

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We observe that many bicyclers have an anxious or even distressful look while riding. This is unsatisfactory to us. It indicates a lack of freedom, and of self command, and of mastery of the wheel. It bears some resemblance to stage fright, and might be called bike fright. Those afflicted with it ought to shake it off at once. Again, we have noticed some men smoking cigars while out riding; and they may think that this makes them look dandy or free-and-easy. We don't like the habit. It is a bad one. It must be offensive to the eyes of young wheelwomen of good taste. Since cycling has become the rage, we ought to have a code of bicycle manners, in which sound principles shall be laid down, and means for their application shall be provided. Everything ought to be properly regulated in the earlier stages of the bicycling era of the world, so that the right thing may be established for the guidance of ages yet unborn. A convention of polite wheelerers of both sexes might be held for the formation of the code.

While other European powers are occupied with affairs in the far East, Italy keeps her attention well fixed on her African colony of Erythrea. The moment certainly seems propitious for further conquest there, and Gen. Barateri, who is at once the Governor of the colony and the commander of all the Italian forces in East Africa, has notified the Government at Rome that new hostilities are inevitable. The successes of this officer nearly a year ago, when he defeated the Mahdists on the Atbara, and gave to Italy secure possession of the important point of Kassala, were followed early this year by a victory over the Abyssinians, under Ras Mangascia, on the Belesa. Mangascia is the chief of Tigre, the northernmost province of Abyssinia, and he had been named by King John, it is said, as his successor. However, Menelek, the chief of Shoa, the southernmost province, proclaimed himself King, and was supported by Italy, giving her in return large territorial possessions; and, under the treaties of May 2 and Sept. 29, 1889, a virtual protectorate over all Abyssinia, as Menelek's only representative in his relations with foreign lands. This arrangement was repudiated by Mangascia and his leading General, Ras Alula, so far as they and the province of Tigre were concerned, but they were defeated by the combined forces of Italy and Menelek, and comparative quiet followed until the events of the last and the present year.

Such news as we get from Abyssinia comes through Italian channels, and it represents the movements of Gen. Barateri as having been forced by hostile demonstrations of Mahdists on the one hand and malcontent Abyssinians on the other. War has become necessary, it is said, in order to furnish safety to the people who have accepted Italy's protection. Of course, a policy of further annexation would need no further excuse, although, this, in turn, may be kept in check by the question of cost and the condition of Italy's funds. But the fighting is largely done by native contingents and we should judge that there were not more than about 2,000 Italian troops in Abyssinia, some of these, also, being in garrison at Massowah and elsewhere. Even now what Gen. Barateri is reported as asking for his new operations, is rifles with which to arm more native allies.

The results of the past twelve months are seen in the extension of actual military occupation by Italy, westward to the region around Kassala, and southward to the region around Adua, this last being effected in March or April. So far as the former is concerned, it may well command general sympathy, as King Humbert's declaration to Gen. Barateri that "the capture of Kassala is a triumph of civilization," was not overstrained. A check to the slave-dealing Arabs may well be called such a triumph. The case is not precisely the same with the advance into Tigre, but Italy seems to be regarded by the other countries of Europe as free to pursue her own policy within the lines of her protectorate, so that further conquests within those limits will hardly excite a protest in any quarter.

His Going Occupation.

A strong, healthy man like you ought not to be out of work. I'm willin' to work, ma'am, but I can't get nothin' to do at my trade. Raw materials all gone. What's your trade? Blacksmith. Surely, there's plenty of iron. Yes'm, but I'm a horse-shoer. There ain't no horses.

Love in the Dark.

I love to drink in from your eyes. He said, the limpid light, then as the gas were low, she said, it would be out of sight.

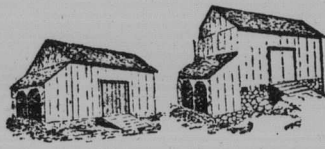
Perfectly Safe.

Caller—Your coat-of-arms is very pretty; but couldn't any one else use it? Hostess—No, indeed. We paid the designer ten dollars extra to have it copyrighted.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

How to Remodel a Barn.

There is some controversy concerning the comparative value of a bank or basement barn, and one built on level ground. Having used both I candidly believe that farmers who contemplate building



THE OLD BARN. THE REMODELED ONE.

a new or remodeling an old barn will not be sorry if they choose one with a basement. It is economical, warm, and if well ventilated will be most comfortable for stock. Do not give the fodder directly from the floor above, but have spacious alleys, wide enough to hold feed for one or two days. Have boxes in the basement for grain, also a couple of good cats for catching rats and mice.

The dimensions of a barn are not essential in a plan. Build according to your needs. Divide the stall room so it will give you the best service. Allow five feet in single stalls for horses, and three feet for cattle. The illustrations show my original barn, and also the remodeled and enlarged structure. I raised the old barn on an 8-foot stone wall on three sides of

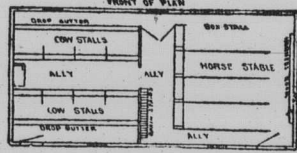


FIG 3. GROUND PLAN OF THE REMODELED BARN.

the rectangle, then boarded, battened and prepared the other side as shown in the plan. It is very satisfactory now, and I have no doubt that many barns in the central west can be greatly improved at comparatively small expense. Fig 1 is the old barn, Fig 2 is the same after it had been placed upon the stone wall and remodeled, Fig 3 is the ground plan showing the arrangement of the stalls.

For tying cattle, I find a chain most satisfactory. In my stalls I place a 2x4 inch scantling, with rounded edges to permit the free working up and down of the chain. One end of this scantling is fastened to the top of the partition and the other to top of manger in a slanting manner. The chain placed about this scantling and the neck of the animal, allows plenty of room while eating and lying down, but keeps the animals in place. My cow stalls have a 6-inch drop, the length of stall varying to correspond to the length of the cattle. They are double, with a partition in the manger, so that each animal has his own food. This is an important point where animals of different ages are stabled together. In all well regulated stables, a good box stall, accessible from both cow and horse barn is desirable. This feature will be found in the accompanying plan.

Rations for Work Horses.

It is undoubtedly true that a great majority of farm horses lose much of their effectiveness as workers from lack of proper feeding. It is too much the habit of farmers to sell themselves short of grain, or to use it mainly for fattening stock. They sell what will sell most readily, reserving for their team hay and often a straw ration, supplemented with a very little grain. To get along with as light a feeding of grain as possible is very poor economy. Help is dear, and the farmer who has hired a good man at high wages cannot afford to have his effectiveness diminished.

Even when hay is plentiful it should never be fed in large quantities to horses at work. It is too bulky in proportion to its nutriment, and the effect of overloading the stomach is to greatly diminish the effectiveness of what nutrition the ration contains. There must be enough bulk to make the grain meal porous, so that the gastric juices of the stomach can act on the ration. Any more bulk than this for a working horse is injurious. When street cars were run by horses it was the aim of the company to get as much work as possible out of them. Large horses weighing 1,200 pounds or more were preferred. The ration of such horses was sixteen pounds of corn and oats ground and mixed with sixteen pounds of finely-cut hay. This was given at three feeds, morning, noon and night, but divided so as to give the largest feed at night after the day's work was done. On this ration nearly all street car horses would gain. But for the fact that the horses' feet would be battered by hard pavements, horses so fed could be kept at street car work until they grew too old for further service.

Most farmers feed much more heavily than this, but it is usually with nearly double the amount of hay and very little grain. Livery men want to feed their horses so as to make faster time than the street cars. Their ration has a greater proportion of concentrated food, and it may be extended with bright chopped straw or wheat bran. This last makes an excellent divisor of meal, and it has greater nutritive value than hay. Fine wheat middings are also excellent for working horses, but the middings must be mixed with a considerable amount of cut hay or straw to prevent it from passing in the stomach and causing colic. Over feeding while working will, in most horses, cause diarrhoea, and this rapidly decreases strength. On the contrary, with a nourishing but rather small ration the horse will be somewhat costive, and will require an

addition of a quarter of a pound of linseed meal Saturday night, so that the Sunday rest will give opportunity for a thorough cleaning.

Oats are much the best for working horses, and if ground without corn they will require a very small amount of cut feed to give them the proper bulk. But as a feed they are much more expensive than is the mixture of corn and oat meal, which is almost universally used for feeding working farm horses. A team of horses thus fed will stand their work after four or five weeks' steady plowing or cultivating than they were at the beginning. Some farmers of our acquaintance use bran for a part of the divisor. It is a stronger feed than the same weight of hay, and with the bran the hay part of the ration may be reduced to six or eight pounds per day.

For feeding in bulk clover hay is objected to by many farmers because it is liable to be dusty. It is so rich in nitrogen that it heats very easily if bad weather occurs while the clover is curing, and in the barn there is apt to be some heating of clover hay in the mow. Horses are very fond of clover and will gorge themselves on it so as to be unfit to do hard work. But for cut feed to be used with moistened corn and oatmeal and bran, the clover hay is very much better than is timothy, and a less number of pounds will be needed to keep the horses in good condition for working.

Cut corn stalks are not good to mix with corn and oatmeal and bran as cut feed. Nor should they be fed at any time unless moistened with water. The stalks are very laxative, and if fed to working horses will diminish their effectiveness. It is, however, a good thing to feed idle horses in the winter with a part ration of corn stalks each day, changing this when the horses are set to work to a ration of cut hay and grain meal. It is very important that the working teams shall be ready to do their best six days in the week. In this way only can the work be pushed so as to make it cost as little as possible for the results attained.

MAUNDY PENNIES.

The ceremony of Distributing the Queen's Dole in Westminster Abbey.

The ceremony of distributing the Queen's dole on Maundy Thursday is the English equivalent of the Catholic ceremony of washing the feet of the poor. This ceremony is performed at Rome by the Pope and by several prelates, at Florence with great ceremony by a Cardinal, at Vienna by the Emperor, and at St. Petersburg by the Czar, as the head of the Greek Church. It used to be performed by the King of Bavaria and by the English sovereigns.

James II was the last English sovereign to wash the feet of the poor on Maundy Thursday. Since that time the ceremony has been confined to the distribution of the Queen's dole. This dole is put in red and white purses and distributed in Westminster Abbey amid the pealing of the organ, and in the presence of prelates and noblemen. Part of the dole is made up of the Maundy pennies, especially coined for the purpose. They are in silver, and of the denomination of 1 penny, 2, 3 and 4 pence. The face value of the set is thus 10 pence, but they are at once in demand as curios at about 16 times their face value, and are promptly sold by the poor recipients to banks and to individuals. Each poor man or woman receives a penny for every year of the Queen's age, and a new receipt is added each year. The distribution this year was 76 pence to each person. This is seven full sets and a fraction, so that the real value of the dole of Maundy pennies is more than £5.

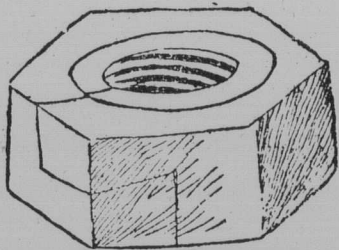
The Maundy pennies were first coined in the reign of Charles II. They came to the recipients fresh from the mint. Each coin bears on one side the effigy of the Queen with her name and titles, and on the other the denomination of the coin, the crown, and the date increased in a wreath. The penny is much smaller than our own gold dollar of earlier days. The edges of the coin are not milled, as it is not expected that they will circulate, and the precaution of milling against the coin clippers is unnecessary. A full set of Maundy pennies for the reign of Victoria is worth a very handsome sum.

The word Maundy means command, used adjectively, and refers to the command in the thirteenth chapter of St. John to the disciples to wash one another's feet.

AN ELASTIC NUT

Which seems to Take the Place of the So-called Lock-Nut.

This ingenious device is designed to do away with the necessity of putting two nuts on a bolt that is to be kept tightly in place. The old plan was to put on one



nut, and then another to keep the first one from uncrewing, the second nut being called the jam-nut or lock-nut.

The elastic nut, however, locks itself. It is made from spring steel, being cut from a bar and then bent into a ring, the ends joining in a dovetail split. The ring is then pressed into hexagon shape and tapped a trifle smaller than its bolt, so that, when it is wrenched on the split opens slightly, making a firm and constant hold on the bolt.

A Damaged Article.

May—Why did Pamela break off her engagement with the duke?
Eva—She learned that his character was above reproach.

Canteen Canticles.

THE RECRUIT.

Sez Corporal Madden to Private McFadden:

"Be gob, ye're a bad un!
Now turn out ye're toes!
Ye're belt is unhookit,
Ye're cap is on crookit,
Ye may not be dhrunk,
But, be jabbers, ye look it

Wan—two!
Wan—two!
Ye monkey-faced ape, I'll jolly ye through!

Wan—two!
Time! Mark!

Ye march like the aigle up in the Park!"

Sez Corporal Madden to Private McFadden:

"A saint it ud sadden
To drin! such a mug!
Sure, man, ye've no shape!
Behind ye're shoulders
Stick out like two bowlders;
Ye're shins is as thin
As a pair of pen holders!

Wan—two!
Wan—two!

Ye whiskered orang-ou-tang, I'll fix you!

Wan—two!

Ye've eyes like a bat;—can ye see in the dark?"

Sez Corporal Madden to Private McFadden:

"Ye're figger wants paddn—
Sure, man, ye've no shape!
Behind ye're shoulders
Stick out like two bowlders;
Ye're shins is as thin
As a pair of pen holders!

Wan—two!
Wan—two!

Ye're chest belongs on ye're back, ye Jew!

Wan—two!

Time! Mark!

I'm dhry as a dog—I can't shpake but I bark!"

Sez Corporal Madden to Private McFadden:

"Me heart it ud gladden
To blaoken ye're eye,
Ye're gettin' too bold, ye
Compel me to scold ye,—
'Tis I! 't is I! 't is I!
Will ye heed what I told ye?"

Wan—two!

Be jabbers, I'm dhryer than Brian Boru!

Wan—two!

Time! Mark!

What's wur-ruk for chickens is sport for the lark!"

Sez Corporal Madden to Private McFadden:

"I'll not stay a gaid'n!
Wid dagoes like you!
I'll travel no farther,
I'm dyin' for—wather!—
Come on, if ye like,—
Can ye loan me a quarther?"

Ya-as, you?

What,—two?

And ye'll pay the potheen? Ye're a daisy!

Whurroo!

You'll do!

Whist—Mark,

The Rigmint's flattered to own ye, me spark!"

GRAINS OF GOLD.

A true repentance shows the evil itself, more than the external suffering of the shame.—Shakespeare.

The true epic of our times is not arms and the man, but tools and the man—an infinitely wider kind of epic.—Carlyle.

As land is improved by sowing it with various seeds, so is the mind by exercising it with different studies.—Piny.

War kills men, and men deplore the loss; but war also crushes bad principles and tyrants, and so saves societies.—Coitton.

The wisest woman you talk with is ignorant of something that you know, but an elegant woman never forgets her elegance.—Holmes.

A slight answer to an intricate and useless question is a fit cover to such a dish—a cabbage leaf is good enough to cover a dish of mushrooms.—Jeremy Taylor.

Nature appears to me to have ordained this station here for us as a place of sojournment, a transitory abode only, and not as a fixed settlement or permanent habitation.—Cicero.

Pur sue no ta victory too far. He had conquered well that hath made his enemy fly; thou mayest beat him to a desperate resistance, which may ruin thee.—George Herbert.

Virtue is more to man than either water or fire. I have seen men die from treading on water and fire, but I have never seen a man die from treading the course of virtue.—Confucius.

True worth is as inevitably discovered by the facial expression as its opposite is sure to be clearly represented there. The human face is nature's tablet, the truth is certainly written thereon.—Lavater.

All travel has its advantages. If the passenger visits letter countries he may learn to improve his own; and if fortune carries him to worse, he may learn to enjoy his own.—Johnson.

Headaches.

Why is a dog biting his own tail like a good financier? Because he makes both ends meet.

Which travels slower, heat or cold? Cold, for you can catch it.

Who was Jonah's tutor? The whale that brought him up.

What gives a cold, cures a cold and pays the doctor's bill? A draft (draught).

What relation is a doormat to a doorestep? A stepfather.

What grows bigger the more you contract it? Debt.

When is coffee like the soil? When it is ground.

What is the most dangerous time of the year to visit the country? When the bull-rushes out, and the cow-slips about, and the little sprigs are shooting all about.

Why is the root of a tongue like a dejected man? Because it is down in the mouth.

YOUNG FOLKS.

Raggles.

Raggles was only a scrubby little Indian pony. His owner had evidently considered him of no use, and he excitedly turned him loose on the bare prairie to shift for himself. He was a sorry looking little fellow, as he stood one morning at the gate of Mr. Hudson's large cattle ranch, shivering in the wind and looking with a wistful gaze at the sleek, fat ponies inside. Mr. Hudson noticed him, and started to drive him away. But his little daughter, Lillian said: "Let him in, papa; he looks so hungry." Mr. Hudson opened the gate, and the pony walked in, just as if it were his home. Mr. Hudson made inquiries, but no one knew anything about him; and as no owner ever came to claim him, Lillian claimed him as her special property, and named him Raggles, on account of his long tangled mane and tail. He was a docile little creature, unlike the rest of the ponies on the farm. He soon came to regard Lillian as his mistress. She learned to ride him, and could often be seen cantering over the prairies with her father. But Raggles seemed to consider she was not much of a rider, for he would carefully avoid all dangerous-looking places and holes in the ground. When the next spring came Raggles did not look like the same little scrub. His rusty brown coat had all come off and a new black one had taken its place.

By the next fall the neighborhood could boast of a public school, and when Lillian began to go Raggles found he had regular duty every day.

Lillian would saddle him and ride to the school house, which was two miles away, then tie up his bridle and send him home. At about half-past three Mr. Hudson would saddle him again and send him home. He always arrived on time, and if he was a little early would wait patiently by the door until school closed.

Some of our readers will remember the blizzard that struck the western States in 1885, when so many people lost their lives and thousands of cattle were frozen to death. The storm commenced about noon, and the weather grew steadily colder. The snow blew so thick and fast that Mrs. Hudson was afraid to trust Raggles to go for Lillian, but Mr. Hudson was sick and there was no one else. She went to the barn, put the saddle on him, and tied plenty of warm wraps on. Then she threw her arms around his shaggy neck and told him to be sure to bring Lillian home. He seemed to understand, and started out with his shambling trot in the direction of the school house.

One hour passed slowly to the anxious parents. When two had passed, their anxiety was terrible, as they strained their eyes to see through the blinding snow his shaggy form bringing their darling safely home. At last he came with Lillian on his back, bundled up from head to foot.

The teacher had fastened her on the pony and given him the rein; and so he had brought her safely home, none the worse for her ride, except being thoroughly chilled.

The Girl Away From Home.

Un'oubtedly many of our girls have been invited to spend a short time with some friend this summer. Perhaps some one is going away from home for the first time, is looking forward expectantly to a pleasant visit, and many little preparations are being made for her.

It is possible that where she is going no servant is kept, the work being done by the several members of the family. This being the case, she should make as little extra trouble as possible. She may, perhaps share her friend's room. Let her be particular to take care of her dresses and little belongings, not leaving them around in the way. Then it would be best for her to take care of her own room.

While every one is busy, and it is not easy for some one to be with her, let her rely upon her own resources, and amuse herself whenever occasion demands. She can read, or spend her time with music, if musically inclined.

It is a point of courtesy to always be on time. Never, unless unavoidable, let the family be kept waiting a moment at meal-time, or when going out. The guest should conform to the customs of the home.

If there be anything she can do to accommodate any one, let her not hesitate to do it. If her friend is doing anything with which she can help, she should do so, and thus enable her entertainer to be free from her duties that much longer.

By showing consideration for others, when her visit comes to an end her friend will say good-bye with genuine regret, and extend a cordial and sincere invitation to "come again," and she will feel that it has been a very pleasant vacation.

Roundabout Messages.

A special correspondent found himself shut out of a London newspaper office in Fleet Street, and unable to make himself heard by anyone within. His errand would not wait till morning. What should he do? He went to the Central Telegraph Station and telegraphed to a newspaper office in Ireland asking the clerk there to telegraph to the clerk in Fleet Street to come down-stairs and let him—the correspondent—in.

Mr. Baines, in his "Forty Years at the Post-Office," tells a similar story.

He was alone in a branch telegraph office in Seymour Square, London, one evening, when the gas went out, and left him in total darkness. He fumbled about for a match. There was not one in the office. Probably there were some in the telegraph office in Euston Square. But how should he get them? He had no telegraphic communication with that office.

He telegraphed to Birmingham: "Please wire Euston Square to send me some matches."

In a few minutes a boy came in with a box.

There are 1,600 men working on the Pary Sound railway.