

GOSSIP.

HYDROPHOBIA

Another disastrous outbreak of rabies, or hydrophobia, is occupying the attention of the Health of Animals Branch at Ottawa, this time in the County of Nepean, a few miles south of the town of Collingwood. A few weeks ago, Frank Hewson, a prosperous farmer living near Duntroon, had his attention drawn to a dog that appeared acting in a strange manner, viciously attacking a brood sow and some other stock near by. With some difficulty the dog was caught and securely chained, dying some two or three days after. About four weeks later, the sow in question took sick and died, then a couple of cows commenced acting strangely. The local veterinarian was called in, his efforts proving futile, both cows succumbing, then the stock bull, then one of his horses, then another cow, till at the time of writing four head of cattle, one horse and the brood sow have died. About this time Dr. Van Zant, of "The Farmer's Advocate," being in the neighborhood, was asked to make an investigation to determine the cause of the trouble, which was found, as above stated, to be the much-dreaded hydrophobia. The Department at Ottawa was immediately communicated with, when Dr. W. W. Stork was detailed to look after the outbreak. Fuller investigation revealed the disease on the farm of Blair Bros., a short distance away, where two head of cattle, as well as their own dog, had died with symptoms indicating rabies. It was also learned that a considerable number of dogs in that section had died with peculiar symptoms. The extent of the infection is not yet known, but necessarily be greater than is yet reported. For the benefit of those of our readers not conversant with the symptoms of this disease, we will enumerate a few of the more prominent. The period of incubation is, on an average, 30 days, in the general run of live stock; it is essentially a disease of the nerve centers, being usually ushered in by symptoms of more or less excitement, which increase rapidly in violence. There are muscular twitchings, stamping of the feet, tossing of the head, champing of the jaws, a more or less profuse flow of saliva or froth; anything moving in the vicinity of the animal being sufficient to throw it into a rage. Cattle will usually bawl when anyone is near them, and attempt to attack anything moving. Horses show their fury by viciously biting anything in reach, or their own legs if nothing else can be got at. They will also kick at moving or imaginary objects. Soon there is more or less loss of power, particularly of the hind legs. Death usually ensues in from three to five days. Contrary to the universally-believed theory, rabies is often more virulent in cool, or even cold weather, than during the hot months, and cannot originate spontaneously.

At the University of Missouri is the first working school of journalism in the world. As practical laboratory work, a daily paper, with telegraphic reports, is issued. Walter Williams, its dean, tells of the vicissitudes he encounters in turning laymen into journalists.

A student was sent in haste to cover a railroad wreck at a town a few miles away. It was almost time for the daily to go to press, and still no word had been received from the young man on the assignment.

In desperation, Dean Williams telegraphed, asking why the story was not forthcoming. The reply was:

"Too much excitement. Wait till things quiet down."

HIS AMAZING MEMORY.

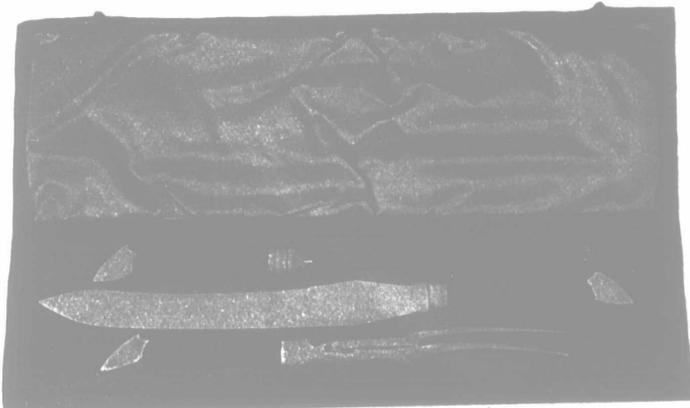
Charles J. Ross, the actor, was discussing a recent divorce suit. "The conscientious memory of the average witness," he said, "is like that of an old colored man I once met, who claimed to have known George Washington. I asked him if he was in the boat when Gen. Washington crossed the Delaware, and he instantly replied, 'Lor, massa, I steered dat boat.' 'Well,' said I, 'do you remember when George took the bark at de cherry tree?' He looked worried for a minute, and then, with a beaming smile, said, 'Why, suah, massa, I do. I save dat bark mahself.'"

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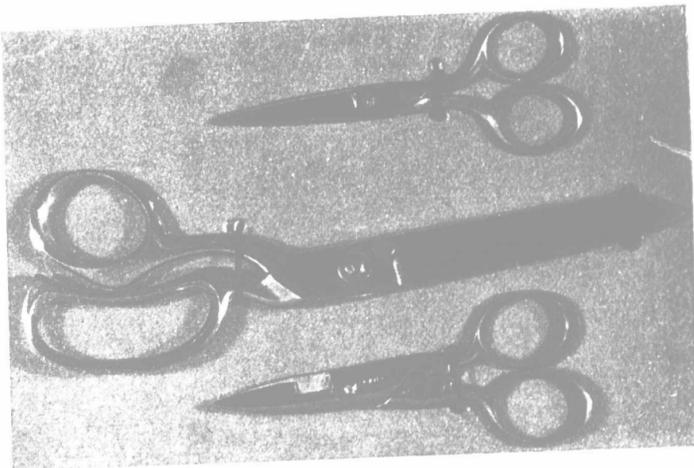
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