

**The Farm.**

**The Boy and the Sparrow.**

Once a sweet boy sat and swung on a limb;  
On the ground stood a sparrow-bird looking  
at him.  
Now, the boy, he was good, but the spar-  
row was bad.  
So he shied a big stone at the head of the  
lad.  
And it killed the poor boy, and the sparrow  
was glad.  
Then the little boy's mother flew over the  
trees—  
"Tell me, where is my little boy, sparrow-  
bird, please?"  
"He is safe in my pocket," the sparrow-  
bird said.  
And another stone shied at the fond  
mother's head  
And she fell at the feet of the wicked bird,  
dead.  
You imagine, no doubt, that the tale I have  
mixed,  
But it wasn't by me that the story was  
fixed;  
'Twas a dream a boy had after killing a  
bird.  
And he dreamed it so loud that I heard  
every word  
And I jotted it down as it really occurred.  
—Good Words.

**Does it Pay to Sift Ashes.**

The answer to this question depends very much upon another question. How closely are we compelled to draw the lines of the pay problem in an individual affair? For those who are called upon to practise the small economies, and whose means and income are so restricted that they must make money more by their savings than by their earnings, we think there is advantage in this exercise of frugality. Coal consumption varies, of course, with the uses of the house, yet probably the average for the season where fires are in constant demand would not fall short of from six to eight tons. Some are more deft and skillful in the management of fires than others, and yet it takes a certain definite amount of fuel to heat a given space.

Fires must be constantly replenished, and the refuse must be regularly removed, and it is hardly possible to accomplish this without some waste of material. When this operation is repeated twice a day in the course of the fire season, the average amount of unconsumed fuel that may be returned to the fire for further use is quite considerable. Our custom has been to apply this accommodation to the kitchen fire rather than return it to the stove or furnace. Where kitchen fires are kept up continuously, it is not well to put the cinders, as they are called, on the fire at night, as they burn out more quickly than fresh coal. But in the day time, when they can be watched, and indications of decay can be promptly arrested, they make a good, hot fire, serviceable for any purpose. The most objectionable feature in the practice of this economy is the operation itself. To stand in the centre of a cloud of coal ashes is not the sum of earthly enjoyment, and it does seem as if, no matter which way the vane points, the ashes are sure to come in your face and settle upon your garments. Efforts to bank the wind we generally find ineffective. The only way to guard against the difficulty is by adapting the apparel to the task. But we believe that with all the obstacles which must be surmounted, it does pay to sift the ashes. If the ashes are to be applied to the soil, the cleaner they are the better for such purpose. Few people have probably measured the amount of fuel mined out of the ash heap; but it is not an extravagant estimate which would rate it at a ton or a ton and a half, for the season. To reduce the coal bill \$5 or \$7.50 a year is worth some trouble. It is not a very large sum, but it is convenient to have, and it may just as well go into our pockets as into the pockets of the coal barons.—(Isaac L. Kip.

**Healthful Rearing of Swine.**

As pure air and regular, moderate exercise are essential in the formation of pure blood, which in the course of nature builds up healthful bodies, the advantage of rearing hogs out on open lots or fields rather

than in confinement is apparent. Yet it is true that hogs so reared are less likely to have so well rounded and plump forms, and would, especially when on exhibition, be considered by most people as inferior, simply because it has become the prevailing idea that the great, gross, helpless hog only is the model of improvement. Of course, such hogs are well adapted to fill lard cans, but not the larder with good, wholesome pork or bacon—any way not so likely to do so.

The best quality or standard of perfection of pork, as say some of the best judges of the matter, is that from a hog which will make the most ham with the least waste of fat—that is, fat in excess—the loggish, deepest sides with the most lean meat; and to insure its wholesomeness the hog should have bone and sinew enough to enable it to stand up and help itself to food and otherwise exercise itself sufficiently to develop healthfulness in all its parts.

Therefore, hogs reared in open pastures are more surely to be thus developed. They have better appetites, which are promoted and sustained by the fresh air and exercise they are thus enabled to take; hence they will eat a greater variety of food and digest it better than when confined in pens. And, furthermore, a great saving is made by it, for they will eat all kinds of vegetables, roots and refuse fruits, which stimulate their appetites and make them thrive all the better and faster.—Ex.

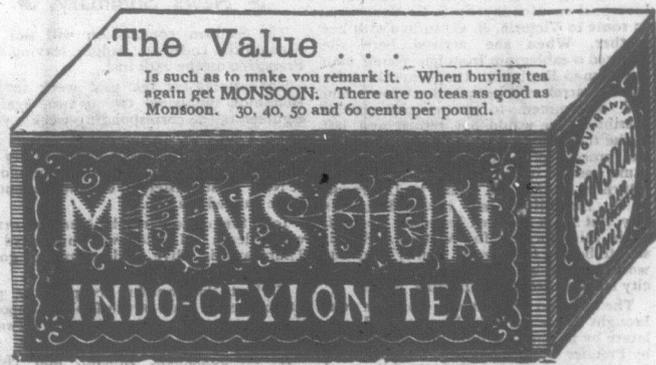
**Use of Poultry Droppings.**

Whenever poultry droppings are gathered they should be spread upon the land at once. I have found this by far the best plan. Frost and rains will reduce them to a condition suitable for plant food. Experience has taught me that it is unwise to keep them until spring before applying them to the soil. They give far better results when taken direct from the poultry-house and spread where wanted. I would not advise any one to apply them to his garden in large quantities after February 1; neither should they be applied in large quantities immediately about fruit trees. I killed two fine, thrifty apple trees and almost ruined four more by dumping a big wheelbarrowful close around each during the winter. I also spoiled a garden plot for an early crop by giving it a heavy dressing of fowl droppings in March. The droppings are an excellent fertilizer when applied at the proper season, but they are a plant-killer when used at the wrong time. They give excellent results when applied with stable manure. A very skilful farmer of my acquaintance who keeps about one hundred and fifty fowls in three houses all ways applies the droppings to the land in this way. The manure is drawn direct from the stables to the field during the winter months and the poultry-houses are cleaned out once a week and the droppings are thrown in with the stable manure and spread with them. The heavy crops of corn or grass grown on the land where they are applied plainly attest their value.—(Fred Grundy, in Epitomist.

**How to Dress Well.**

**By Using the Never-Failing Diamond Dyes Any Woman Can Have Two or More Dresses of the Newest Colors at Trifling Cost.**

Women who desire to dress neatly and well find the Diamond Dyes to be their best and truest helpers. One or two packages (according to weight of dress) will recreate any faded or discolored dress or skirt that has been cast aside as useless, and the cost will not exceed 10 or 20 cents. Instead of having to depend upon one dress for street and church wear, any thrifty and handy woman with the help of Diamond Dyes can have two or more



dresses in stylish colors always ready for service.

Do not risk your dresses with imitation or adulterated dyes; see that your dealer gives you the Diamond Dyes when you ask for them.

**The Yukon Mosquito.**

Not only do the Yukon mosquitoes attack men and overwhelm them, but they drive the moose, deer, and cariboo up the mountains to the snow line, where these animals would prefer not to be in berry time. They kill dogs, and even the big brown bear, that is often mis-called a grizzly, has succumbed to them. Bears come down to the river from the hillside in the early fall to get some of the salmon that are often thrown upon the banks when the "run" is heavy.

If bruin runs foul of a swarm of mosquitoes, and has not his wits about him, his day has come. The insects will alight all over him. His fur protects his body, but his eyes, ears, and nose will be swollen up and bleeding, and unless he gets into a river or a strong wind he will be driven mad and blind, to wander about hopelessly until he starves to death.

Although the Alaska summer is short, two broods of mosquitoes hatch out each year, and are ready for business from one to ten seconds after they leave the water. It rains a good deal along the Yukon, and rain is welcomed, for it drives the mosquitoes to cover. They hide under the leaves and branches until the storm is over, then they come out boiling with rage at the time they have been forced to spend in idleness, and the miner has a harder time than ever after his respite.

Mosquitoes and snowflakes are not contemporaries in the States; but in Alaska it is different. Snow does not bother them so much as rain, and an early snow may fall while they are still on the wing. Fog does not choke them either. They appear to like it. They float about in it as in ambush, and take the unwary prospector by surprise.—The Outlook.

**Story About Lions.**

When lions were still numerous and easily observed in southern Africa, they were sometimes seen instructing one another in voluntary gymnastics, and practicing their leaps, making a bush play the part of the absent game. Moffat tells the story of a lion which had missed a zebra by miscalculating the distance, repeating the jump several times for his own instruction. Two of his comrades coming upon him while he was engaged in the exercise, he led them around the rock to show them how matters stood, and then, returning to the starting point, completed the lesson by making a final leap. The animals kept roaring during the whole of the curious scene, "talking together," as the native who watched them said. By the aid of individual training of this kind, industrial animals become apter as they grow older—old birds, for instance, constructing more artistic nests than young ones, and little mammals, like mice becoming adroit with age.—Christian Work.

"Every year," said the professor, "a sheet of water fourteen feet thick is raised to the clouds from the sea." "What time of the year does that happen, professor?" asked the freshman from the interior; "I should think it would be a sight worth going to see."—Ex.

The Jamaica Council adjourned Friday, leaving the political situation almost chaotic, the representatives having passed a vote of censure on the officers of the government and having adopted a resolution demanding their removal, including the governor, Sir Augustus Hemming. Thursday night throughout the rural parishes mass meetings were held and effigies of Joseph Chamberlain, the British Secretary of State for the colonies, and Governor Hemming were burned.

With full honors of war the nation, represented by President McKinley and high dignitaries of the government and army, all the regular and militia organizations of the district of Columbia and a concourse of 15,000 people, paid the last tribute of honor and regret to the 336 officers and men who gave their lives for their country in the war with Spain. The ceremony took place in Arlington cemetery, Washington. In parallel rows the wooden boxes containing the caskets were ranged. Over each box an American flag was draped. The funeral services were very simple, but very impressive. Rev. Mr. Freeland read the military committal service of the Episcopal church, and Rev. Father McGee consecrated the ground into which the Roman Catholic soldiers were placed.

**Woman's Influence**

Has Made

**Paine's Celery Compound**

The Great Home Medicine.

As a Spring Remedy it Meets the Wants of Women in Every Sphere of Life.

When weakly, sick and broken down women are seen to gain health and vigor from the use of Paine's Celery Compound, no room for doubt is left to the most skeptical individual.

Medical science devised Paine's Celery Compound, a medicine uniformly successful in banishing the troubles that afflict the great majority of women, and honest physicians are always pleased to recommend it.

It is a well known fact that all the women who have recovered health and strength by means of Paine's Celery Compound were induced to use it through the influence and persuasion of other women—sisters, mothers or friends.

In the spring time, when women are weak, overworked, nervous, have tired feelings, dyspepsia, headache, sideache, headache, neuralgia, blood troubles or any of the many nameless ills from which they suffer in silence, Paine's Celery Compound will quickly banish all dangers and sufferings; it will impart that strength, health and vivacity that make women womanly and admired.

Paine's Celery Compound is at present carrying on this joyous transformation work all over Canada, and women, young and old, of all ranks and conditions, bless the memory of Dr. Phelps who conferred such a blessing on their sex.

Dear women of our country, why continue in misery and suffering when such a friend as Paine's Celery Compound is within such easy reach, and ready to do for you all you so much desire?

Do not be deceived by any of the many nervines, bitters, sarsaparillas or advertised pills; they cannot bestow that pearl of great price—good health. Paine's Celery Compound has given new health and life to your friends; it will not fail in your particular hour of need. Bear in mind that Paine's Celery Compound makes sick people well.