream; beat, and add another spoonful; beat again, and add a third spoonful; if too thin for hard sauce, add more sugar, stir well, put in a cold place, and serve with banana pudding.

CLAM BROTH.—Little-neck clams are preferred for stews and broths; the large ones may be used for chowders. Wash three dozen in cold water, put them in a saucepan, and cover with a quart of hot water. Boil fifteen minutes and drain. Remove the shells, chop fine the clams and add them to the broth, with a lump of butter and a pinch of salt and cayenne. Boil ten minutes, pour into a tureen, and add a slice of toast.

THE FARM.

The "Crime" of Dehorning Cattle.

The arrest of I. N. Middough, a veterinary surgeon of Friendship, Allegany Co., N. Y., for the crime of dehorning cattle is another of the many instances where law unnecessarily steps in and does greater harm than good. If dehorning were dangerous to the life of stock, or even cruel, the property interests of the farmers owning stock that can be dehorned are sufficient to prevent serious evil. All through the West dehorning has been practised for years without injury to cattle and with a great saving of human life. To take the horns from an unruly bull may be, and often is, the only practicable way to save a valuable animal for further service. So well satisfied are farmers of Allegany county of the value of dehorning that they will unite in defending Dr. Middough through the courts. We trust they may be successful, and that the outcry against dehorning as either dangerous or cruel will cease.—*American Cultivator.*

Professor Budd on Strawberries.

The following points in strawberry culture are generally conceded: It is best to set quite late in spring on fall-ploughing, as this lessens injury from cutworms. Set in rows 4 feet apart and the plants about 18 inches apart in the rows, and from matted rows about 18 inches wide, as early in the season as possible, by culture. In setting out plants there is not gain in pottering to spread the roots in natural position; wet the roots, press them together with points downward, and plant very tightly with spade or dibble, as you would a cabbage plant. The roots projected downward answer the purpose until new roots are grown in proper position. To secure fertilization in weather not wholly favorable it is best to plant alternate rows of the staminate and pistillate varieties. It does not pay to gather more than two crops from one planting. Have a new plantation coming on, and never hesitate to plough up the old one after gathering the second crop.—*Iowa Agricultural Report.*

A Serious Loss.

At a New York Institute the value of having a milk test to "check" up the poor work of the creamer and churn, as well as to detect poor cows, was shown up in an unexpected manner. The "unexpected" came from testing a sample of buttermilk that was subjected to the Babcock and showed 3 8 10 per cent. fats, or over four pounds of butter was found in 100 pounds of buttermilk. This sample came from cream that was raised from open pans in a pantry and cream ripened at about 55 degrees. Here was a loss of fully one-third of the original fat in the milk, and is a loss that the test would reveal in hundreds of other instances. It is losses at creamer, churn, poor making, poor packing, etc., that are gnawing away at the profits of dairying all the time, and can never be remedied until there is a certain positive knowledge in manufacture and less guesswork. The guesswork of the dairy is doomed as the Hand separator, Babcock test and like perfect working machinery are introduced; in fact, a friend near me says if the milk for butter was centrifuged and corrected by the Babcock test there would be a yearly increase of fine butter in this country that would aggregate $5,000,000. Half of this would be an item worth looking for.—*Practical Farmer.*

What Breed of Poultry?

With the beginner it is sometimes hard to decide which breed to choose. The man who has bred and studied Leghorns for years will say, and honestly thinks, that breed is the best in the standard, while others are ready to defend Asiatics, Hamburgs, or some other class. There is no best breed, for all of them prove profitable for the special purpose for which they have been bred, and the surroundings of the breeder should have much weight in making the final choice. If there is a near market for young chickens, there is no better breed than the Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes. Either of these will get a full coat of plumage and make a plump and attractive broiler in a few weeks. If it is the intention to sell the fowls in the fall, then fully grown ones of the Asiatic breeds should be chosen, and if eggs are to be the principal source of income, then one of the non-setting breeds will be found the best. In this class will be found the Leghorns, Minorcas, Polish, Houdans, etc. All of them are prolific egg producers, and it is a rare thing for one of them to sit. For every day purposes, and to fill the bill entirely from a farmer's point of view, the American class will be found hard to excel. They are fair layers, hardy, early maturing, and when "sent to pot" make a plump carcass.—*American Farmer.*

Why So Many Farmers Fail.

The cause of the failure of so many farmers is their wastefulness. Instead of making the most of little things they are constantly grasping after the unattainable. I have seen farms where berries were allowed to dry on the bushes, and apples rot on the ground, because they were not thought worth gathering, and I have seen others where all fruit was gathered, even to the last handful, and if there was no market for them they were dried and kept over until prices made it profitable to sell them. Women, especially, can derive quite an income by gathering up fruit as soon as it falls to the ground and canning or drying it.

I think the Germans the most thrifty people on earth. I have seen them settle themselves down in some bushes with not a foot of tillable ground anywhere, and in less than a year every bush was grubbed up, and "the wilderness was made to blossom like a rose," the very roots of the bushes being utilized into a rustic inclosure for the tiny farm. In two or three years quite an income was realized from grapes and peaches, to say nothing of the good wife's poultry. Of course all this means much hard work, but what of that? Nobody has a right to be a farmer if he hates work, or if he scorns the day of small things, for every big thing on earth has been made up of small beginnings. The farmer who is careful about little things is sure to reap his reward. Some people scald their poultry because they are picked more easily, but then there are all the feathers wasted; others not only save feathers, but gather up every waste bit of iron and turn all the old bones, ashes and every bit of refuse into fertilizers that yield a hundred fold.

"Wilful waste makes woful want" is an old proverb which the farmer and his wife want to study more than anything else, especially the wife, for she is apt to think: "It doesn't make a particle of difference whether I throw this away or not, because there is plenty more," and so things are scattered until a scarcity comes, and then the "wilful waste" is seen only when it is too late.

Many a mortgage has been lifted off a farm by being careful in the little things, and many a farm has had to be mortgaged and finally lost because of a continual leaking which the manager did not seem careful enough to stop before too late. It seems to me just like the talents in the Bible. If we are not careful and do not make the most of what God has given us, then even that which we have shall be taken from us, and we shall have nothing.—*Mrs. A. E. C. Maskell, in N. Y. Tribune.*

Two Ways.

How to increase the quantity of his crops is a subject of interest and importance to every one who tills the soil. There are two distinct methods of securing the result desired. One is to increase the acreage; the other is to give the crops more food and better care. The one aims to increase production by a mere enlargement of area. The other seeks by improved methods to make an increase in the yield per acre. The former method is more frequently adopted; the latter usually gives the most profitable returns.

Large areas are more likely to be neglected than small ones. On account of this neglect an increase in the quantity of land often fails to give a proportionate increase in the quantity of the crop. On the other hand, high manuring and improved culture almost invariably give a large and immediate increase in the field. Two acres heavily manured and thoroughly cultivated often give a larger aggregate yield and are almost sure to return a much greater profit than three acres of equally good land only moderately fertilized and sparingly cultivated. Then, too, the quality of the products of a rich and well-cultivated field is superior to that of poor and neglected land, and the man who feeds his crops liberally and cultivates them thoroughly can have the pleasure of sending to market something that will sell readily and give satisfaction to the purchasers.

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