POOR COPY

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A semi-serious writer suggests some attention to the literary needs of men and women of 40 or more. Lists of best books, libraries and guides are constantly being offered to young readers, but no one takes the middle aged by the hand to test their tendencies. It is said that they are safe and sane, yet we are told, the middle-aged have their own pitfalls and sins. The middle-aged are apt to pride themselves on their maturity and settled convictions. They do not be-ware of their prejudices and notions; they become conservative and narrow. A new idea, a new style, a departure, cannot hope for encouragement from them. Do they need "re-education"?

There may be something in this half humorous suggestion. But not all is to be said on the other side. Youth may be responsive, generous, impressionable, but it is also addicted to extreme views and extreme positions. The enthusiastic youthful convert to this or that movement is not a believer will not admit that anything good is to be found outside of his "school" or movement. What nonsense the extreme Wagnerian, or the extreme anti-Wagnerian talks! What follies have been committed by "Young France" in the name of freedom and progress!

The middle aged, or many of them, have profited by experience. Styles have a way of being resurrected; that the law of action and reaction works in art as it does in politics. They are apt to be tolerant, balanced, reasonable. They do not see why admiration of Arnold Bennett involves withering to Bach and Beethoven precludes enjoyment—or the candid avowal of enjoyment—of Debussy and the modern masters. They have learned to avoid dogmatism and exaggeration. They may not be explosive, but they are appreciative.

Berlin, Germany, has been trying to become a world capital. The emperor himself has been active in trying to produce this result. He has encouraged foreign ambassadors to become spenders and has strongly encouraged the modern type of cosmopolitan hotel. But there is one thing he will not and cannot do. That is, to wear Berlin-made clothes. He gets his things from London. The nobility are following his example and the Berlin tailors are protesting against this outbreak of anglomania.

A city which strives to be a weltstadt should be better able to clothe its own people. Patriotism is not so strong in these cosmopolitan days that even the jingo will consent to be a mere dummy. The trouble with Berlin can be only a matter for speculation. Has art nouveau so rampant there, demoralized even the tailors and dressmakers? Or has the general culture of humanity, in Berlin life, so often noticed of late both by natives and tourists, begun to affect the very clothes the people wear?

The good old fashions, the simple manners of our fathers are passing, passing. The habits which made them distinguished for simplicity, are no longer good enough for their sons. Extremely is now the order of the day, and instead of knife, fork and spoon, society has loaded the dining table with a collection of tools which resembles a silversmith's shop in holiday times. To add to this luxury a man has invented a "noiseless soup spoon." The bowl of the spoon is fitted with a fixed lid which covers half the mouth of the user. A small slit allows the liquid to pass silently into the mouth, thus eliminating the noise which has heretofore annoyed supersensitive ears. A certain philosopher has declared that it was one of his chief pleasures to go to places where he could hear the rich eat. It seems that now this is to be denied us.

At the Paris horse show recently a special jury of experts was appointed to render authoritative

ELECTRICITY GOOD FOR SHEEP

PROFESSOR WENTWORTH TRIES EXPERIMENT.

How Finds Animals Do Better in Field Strung With Charged Wires.

Does electricity makes animals grow? Sir Oliver Lodge has proved that it promotes growth in the case of plants; and now an American professor has applied it to ewes with his claims, with wonderful results. Professor Silas Wentworth has just conducted some startling experiments at Roseville, California, on the value of electricity in the raising of sheep.

He placed 1,444 ewes in one field and the same number in another field across which he stretched electric wires. Except for that, all the ewes were treated in the same way; yet at the end of a year he found that the electrically-treated ewes had produced two lambs each, and that their fleeces were heavier and better than those of the other ewes, which in addition had failed to produce one lamb each.

INCREASES ENERGY.

"The whole question is probably one of the electric ions (or infinitesimal particles of energy) given off by the charged wires," Professor Bottomley, of King's College, recently explained to the London Daily Mirror. "A great deal has been written lately on the function of electrical energy in causing the formation of plant food from chemical substances.

"The green material in plants is called chlorophyl, and this converts the sun's energy, which is then used to build up the plant's foodstuff. When electric wires are stretched near plants the green coloring is better able to do its work, for it is supplied with electricity.

PLANTS PROVE THEORY.

"If that is so in the case of plants, why should not the protoplasm—the stuff that makes up the cells—of an animal be able to use electric energy similarly? Animal and plant protoplasm are very closely allied, and reasoning from the effect of the electric current upon plants one would expect its effect upon animals to be a more vigorous growth generally.

"No less a scientist than Sir Oliver Lodge has proved that electric wires stretched across a field undoubtedly stimulate plant growth, and a number of such installations are now being put down in England."

THE THIRSTY TRADES.

Occupations Which, It is Said, Predispose to Drinking.

An address was delivered recently at a meeting of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, London, England, on the relation of public health to industrial diseases by Dr. W. F. Dearden, medical officer of health to the port of Manchester.

Dr. Dearden said that alcoholism appeared to pick out certain trades in the exercise of its deleterious effects. Workers subjected to excessive heat, as in glass works and rubber works, were on account of the thirst created addicted to the use of alcoholic drinks and suffered accordingly.

There were also certain outdoor occupations involving exposure to vicissitudes of the weather which had a similar influence, and the alcoholic tendency of printers, hatters and shoemakers was well known.

Indulgence in this excess by workpeople engaged in certain unhealthy processes was highly injurious. Waterproof cloth spreaders, who were subjected to naphtha fumes, were very rapidly affected by alcohol, and it was well known how suicidal it was for workers in lead to indulge in the habit. The rapid breakdown through alcoholism of men engaged in arduous occupations was well illustrated in the iron and shipbuilding trades.

Insufficient air space and bad ventilation had a distinct influence on the creation of lassitude in workers through rendering the respired air impure. Carbonic acid had an ill effect upon both nervous and muscular tissue, so that an excess of this blood, associated with the products of muscle activity and deficiency in oxygen, readily explained the tiredness of a worker subjected to these conditions and his consequent inability to get through his work in a satisfactory manner.

Further, arduous occupations, such as riveting in shipbuilding yards, created a severe strain on the muscular powers and work in compressed air should only be executed during short periods. In certain dangerous processes also short working shifts were highly essential.

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On the Farm

POULTRY AND FRUIT.

Fruit culture and the production of poultry products can frequently be combined in a most satisfactory manner. There are several reasons why fruit and poultry can be produced economically together. In the first place, fowls are very destructive to insect life, and if sufficiently large numbers are kept, few of the larger insects, which may spend a portion of their time on the ground among the dead leaves and grass, will escape. The destruction of insects tends, of course, to make the trees more healthy and the fruit produced more perfect.

The amount of fertility, too, which may be added to the soil through the droppings of the fowls, is a matter of no small importance, when considered for a series of years. Medium-sized fowls, like the Leghorns, require about a bushel of grain per year, and larger fowls considerably more. The greater part of the nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid present in this grain passes into the excrement, and when that is scattered uniformly over the surface of the soil should become more fertile from year to year, thus making the trees more thrifty, vigorous and productive. In these ways, then, will the fowls benefit the trees, while on the other hand the shade furnished by the orchard on the sultry days of summer adds to the comfort and well-being of the fowls, and thus increases the profit which may be derived from them.

In connection with orcharding, it is important to have the poultry work so arranged as to interfere as little as possible when the trees demand most attention, namely, in the spring, when it is necessary to spray, and in the autumn at harvest time. Keeping fowls for egg production can be made to meet this requirement more nearly than any other branch of the poultry business.

Colony houses should be scattered through the orchard. The shape or size of these houses is quite immaterial, provided that the birds are not overcrowded, and that the houses are dry and comfortable. A house sixteen or eighteen feet wide and twenty feet long will accommodate about 75 fowls of the smaller breeds, and one house per acre would be sufficient. These houses should face the south or southeast, so as to receive as much sunshine as possible in winter. The back wall, on the north side of the house, should be double boarded, so as to be perfectly tight and warm, and the south side should be provided with an opening which can be closed in cold and stormy weather by a canvas or duck curtain. The perches should extend the entire length of the house at the rear, and should be provided with dropping boards, underneath which the nests may be located.

The dry-mash system of feeding can be used. This reduces the cost of labor for feeding to a minimum. This system consists in keeping constantly available to the fowls a mixture of ground grains and beef scrap. A mixture which has been found to be very satisfactory consists of equal parts, by weight, of cornmeal, ground oats and wheat bran. To this mixture is added about ten per cent. of beef scrap. In addition to the dry mash, the fowls should be fed at least once per day some whole grain, such as a mixture of corn, wheat and oats. In the winter time, when the fowls are confined to the houses, this should be scattered in the straw or litter, which should cover the floors of the houses. In summer the whole grain may be scattered outside.

Laying hens the size of Leghorns require from 60 to 70 pounds of grain and beef scrap per head yearly. At the present prices for grain, this would cost about $1 per fowl each year.

Young fowls, when properly fed and cared for and given free range in an orchard, as outlined, will lay, at the very lowest estimate, ten dozen eggs per year. At an average price of 25 cents per dozen these would be worth $2.50, or a profit, above the cost of feed, of $1.50 per hen per year.

Every fall, a short time before the layers begin to moult, they should be culled over, and a few of the best birds reserved for next year's breeders. The houses should then be cleaned, disinfected and put in readiness for the reception of the pullets, which should be moved into their winter quarters at the beginning of frosty weather.

EASY FOR MOTHER.

"Does your mother allow you to have two pieces of pie when you are at home, Willie?" asked his hostess.

"No, ma'am."

"Well, do you think she would like you to have two pieces here?"

"Oh, she wouldn't care," said Willie, confidently; "this isn't her pie."

ONE HOUR OF ROAD BUILDING

How a Highway Across a Great State was Re-constructed in One Day.

The people in Montgomery county, Iowa, by volunteer work, built a modern highway 20 miles long. That record is outclassed by something that has been done by citizens of Iowa. The greatest piece of road-building on record was accomplished in that state recently when in the space of one single hour a line of road 280 miles in length and stretching entirely across the state was put in the most perfect condition of any road west of the Mississippi river. Weeks and months were spent in preparation for the work, but not a pick or shovel was used until the designated second was ticked off. Then, as if by magic, 10,000 workmen swarmed out to the roadway, and when they ceased work 60 minutes later Iowa had one of the finest long-distance roads in the entire west.

And not the less interesting thing in connection with the tremendous piece of work is the fact that not a man of the entire 10,000 engaged are responsible for the splendid thoroughfare. Last winter the Iowa roads became so fearfully bad that traffic was practically killed and farmers were simply compelled to remain in their homes. Finally the matter became a political question and both parties got behind the movement. Gov. Carroll called a good roads meeting at Des Moines early last March, and out of this meeting was evolved the plan of a "river-to-river" road, stretching from Council Bluffs, on the Missouri river, to Davenport, on the Mississippi, a distance of 300 miles straight across the state from west to east. "Make the river-to-river road as near perfect as possible to make just common sense" was the sense of the good roads convention.

Instead of appointing new committees to handle the work, the leaders of the republican and democratic committees in each country through which the road would pass were appealed to. The chairman of the committee of each party was asked to get in the game and work for the road. Everybody agreed to do so and soon a rivalry was created between the republicans and democrats, each to see which party would have the most workmen "on the job" when the time for work arrived.

Saturday was selected as the day and from 9 to 10 o'clock the hour of work. Every farmer along the way was personally seen by the committee and agreed to give the one hour that was asked for. Farmers were asked to bring their plows, scrapers and road drags, and an organization equal to those employed in a professional railroad building was worked out. In the weeks preceding the work, all bridges and culverts along the road were repaired and put in first-class order, that no delay might come to the road builders when once the start started working.

The result of the organization was shown on the appointed Saturday. Shortly before 9 o'clock in the morning farmers began getting out on the road. Hundreds and thousands of plows, picks, shovels, scrapers, road drags, grading machines and other implements were brought along. Every farmer brought his team with him. Superintendents and overseers had been appointed in readiness when promptly at 9 o'clock the order was issued to "fall to." And 10,000 determined men "fell to." For an hour they toiled, working with might and main. At 10 o'clock the job was finished, and the farmers went back to their fields, leaving Iowa the possessor of the finest piece of long-distance roadway in the West.

MORE HONORS FOR LIPTON.

The firm of Thomas J. Lipton has just received the special appointment of Tea Merchant to His Majesty, King George V. This adds to England's successive Monarchs speaks volumes for Lipton's Tea.

A PIECE OF A MORTGAGE.

In another column is announced an opportunity to purchase 6 per cent. bonds of the Dominion Canners, Limited. This Company has earned over six times their bond interest, and any one looking for a considerately safe investment with a high interest return would do well to write the Dominion Bond Company, Toronto, Montreal or Ottawa.

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NAMED IT AFTER YANKEE

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, IS FAMOUS.

Identified With Governing Power, Owes Its Existence To An American.

Visitors from all parts of the world who gape their way through London are not aware, perhaps, that the very hub of the British Government owes its existence to an American. Downing street is synonymous with the governing power in the United Kingdom, and it was named after a Yankee. True, George Downing—Sir George Downing they had to make him in the long run—didn't know he was a Harvard graduate. In his day there wasn't any Harvard so far as the name went. The present University was the only public school of Massachusetts. But young Downing was graduated from it just the same, and his name is entitled to a place with those of other dead-and-gone alumni. And it was he who built England's world-famous Downing street.

George Downing was born in America. His was a constructive genius. He put up his own rooms in what now is Harvard—bought the boards and nails and glass himself, and built the little wing with his own hands. Then, having provided a college home for himself, he set about his studies. He studied to such purpose that when he went to England in quest of a career he found one cut out for him. They made a diplomat of the man. Charles II. sent him to the Hague as Ambassador, and incidentally, being a thrifty as well as a merry monarch, took occasion to sell him the little lane along which Henry VIII. had been wont to stroll from Whitehall Palace to see cockfights. Sir George afterwards became Secretary to the Treasury.

FIRST BRICK HOUSES.

Downing street is 100 yards long and 16 yards wide. In its confines Sir George built the first brick houses of importance ever put up in London. His children and grandchildren owned the whole street until Baron Bothmar, then Danish Ambassador to England, bought No. 10 in 1734. About the only thing the Dane did worth chronicling was to die there. No. 10 reverted to the Crown, and George II., thrifty as the Merry Monarch, offered it to Sir Richard Walpole. Just what King George expected to get in return from his Minister is not known. Sir Robert was too fine a fellow to take the great house as a gift, but he accepted it as the official residence of the Lords of the Treasury. As Britain's First Lord of the Treasury usually is Prime Minister as well, No. 10 Downing street is the headquarters of the Premier.

PITT'S DWELLING PLACE.

A desperate attack, fizzling out to mere window-smashing, was made on No. 10 by the Gordon rioters, when Lord North lived there. The great Pitt was so fond of No. 10 that when he could avoid it he never slept elsewhere. He dwelt in the house twenty years. All that time Downing street was getting a reputation. Until 1780 the Ministers dated all their official communications "The Cockpit," Whitehall, as the place had come to be called early in the sixteenth century. Not until 1760 did "Downing Street" definitely take the place of "The Cockpit," at the head of the Government papers. Downing street was built on a swamp, and the ground under the big houses is sown thickly with age-blackened wooden piles.

"How do you like that whiskey, Pat?" "Shure, your honor, it has made another man of me, an' that other man would like a glass too."

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