The Monitor's Agricultural Department

For the Use and Benefit of Farmers.

Correspondence, Suggestions and Inquiries welcomed to these columns.

Cheese Boxes.

At the dairy conventions recently held Mr. J. A. Ruddick, Chief of the Dairy Division, Ottawa, made a strong appeal for better cheese boxes.

"Boxes are," said he, "necessary to protect the cheese from injury in transportation, to facilitate their handling, and to permit their being piled several tiers deep in a warehouse without being crushed out of shape. Without the boxes the cheese could not be delivered in Great Britain in a presentable condition. Now, if it is desirable to have cheese in boxes at all, it is surely important that the box should be strong enough to reach its destination in a sound condition. A great many shipments of cheese are landed on the other side with twenty-five per cent of the boxes broken. Indeed, some reports from the inspectors show a larger percentage. This simply means that one-quarter of the money paid for the boxes have been spent to no purpose. And that is not all, for the broken boxes in a shipment, while detracting from the actual value of the cheese which they once contained, make the whole lot less attractive to the purchaser.

What are the reasons for this unsatisfactory state of affairs? In the first place we have increased the weight of our cheese, and at the same time reduced the strength of the box by using thinner veneer and an inferior quality of elm. It is evident also that there are many box makers who have never properly learned their trade, as a large proportion of the boxes are only half put together.

The increasing cost and scarcity of elm and the demands of cheese merchants for a cheap box, have induced the veneer cutters to reduce the thickness of the veneer, until much of that now offered for sale is entirely too flimsy for the purpose. It should never be cut less than full five to the inch. A great deal of it is six and some even seven to the inch.

Another fault in the veneer is that the log is often not boiled sufficiently to soften the wood; consequently the veneer knife shatters it while cutting and gives it a tendency to split easily. Another result of insufficient boiling or steaming is that the salts of the wood are not extracted, consequently boxes made from such stock mould very readily.

"When I began buying boxes for the cool curing room," said Mr. Ruddick, "I insisted on getting heavy selected veneers. The box makers tried to persuade me to accept the thin veneer, some claiming that it would stand more rough usage than the thicker material. I have had to give two cents above the regular price for such boxes, but it paid to do so, for the reports on shipments from the curing rooms showed only one and two per cent broken. Of course these shipments were all carefully loaded into the cars and not left standing four or five tiers high, to be thrown down and smashed by the first shunt. Hundreds of boxes are broken in that way. I believe there is almost enough wasted in trimming boxes, either in the cheese factory or at the warehouse to make up this difference of two cents. Boxes are now worth at least one cent per inch in depth, and that part which is cut away is absolute waste.

If boxes are not thoroughly dry when put on the cheese the growth of mould is started. This is particularly the case in cold weather when the boxes dry slowly.

In aiming to have the cheese fit the boxes without trimming, it is well to remember that a box, which measures twelve inches deep when newly made, will shrink to eleven and a half inches as it dries out. The same box will expand again to nearly its original depth after it has been in a warehouse for a week or so, because it absorbs moisture from the cheese. In fitting dry boxes to the cheese it is necessary therefore, to have the cheese project at least one-quarter of an inch above the edge of the box. One would think it hardly necessary to call attention to the importance of having the box of the proper diameter to fit the cheese snugly. No box will stand the handling that is not supported by the cheese on the inside.

Yours very truly,
W. A. CLEMONS,
Publication Clerk.

Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa, March 3rd, 1904.

Some Remarkable Butter Cows.

If anyone still has doubts of the butter producing capacity of Holstein-Friesian cows, the official tests that are being made in all parts of Canada and the United States should far to convince the "doubting Thomases." Three years ago the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada started the "Record of Merit" registration, in which is contingent upon the production of certain standard amounts of butter fat in an official test. Such tests must be conducted by a disinterested representative of an agricultural college or dairy school, who must be present at every milking and personally weigh and test the milk. The results must be vouched for by the college, the conductor of the test, the owner of the animal, and the milker.

So carefully conducted is the system that an official record is everywhere regarded as accurate beyond question.

The standard requires that a two-year-old heifer shall produce in seven days at least eight pounds of butter fat; a three-year-old heifer ten pounds; a four-year-old cow eleven and one-half pounds; and a mature cow thirteen pounds. Last year forty-one cows and heifers were registered in the Canadian "Record of Merit," including the great cow "Tidy Abbekerk," owned by H. Bollert, Cassel, Ont. This cow in her eight year old form made an official test of 551 pounds of milk and 21.82 pounds of butter fat in a week, or equal to 25.44 pounds of butter containing 85.7 per cent of fat. This is the largest official record ever made in Canada by any cow of any breed.

Since the 1st of February, the beginning of the Association's official year, seven additional tests have been accepted for entry in the "Record of Merit." These are as follows:—

Jennie Worthema II (36087) at 2y. 9m. 21d. of age; 8.94 lbs. of fat; 10.43 lbs. of butter. Owner, P. D. Ede, Woodstock, Ont.

Lady Frances (3274) at 2y. 11m. 23d. of age; 8.65 lbs. of fat, 10.09 lbs. of butter. Owner, P. D. Ede.

Anna Merrygold (2333) at 5y. 9m. of age; 13.81 lbs. of fat; 16.11 lbs. of butter. Owner P. D. Ede.

Mercena 3rd (2711) at 4y. 3m. 14d. of age; 24.07 lbs. of fat; 24.58 lbs. of butter. Owner, Jas. Rettie, Norwich, Ont.

Annie Schuiling (2715) at 3y. 9m. 7d. of age; 14.56 lbs. of fat; 16.93 lbs. of butter. Owner, Jas. Rettie.

Olive Schuiling (2733) at 3y. 8m. 9d. of age; 15.11 lbs. of fat; 17.62 lbs. of butter. Owner, Jas. Rettie.

It may be pointed out that the above record of Mercena 3rd is the largest ever made in an official test in Canada by a four-year-old cow of any breed.

Never Use Grade Sires.

The Chicago Live Stock Report replying to a correspondent who proposed to improve his herd by the use of a grade bull, says:

"When will men learn that grade sires do not possess sufficient breed prepotency to transmit their good qualities to their offspring? We wish more common sense could be inculcated into the fellow who stays at home when stock shows are being held and "knows too much" to attend farmers' institutes. All over the land we find grade stallions and bulls continuing their detrimental work in studs and herds. This is seen more in horses than other animals, but it is bad enough as regards cattle, and there still remains a heroic work before the average man will learn the first principles of the breeder's philosophy. Once again let us say that until pure blood gains the mastery over scrub blood in the veins of an animal, that animal cannot be depended upon to transmit faithfully improved form and traits acquired from a long succession of pure bred ancestry. For this reason nothing short of a deeply bred, pedigreed sire should be used for the work of grading up common cattle or other animals, and it is a mere loss of time and money to continue using scrub or grade sires. It is a strange thing that owners of swine are always loth to change the blood of their breeding males, whereas owners of grade mares or cows are apparently at any time willing to try the effects of a cross of alien blood. Every time this ruinous policy is put into practice, progress ends. What has been gained is lost; full fruition of work commenced is suddenly blighted; the entire edifice of breeding is knocked into a cocked hat at one fell blow."

In the same vein the Live Stock World says that "As a bull, Challenger would have gone into the scrub-raising business." That is the whole thing in a nut-shell. A grade animal, the produce of a pure bred sire, may possess special individual excellence for beef or milk, but there the line stops. Good dairy herds may be, and are, bred up from common "native" cows by the use of a pure bred bull. By the time the fifth "top-cross" is reached the produce are nearly identical for practical purposes with full bloods. But if a bull calf from one of those high grade cows is reserved and used for breeding purposes, "the entire edifice of breeding is knocked into a cocked hat," as our contemporary expresses it. The only way to improve live stock of any kind is to breed only from pure bred sires of good descent and the highest attainable excellence.

Setting an Orchard.

The best season for setting an orchard is just as soon as the winter breaks and the ground can be handled. Be careful not to freeze the roots. Ground can be handled better in winter and in very early spring than later in the season, for it will not back or bake them as it does later; but it is preferable, especially in clay soil, to have the ground in proper condition, not too wet, as there is danger of baking the ground around the roots of the trees. We have set trees in the fall, winter, and as late in the spring as May, when large apple trees were in bloom and the early varieties of fruit were leaving out. It is best to set the trees as soon as possible after being taken from the nursery row. If any of the roots are badly injured or bruised, it is best to cut them off and let the tree send out healthy ones. The roots should be carefully examined; and if they show lumps as the result of aphis or other diseases, do not set the tree. If you want a permanent orchard you should set healthy trees. I cannot too strongly emphasize the idea that deep-planting makes "root rot." Nature starts the roots on trees from the surface of the ground, and we should plant them the same way.

Place some of the best surface earth carefully around the roots, and, after filling the hole, pack the earth tight and closely around the tree to prevent the winds from shaking it until the roots get started.

If the roots are trimmed or cut back the top should be proportionately trimmed, otherwise the right proportion established by nature between the top and the root, being disturbed, the tree is apt to become stunted or unhealthy, and make little growth, as the root must have sufficient time to get started to even up the right proportion with the top. I have seen trees that were six years old, transplanted from the nursery into the orchard and it took them several years to get balanced, so as to make a good growth.

How to Raise Asparagus.

Asparagus may be raised from seed or plants purchased of seeds men. If from seed it is sown early in spring in rich mellow soil. The rows may be a foot apart. Cultivate and keep clear of weeds and the seedling plants will be ready to set in the permanent drills the ensuing spring. A year is gained by purchasing the plants. Get good, strong crowns, one year old, each with a few developed buds, and plenty of roots. The rows may be from three and a half to six feet apart, with crowns from two to three in a row. The closer planting will produce as large a product to the row as the more open, for a few years, but must be sooner renewed.

The soil having been given deep and thorough tilth, a trench eight or ten inches deep is made for each row. In this the crowns are planted, care being used to spread out the roots horizontally. The earth is then filled in until the crowns are covered to the depth of three inches with fine rich soil. Additional filling is given as growth progresses, until the trench is full. The old method of placing heavy mass of manure in the trench, below the crown is no longer followed by the best growers. In fact, no rank stable manure should come in contact with the roots as it promotes fungus growth. It must be well rotted or commercial fertilizers used instead. Generous applications are required to make the soil rich at the beginning and keep it so from year to year. Partial cutting for use may begin the third year. Every autumn the tops should be cut off and burned to destroy insects or fungus.

Read it Through.

'Twould Spoil This Story to Tell It in the Headlines.

To use an eighteenth century phrase this is an "o'er true tale." Having happened in a small Virginia town in the winter of 1902, it is a story very much of the present. Up to a short time ago Mrs. John E. Harmon, of Mollie Station, Va., had no personal knowledge of the rare curative properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "Last January," she says, "my baby took a dreadful cold, and at one time I feared she would have pneumonia, but one of my neighbors told me how this remedy had cured her little boy, and I began giving it to my baby at once, and it soon cured her. I heartily thank the manufacturers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedies for placing so great a cure within my reach. I cannot recommend it too highly or say too much in its favor. I hope all who read this will try it and be convinced as I was." For sale by S. N. Weare.

How Much Sleep is Necessary.

A proper amount of sleep is, of course, absolutely essential to continued good health, but, if dietetic habits are correct, it is matter which will regulate itself. If a rule is needed, one will follow naturally, from the fact that almost every one feels languid on waking and is disposed to take another nap, no matter how long he has been sleeping. This is a morbid sensation which it would take too long to explain here. It is enough to say that lack of sleep should be made up, if possible, at the beginning and not at the end. The best general rule is to rise at a given hour every morning whether tired or not, and go to bed when sleepy.

An Efficient Treatment for Catarrh.

Will first destroy the germs that excite the disease. Then there are numberless sore spots in the mucous membrane to be healed. Every requirement of a perfect cure for catarrh is found in fragrant healing Catarrhozone which not only instantly kills the germs but restores the diseased membranes to a normal condition and prevents the relapse which is sure to follow the use of ordinary remedies. Catarrhozone is a scientific cure for catarrh that relieves quickly, is more pleasant, most certain to cure than any other known remedy. Failure is impossible, lasting cure is guaranteed. Use only Catarrhozone. Two months' treatment $1.00; trial 25c. Get it to-day.

—It seems to me that it is a wise provision of nature that realization never fully equals anticipation. Man is a creature that must be "stung to action." If it were not that we can anticipate more than we can achieve there would be little or no incentive to continued exertions. With the goal always within sight, yet ever beyond reach, we add striving to striving, and push ourselves to greater heights, only to find our horizon widened, our ideals higher. For

"God's gift was that man should conceive of truth
And yearn to gain it, catching at mistake
As midway help till he reach fact indeed."

Minard's Liniment for sale everywhere.

What One Glass of Rum Did.

A sailor once spoke as follows to a large audience of people:

"My friends, I don't know how to make a speech, but I want to tell you what one glass of rum did for me. I had a small vessel on the coast. My brother was the mate, and there were two other sailors. I had my wife and two children on board. One night it was stormy. My brother was to keep watch that night. The sailors persuaded him to take one glass of rum to help him through the night. He was not used to liquor. It overcame him and he sank into a heavy sleep. I woke after midnight to find my vessel a wreck. I took one of the little ones in my arms and my wife took the other. For hours we battled with the cold waves. After a long struggle the waves swept the little one from my embrace. Before long the other little one was swept from the arms of my wife and our darlings were lost from us forever. We battled on with the storm and the waves. Then I looked at my wife and she was cold in death. I struggled on and made my way to the shore. Then I found that my wife, my children and all I had in the world were snatched away from me by one glass of rum."—Weekly Witness.

Return of Jews to Palestine.

The fulfilment of prophecy is at hand. Because of persecution in the lands of their adoption many Jews are turning their faces toward Jerusalem. It will be an immense undertaking to restore Jerusalem to its former beauty, grandeur and utility. Perhaps the greatest achievement of its former days was the supply of the city with pure water. It was brought many miles through a continuous mass of rock and stored in immense reservoirs of rock within the walls of the city at untold cost. One of these reservoirs made in the solid rock still remains. It is an oblong quadrangular tank, 240 feet in length and 150 feet in breadth. Many of the millions of dollars for a pure water supply, many times without success.

The medical world recognizes the fact that the greatest health necessity is an abundant supply and a liberal use of pure water. There are sections of our country where the supply of pure water is unlimited and comes "without money and without price." Unfortunately the cities are not located in these sections. The most noteworthy of these is the pine-clad sand-hills of North Carolina. In the most desirable location in this section is Pinebluff, where from every hillside springs forth the purest water. Here, too, is the pure, dry, soft, balmy pine-laden air, abundant sunshine, perfect drainage, freedom from mud or dust; the best place in the world for health, recuperation and rest.

Salt Towels.

To invite blood and warmth into the skin and abate the cold-catching tendency, take a number of old soft linen towels and wring them out of strong salt water. A heaped tablespoonful of salt to two quarts of water is the right strength. These towels are to be hung up by the stove to dry. On retiring and on rising, rub these towels in the hands until they are perfectly soft, and give the body a thorough rubbing with them. These towels cleanse and stimulate the skin, and leave it dry, warm and in a glow. They may be used under covering in bed for the very feeble. After perspirations and over-fatigue or exposures, use these towels hot.

For a Disordered Stomach.

"I have been troubled for some time with indigestion and sour stomach," says Mrs. Sarah W. Curtis, of Lee, Mass., "and have been taking Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets which have helped me very much, so that now I can eat many things that before I could not." If you have any trouble with your stomach why not take these tablets and get well? For sale by S. N. Weare.

A Japanese Proverb.

At the punch bowl's brink,
Let us pause and think
What they say in Japan:
"First the man takes a drink,
Then the drink takes a drink—
Then the drink takes the man."

Calomel Ruins the System.

And should only be used under a doctor's orders. For a mild physic take Dr. Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butternut. No gripe, no pain, certain relief for headache, constipation and torpid liver. Use only Dr. Hamilton's Pills, price 25c.

—Laura: "I don't know, George; it seems such a solemn thing to marry. Have you counted the cost?"

George: "The cost, Laura? The cost? Bless me, I've got a clergyman cousin that'll marry us for nothing."

—Chloride of lime should be scattered at least once a week under sinks and in all those places where sewer gas is liable to lurk.

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Red-rite
CURES HEADACHE
Minutes, or money refunded
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cost more—yield more—save all experimenting—save disappointments. 48 years the Standard Seeds. Sold by all dealers. 1904 Seed Annual postpaid free, to all applicants.
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Meat & Fish
always in stock.
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NOTICE!
We are clearing our Winter Stock on account of our Winter Stock arriving daily.
We are opening 150 Boys' Suits in all sizes from 5 years of age to 15, in different colors, in Tweeds and in Serges, from $1.50 up.
We are just opening a case of Men's Clothing, 200 suits, in Black and Blue and in Tweeds, from $4.00 up. We have a nice line of Men's and Ladies' Rainproofs in the latest style and best quality—the best that can be got—from $4.50 up.
We have a nice line of Pants just arrived, 300 pairs, in all colors, from $1.50 up. We have a large stock of Straw Mattings and Oilcloths which we are offering below cost because we are going out of that line of goods.
Remember the place if you want to save money.
Look for the Sign. COHEN BROS.
BRIDGETOWN AND WINDSOR.

Southern Pines
Moore Co., N. C.
The most delightful climate for a Home or Winter Resort.
Only sixteen hours from New York.
Write to Board of Trade of Southern Pines for booklet.
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.... OF ....
Boots, Shoes, and Dress Goods.
ALL SOLD BELOW COST!
30 Pairs of Men's Tan Boots, mixed sizes.
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Large Stock of Children's and Misses' Boots and Shoes.
Ladies' Tan and Black Dongolas, to be sold at half their value.
Ladies' Dress Goods marked 50c., will be sold for 35c. per yard.
Stock of Men's Summer Underwear, sold at cost to clear.
40 Suits of Men's Ready-to-wear Clothing going at a sacrifice. Price $3.50.
Sale begins to-day and continues until goods are sold.
MRS. J. E. BURNS.

DOMINION ATLANTIC RAILWAY
—AND—
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—TO—
St. John via Digby
—AND—
Boston via Yarmouth.
"Land of Evangeline" Route
On and after Wednesday, March 2nd, 1904, the Steamship and Train Service of this Railway will be as follows (Sunday excepted):—
Trains will Arrive at Bridgetown:
Express from Halifax..... 12 14 a.m
Express from Yarmouth..... 2 34 p.m
Accom. from Richmond..... 4 50 p.m
Accom. from Annapolis..... 7 20 a.m
S. S. "BOSTON"
by far the finest and fastest steamers plying out of Boston, leave Yarmouth, N. S., Wednesday, Saturday, immediately on arrival of the express train, arriving in Boston next morning.
Returning leave Long Wharf, Boston, Tuesday, Friday at 2 p.m.
Unequalled cuisine on Dominion Atlantic Railway Steamers and Palace Car Express Trains.
Royal Mail S. S. "YARMOUTH,"
ST. JOHN and DIGBY,
Leaves St. John, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 7.45 a.m
Arrives in Digby..... 10 45 a.m
Leaves Digby after arrival of express train from Halifax.
Trains and Steamers are run on Atlantic Standard Time.
P. GIFKINS,
Gen'l Manager,
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CANADIAN PACIFIC
TOURIST CARS
EVERY THURSDAY
FROM MONTREAL.
Every Tuesday and Saturday from North Bay
NO CHANGE OF CARS MONTREAL TO VANCOUVER, TRAVERSING THE GREAT CANADIAN NORTH WEST
The Finest Mountain Scenery on the Continent.
LOWEST RATES APPLY.
The Canadian Pacific Service is Up-to-Date.
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Opens May 1st, Closes December 1st, 1904.
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Corner Queen and Water Sts.
THE subscriber is prepared to furnish the public with all kinds of Carriages and Buggies, Sleighs and Pungs that may be desired.
Best of Stock used in all classes of work.
Painting, Repairing and Varnishing executed in first-class manner.
ARTHUR PALFREY.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY
Tender for Station and Dwelling.
Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned and marked on the outside "Tender for Station and Dwelling," will be received up to and including
THURSDAY, THE 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 1904.
for the construction of a Passenger Station and Dwelling at Amqui, P. Q.
Plans and specification may be seen at the Station Master's office at Amqui, P. Q., and at the Chief Engineer's Office, Moncton, N. B., where forms of tender may be obtained.
All the conditions of the Specification must be complied with.
D. POTTINGER,
General Manager.
Railway Office,
Moncton, N. B.,
27th February, 1904.

Fresh Every Day!
Good Meat makes health;
Health makes wealth.
Be wise and buy your Meat at
B. M. WILLIAMS' MARKET
Choice selected stock for Christmas trade. Poultry, Beef, Lamb, Mutton and Pork.
Special care exercised in the handling storing and cutting our meat.
Give me your Christmas order and get satisfaction.
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BENTLEY'S LINIMENT
Masters All Pain
and is the best remedy for Sore Throat, Tonsilitis, Whooping Cough, Croup, Coughs, Colds. Bentley's is a Strong, White Liniment, always sold under a guarantee to give satisfaction or money refunded, and a single trial has often established it in many a Canadian home as the best all around Family Remedy. Insist on BENTLEY'S. No other just as good.
2 oz. Bottle, 10c. 6 oz. Bottle, 25c.
For sale by all dealers, especially druggists.
F. C. WHEATON CO., Limited,
Sole Proprietors, Folly Village, N. S.

The Household.

DON'TS FOR MOTHERS.

A gospel of don'ts is generally conceded to be an unhealthy mental diet to bring up children on, but there is little doubt but what a judicious amount administered to parents would be salutary. Mrs. Gabrielle E. Jackson is plainly of the opinion, for she has written a neat little volume entitled "Don'ts for Mothers," which aims to point out some of the stumbling blocks over which the cradle rockers of the world sometimes stub their toes, trip, or fall flat. Not infrequently, says the foreward, a mother's very love is her worst stumbling block. Again, unconscious selfishness causes much harm, or short sightedness brings about no end of trouble. If all the practical, sensible and cheery advice of the book were followed by mothers (and fathers, too, might well give heed to it), succeeding generations would be the wiser, healthier and happier for it.

Here are some of the "don'ts" selected at random:

Don't, as you value your motherhood, scold.

Don't give your child a chance to say, "You just got mad yourself; so now!"

Don't permit a fear to be implanted in your child

Don't forget that sympathy for your children's "fads and fancies" draws you closer to them.

Don't forget that "almost fourteen" are crucial years in the lives of your son and daughter.

Don't forget that 'What' and 'Why' are the best manifestations of a normal brain. Take time and pains to make it grow wisely.

Don't fail to give the reason why, every time you give a command. You want the obedience of an intelligent, reasoning being, not that of an automaton.

Don't let your child suspect that the world can hold a more delightful companion than "Mother," if you would keep an anchor to windward.

Don't forget that the mother who can enter into all her children's pleasures has discovered a marvellous "youth restorer."

Don't bring up your children upon a steady diet of "Don'ts"; miserable, prickly little word that it is, and sure to rub the wrong way.

Don't correct your child in the presence of others. You, yourself, would find this very hard to brook, so regard this little being as less sensitive?

Don't overlook an untruth, yet weigh carefully between untruthfulness and a vivid imagination. It is often a hair-splitting task, but no mistakes should be made.

Don't forget that in assisting mother into the car, in walking upon the outer edge of the sidewalk, in picking up the handkerchief she has let drop, your little laddie is moulding the gentleman.

Don't fail to listen attentively and patiently to all the little trials which come into the lives of these small people. Help adjust them, and remember that at six they are as great in proportion as those which daily come into your own life.

Don't fail to insist, while your children are still schoolboys and schoolgirls, upon orderly habits in the home, and certain hours for certain duties. As a result of this method the good housewife and the thoughtful husband may bloom forth later.

Don't fail to make your smile your children's last memory as they depart for school. A ruffled spirit as a send-off puts the time out of joint for the entire day.

Don't treat your son and daughter at 20 as you would have treated them at 12. Remember that they are now a man and a woman.

Don't forget that you are, or ought to be, your children's ideal of all that is perfection, and that it is your duty to live up to their ideals in every possible way. Not an easy task, but wonderfully inspiring.

A NOVEL SPRING WEDDING.

A Narcissus wedding is described in the February number of the "Housekeeper." Every corner of the house was filled with branches of pussy willow, which had, as the children say, "taken its gray bonnet off to show its golden curls." Tall vases and moss-covered bags were filled with it, and wherever a sufficient springlike background was provided, there was a vase or a bowl of lovely narcissus blooming.

Pussy willow branches were tied with white satin ribbon all the way down the balustrade, and the door into the drawing room, instead of being garlanded, was outlined with willow branches, while a bunch of narcissus was fastened at each side.

In the drawing room itself, the willow branches were mingled with heaps of moss and delicate green ferns, which gave a sweet background for the frail white blossoms placed everywhere, and out in the dining room the table had a lace scarf stretched over pale green down the centre of the long table, while narcissus blossoms were scattered over the cloth, and thrust here and there, delicately, through the meshes of the lace.

There were no candles on the table, for the old French idea of closing out the sunshine to have an artificial light did not seem to suit the spring flowers which gave the keynote to the arrangements. On the contrary, every window was thrown wide, and the balmy spring breeze came dancing in through the window.

—When the rubber rollers of your wringer become sticky, as they very often do after wringing flannel, rub with kerosene and wipe dry and they will be nice and smooth.

Minard's Liniment cures Burns, etc.

Jokers' Corner.

BALLAD OF THE BAD COLD.

Now, there was a man with a red, red nose
And a weak and watery eye;
He stood on the street with a patient pose
While the cars went hurrying by,
And he read his paper and stamped his toes
And softly kerchiefed his crimson nose,
A friend soon joined him in waiting there,
And asked, "What's the latest row?
And what has been taken, and when and where?"
And the man said: "Kooche-ah-chaw!"
And the friend said: "Jimmy! You don't say?
Now what do you think will be done to-day?"

The man turned then, and he sighed: "I think
That the next is Oo-chooly-choo!
I mean—Ah-choo!"—and a quivering blink
Closed his eyes as the tears came through,
"Perhaps, but it seems quite a heftyl plan,
I don't think they will," said the other man.
"It isn't—Ah-chee!" cried the rednosed man,
"But it's Ooo-chy-oo-akkety-wow!"
"That's just what I said when the war began,"
Said the friend, "They're doing it now!"
But the other answered: "O, can't you see
It is wooi! Ooo! Yoosh-wishy-oof-kaw-whee!"

"Ho, no. You're wrong," said the friend at that.
"Why the place is too far away
From the seat of war, and I'll bet my hat
It will not be attacked to-day."
And the man with a nose that was ruby red
Just gurgled and groaned and shook his head.

"I don't mean the war," were the words he said.
"I thought you were asking of me
What I took for this cold that is in my head
And I told you—Whoo! Yoo! Chawee!"
And the friend then snickered and said, said he:
You sneeze like a class in geography!"

—(W. D. N. in Chicago Tribune.)

THE SAME OLD GAME.

The closing of various schools for the holidays brought to the city a doting father from an adjoining state to escort home his pretty seventeen-year-old daughter from a well-known young woman's boarding school. When he came with her to the school at the beginning of the term it was understood that she was to apply herself closely to her studies and to have no callers whatever.

The fond father was much flattered with the account the principal gave of his daughter, setting her forth as devoted to study and a model of propriety. As he was about to make his adieu the principal remarked:

"The child has seen no one—[illegible]ly no one to distract her mind from her books except, of course, her [illegible]ers."

"Her brothers!" echoed the father in amazement.

"Yes, indeed!" replied the principal. "And you must be proud of your five manly sons."

"Madam," the father excalimed, "my daughter is an only child."

HIS FIRST SHAD.

Abner Stone had lived "inland" all his days and knew all there was to be known about pork and beef as articles of food. His acquaintance with the products of the sea, on the other hand was very slight. Once, however, when at the seashore he was introduced to shad and asked how he liked it.

"Well," said the old farmer, with a brave attempt at a smile, "I calc'late I shell when I get kinder wonted to it, mebbe, but it does seem, jest at fust, ye know, consid'able like tryin' to eat a paper o' buttered pins!"

A POLITE MAN.

A man was hurrying along a street one night when another man, also in violent haste, rushed out of an alley, and the two collided with great force. The second man looked mad while the polite man, taking off his hat, said: "My dear sir, I don't know which of us is to blame for this violent encounter, but I am in too great a hurry to investigate. If I ran into you I beg your pardon; if you ran into me don't mention it," and he tore away at redoubled speed.

—"You seem to have a great liking for large words."

"Well, sur," answered Mr. Erastus Pinkley, "I once knew a man whose life was saved by a big word. He once told me dat I prevaricated, an by de time I foun' out what dat word meant it were too late foh me to hit him."

—Paying Teller: "I can't cash this check, madam, until you are identified."

Mrs Bright: "You mean I have to identify myself?

Paying Teller: "Yes, ma'am."

Mrs. Bright: "How simple! Have you a looking glass?"

—"We want a man for our information bureau," said the manager, "but he must be one who can answer all sorts of questions and not lose his head?"

"That's me," replied the applicant. "I'm the father of eight children."

—Mrs. Cobwigger: "What a beautiful collection of antiques you have, my dear!"

Mrs. Parvenu: "It should be. My husband knows all about such things and had them made to order."

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