

"Good roads are the farmers' short cut to market," says the League of American Wheelmen.

According to Secretary Herbert, the United States cruiser Dolphin, built by John Roach, steamed over 10,000 miles during 1896 without a mishap of any kind.

Japanese immigration to the United States during 1895 was very light, showing that the Japs have discovered that they can make us hustle more by remaining at home.

When brought into contact with commerce the Armenian develops a subtlety and sharpness which put into the shade both Jew and Greek, asserts the Chicago Times-Herald.

"Gasphyxia" has been suggested as the proper word to denote the fatal result of inhaling illuminating gas. Of course, adds the New York Advertiser, it is a Boston man who makes the suggestion.

The Virginia Court of Appeals has decided that the operation of an electric railway upon a street of a city is not an additional burden thereon, for which the abutting property owners are entitled to compensation.

At the beginning of the present century the Bible could be studied by only one-tenth of the earth's population. Now it is translated into languages which make it accessible to nine-tenths of the world's inhabitants.

The practice of acquitting prisoners, thanking the jury ought to be frowned upon, declares the New York Sun. It is indecent and could be prevented by keeping the ex-prisoner away from the "Twelve good men and true." If the accused is innocent, the jury has conferred no favor, and only done its simple duty in acquitting him or her.

A lover of the horse in dealing with the pending doom of that noble animal says that motor carriages are likely to become fashionable; that they will remain so for some time, most of those who now keep a carriage and horse using a motor carriage. After a while, he thinks, there will be a reaction, and carriage horses of the highest sort will be as much in demand as ever. The result would be a great increase in the cost of the best of these animals. There is a simple reason for this, because as there are many failures in breeding the highest class of horses most of these failures would be a dead loss, owing to the fact that the motor car had superseded the conveyances in which these animals are now used. The conclusion is that ultimately horses will be bred only for horse racing, for military purposes, for the better sort of carriage use, for hunting and, to a small extent, for pleasure riding.

Dr. Samuel W. Abbott, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Health, evolved a pretty theory to account for the decline in that State in the death rate of women from pulmonary troubles. He attributes the decline to the use of the bicycle, and points out that it began five years ago, when the women began to use the bicycle. This was very comforting to the bicycle manufacturers, but the Springfield Republican ruins this theory by producing figures to show that, happily for Massachusetts people, the decline in the mortality from consumption began ten years ago. During the decade ending in 1880 the deaths in Massachusetts from consumption had averaged 32.7 each year per 10,000 of population. In 1882 the rate had fallen to 31.7, in 1885 to 30.7, and 1889 to 28.7. This was before the safety bicycle had come into general use even for men, and, so far as noted, the decline in the mortality rate from pulmonary diseases was as marked among men as it was among women. This decline in mortality from one of the worst scourges of New England has continued since 1889, the mortality rate in 1894 being about 22 per 10,000, representing a decrease from the average of the decade to 1880 of nearly one-third. No positive statement is made as to the beneficent cause. It is thought that a better understanding of the disease, with improved sanitation in relation thereto, is partly responsible, and to this may perhaps be added the acclimatization of immigrants.



### DON'T WORK BEFORE BREAKFAST.

A bad custom is prevalent in many families, especially among our farmers, writes J. L. Bersey. It is the habit of working an hour or two before breakfast, doing the chores, hoeing, cutting wood, etc. This is convenient in many cases, but is not conducive to health. The common notion that the morning air is the purest and most healthful is wrong, for at no hour is the air more filled with dampness and fog than about sunrise. The heat of the sun gradually dissipates these as the day advances. An early meal braces up the system against these external influences.—New England Homestead.

### BEGIN WITH THE BEST STOCK.

It is very difficult for a farmer who is just beginning in this business, and who finds all sorts of expenses accumulating, to make up his mind to secure only the best stock, no matter what it cost. Yet if he really understands his business this is what he will do if his purchase has to be restricted to a single animal. Breeding from this he can soon stock up to the extent that his farm requires, and his profits on his live stock increase will be generally greater than from the growing and sale of crops. It is the advantage of the live stock on the farm that it managed as it should be that it will make the farm pay while it is being all the time made richer, and that thus it will make the growing of crops ultimately profitable.—Boston Cultivator.

### GUINEAS AS GAME.

We have tramped the prairie of Illinois many a day back in the '60's in search of prairie chickens, writes H. B. Geer. We have shot them from the few trees in the scattering groves that bordered the creeks about Delavan Prairie in Logan County. That was when the whole country was up in arms and the tramp of the soldiers was heard in the land, and shot and shell abounded everywhere.

Then again, when in Missouri, right after "Price's raid," in the southeastern part of the State, we hunted pheasants in the heavy woods of the bottom lands of Perry and St. Genevieve Counties. Those were stirring times, lively times, and good times for the woodsman and hunter. But all that is past now, and the country that then abounded in prairie chickens, pheasants, etc., is now given over to fields and lanes. Partridges still abound, and are protected by law, and afford good sport and a full game bag in the fall of the year. They seem to thrive under the conditions of civilization, and there is another species of fowl, or bird, that prospers and multiplies while surrounded by fields, pastures and orchards. We refer to the guinea fowl, a bird that came to us originally from Africa. Plainly it is of the same family as the grouse, pheasant and prairie chicken, and it is superior to them inasmuch as it takes kindly to domestication. Guinea might be raised by the dozen or even by the hundred, where only a few are raised to-day. They take naturally to range, will forage for a living, make their nests out in the brush, and hatch and raise their young without any care to speak of on the part of their owners.

It would take but little effort on the part of the farmers of any community to stock their outlying premises with guineas, a species of bird fully as good for the table as the prairie chicken that they hunted so vigorously in the earlier days of the country. The flesh of the guinea is dark it is true, but so is the flesh of any other wild bird dark, and the guinea is just as well suited to the table as the wild chicken of the prairie.

It occurs to us that the cultivation of the guinea as game to some extent would be profitable and satisfactory.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

### FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

The asparagus fern is one of the best plants for decorative uses, being extremely graceful and very lasting.

The sheep should have a good dipping before winter sets in; it will save trouble, suffering and death during that season.

One of the best fertilizers for the window garden is the coffee left over from breakfast. It should be applied cold. Coffee grounds are often recommended, but I have found that they have a tendency to mold.

The palmetto is a very satisfactory plant for a window box. It is well to fill a window with them, as they require cooler room than some window plants and plenty of sun. Then, too, the massed effect of them is good.

The best palms for home growth are the sturdy India rubber tree, the parlor palm or *Aspidistra lurida*, and the zebra palm *Zamia*. These are hardy

and are easily kept clean, and will stand the heat of the living room.

Nasturtiums can be readily grown in water, the same as the hyacinth or Chinese lily. The jar should be half filled with charcoal before the water is poured in. The plant is started from slips and soon presents a beautiful appearance.

The following is recommended when the sheep's feet seem tender: One part vasoline or lard to one part acetate of copper well ground and mixed with it. This will counteract whatever poison that may affect the feet through the effects of impure matter in ground.

### Triumphs and Vicissitudes of a Tenor.

Italo Campanini, the once famous tenor, who died on Nov. 23, at Parma, Italy, had a varied and highly interesting experience of the triumphs and vicissitudes of life. He sang at one time for eighty cents a night, and at another for a thousand dollars. In one season (with Henry K. Abbey) he is said to have been paid \$50,000, but he died poor, as well as voiceless. He was a blacksmith's son, born in Parma in 1846, and was brought up to his father's trade, which he first left when fourteen years old to go soldiering under Garibaldi. He went back to his anvil after the war, but his vocal abilities were soon discovered by a musician, who happened to hear him sing, and set him to a course of study as a free pupil in the Parma conservatory. At about the age of twenty-one he began as an opera singer. He had some success, and made an engagement to travel in Russia at about \$25 a month, but returned presently to Milan, and studied further with Lamperti. After a year's application he appeared in La Scala in "Faust," and was greatly successful. He sang under Colonel Mapleson in London in 1872, and the next year came to this country, where he was a highly important member of the notable company which included Nilsson, Annie Louise Cary, Capoul, and Maurel. At that time his voice was at its best, and he was the greatest tenor of the day. His repertoire, too, was remarkable, and included eighty operas. In 1877 he came back here, and for six years was very popular and successful as the leading tenor in the old Academy of Music. He was a powerful actor, too, having profited by the instruction of Salvini. After that his voice began to fail, for he took bad care of himself, and the rest of his story is the record of unsuccessful and costly efforts to go on after his career was finished.

Personally he was simple and unaffected, much liked by many friends, and exceedingly popular on ample grounds with the public. He bought an estate near Parma when money was plenty with him, and though his later losses ate into it, part of it was still left to him when he died.—Harper's Weekly.

### This Cat is a True Sport.

Possibly the most remarkable cat in Vermont lives in Poultney on the shores of Lake St. Catherine. The cat is the special pride and pet of Mrs. Henry Hastings. As a hunter the animal has manifested extraordinary sagacity. It has actually captured more game than any feline in the county. Not long ago the cat entered the house with a fine mink between her sharp teeth. She walked up to Mrs. Hastings, arched her back as if wishing to be rubbed, and then dropped the mink at her feet.

It was not the first time, however, that the cat had caught a mink. It has caught no less than half a dozen. All were in fine condition and exceedingly valuable for their fur. But it is as a rabbit hunter that the cat ranks pre-eminent. Since the beginning of 1896 she has caught and taken to her mistress's house nearly 100 rabbits. Many of these rabbits were as large as herself, and as a rabbit hunter of a fighter, the shy little animals were no doubt captured without any great trouble.

Mrs. Hastings is never surprised to see a dead rabbit lying about the house. In fact, she would not be much surprised if the cat brought home a fox or other larger game. It is a remarkable fact that the cat never takes poor game home with her. The mink are always the finest, the rabbits the plumpest and the birds the tenderest.—New York Press.

### Gotham's Breathing Spots.

A complete list has been made of the park lands owned by the city of New York. They aggregate 4993 acres, divided into sixty-one different parks, ranging in size from .018 of an acre to 1756 acres, which is the area of Pelham Bay Park. The park lands comprise nearly one-fifth of the total area of the city. The consolidation with Brooklyn will add 1465 acres to this total, besides twenty-two miles of parkways.

## BUDGET OF FUN.

### HUMOROUS SKETCHES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

Hard Road to Travel—A Funny Man—Our Beautiful Language—No Kasher—Civil Service Questions, Etc.

How doth the busy farmer market his garden truck. When both his mules and wagon Within the mad are stuck? —L. A. W. Bulletin.

### CIVIL SERVICE QUESTIONS.

"What part of 'pecoh is egg?" "Noun, sir." "What is its gender?" "Don't know till it's hatched."

### NO KASHER.

Hustle—"Why, man, you're behind the age!" Fogey—"Well, that has helped me to save a good many years of my own."

### A FUNNY MAN.

She—"Mr. Pysface is such a witty man." He—"To be sure. His mouth itself is a funny crack."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### OUR BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE.

"This is a great country." "Yes, with a great language. I heard one man say to another that the only way to make him dry up was to soak him."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### AN EASY ARRANGEMENT.

"What in the world have you been marrying for?" asked Collow's stern father; "you can't support a wife." "Nobody said I could. But I got a wife that can support me."—Detroit Free Press.

### SUCIDAL.

Mrs. Cobwigger—"Everybody says the charity ball was a failure." "Mrs. Dorcas—"So it was. The committee cut down the expenses so that there would be something left for charity."—Judge.

### A MUTUAL FRIEND.

Bobby—"Popper, what is a mutual friend?" Mr. Ferry—"He is generally one who makes it his business to see that you don't miss hearing the mean things your friends say about you."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### MOUNT AN ONE OR THE OTHER.

"O Jack, dear!" sobbed Mrs. McBride, as she fell on her husband's neck on his return from the office. "What is it now, love? Trouble with the hired girl?" "Y-y-y-e-s." "What's the matter? Has she quit, or does she refuse to be discharged?"—Life.

### A LAST RESOURCE.

Arctic Explorer—"If my lecturing tour proves financially successful, I shall make another attempt to find the Pole in the spring." Friend—"And if it doesn't?" Arctic Explorer—"Then I suppose I shall have to content myself with going in search of some other explorer."—Truth.

### JUNK SHOP FOCKET.

"Where," said the auctioneer, addressing an audience of possible purchasers, "where else on the face of the globe will you find in one place copper, tin, iron, cotton, hemp, grain, game?" And a voice from the crowd replied: "In the pocket of my youngest son."—Pearson's Weekly.

### BUTTER, A LA COOKING SCHOOL.

"This is pretty stout butter," declared Mr. Newly, with a frown that was deep for a man who had been married but a month. "Don't scold, dearie," urged his pretty little wife. "It'll not occur again. I have bought a churn and ordered buttermilk to be delivered regularly. Hereafter we'll have sweet, fresh butter."—Detroit Free Press.

### HER WINNING WAY.

"Oh, Henry," exclaimed his little wife as she threw her arms rapturously around his neck. "I do love you so! Don't forget to leave me \$20 when you go in town this morning, will you, dear?" "And this," muttered Henry, softly disengaging himself from her fond embraces, "this is what you might call being hard pressed for money."—Somerville Journal.

### NO NICKNAMES.

"Is Mrs. Johnson home?" asked little Flora Giנגham, at Mrs. Jackson's, where her mother had sent her on an errand. "Mrs. Johnson?" said Mrs. Jackson. "Why, what do you mean, child? I'm Mrs. Jackson, but there's no Mrs. Johnson here." "Well, I suppose you're the lady," said little Flora, "but papa says we mustn't say Jack. We must always say John."

### A CAREFUL PURCHASER.

He went slowly and with great de-

liberation into the drug store, and his eyes wandered around the room as if in search of something, while the clerk waited behind the counter for him to make known his wishes.

"I was looking for your diploma," he said at length. "Some druggists display the sheepskin they receive on graduating from the College of Pharmacy. You are a graduate, I suppose?"

"Yes, sir." "You are duly licensed to dispense medicines and compound prescriptions?"

"Oh yes, sir." "I ask because one cannot be too particular when making purchases in a drug store. The newspapers speak frequently of grievous mistakes made by careless dispensers of drugs. Of course if you had ever put morphine in a prescription instead of quinine you would not admit it, I suppose?"

"I have never made that mistake, sir."

"I have heard of some very serious results following the careless substitution of poisons for some harmless drug similar in appearance. For that reason I always make it a point to satisfy myself upon the qualifications of the man who serves me when I have occasion to make a purchase in a store where I am not acquainted with the dealer."

"You need have no fear here, sir," said the clerk. "None but experienced pharmacists are employed here. What can I do for you?"

"I think I can trust you. You may give me a two-cent postage stamp."—Harper's Bazar.

### POPULAR SCIENCE.

A rotary gas engine is out. Of British birds the cuckoo lays the smallest egg in proportion to its size.

The spider's eyes are not in his head, but in the upper part of his thorax.

Deafness is more common in cold countries than in warm climates, the ear being very sensitive to atmospheric changes.

A new hypnotic has probably been found in Jamaica dogwood. The fluid extract has been found efficacious in dentistry.

The proctus has no acting eyes and is practically colorless, living in the mud. Some of them placed in light for two or three years, developed pigment in the ocular region.

Experiments on war balloons are being carried on in this country at Fort Logan, Col., by authority of the War Department, which will soon urge Congress for \$10,000 appropriation.

A French experimenter, Camille Dareste, says that the germ in the hen's egg is not destroyed by an electric current that would kill an adult fowl, but that the germ is so modified in most cases that a monstrosity will be hatched.

A Berlin scientist has ascertained by experiment that a number of persons who use the telephone habitually hear better with the left ear than with the right. To educate the right ear to the same point he recommends holding the instrument in the right hand half the time. Certain insects, like the opossum, will feign death to escape an enemy. The "fever worm"—larva of one of our commonest butterflies—will pretend death if touched by the finger. The tumble bug, if touched while rolling his precious burden toward his storehouse, will roll over and feign death till he thinks the intruder has left.

### Bachelors Punished a Dsarter.

The Old Bachelors' Club, of Elwood, Ind., was out in force on a recent night, and the latest member of that organization to desert its ranks for the marriage state was punished by the boys, as is their custom when a member breaks the rules.

Walter Record, a young business man, was the victim, and the fun started at noon, when he arrived in the city with his bride. He was met at the train by a delegation of his former fellow members, who formed a double line from the train to the cab, between which he and his bride walked to the cab.

At night they dressed up in old clothes and got a hay wagon and a crockery crate and drove out to the home of the victim, who was confined in the crate and brought to the trial which had been arranged for his benefit. A jury was impaneled and the victim was granted a lawyer to look after his interests. When the witnesses were all examined the jury found him guilty of breaking the sacred rules of the order, and he was at once taken to the crate and then followed a procession around the city. Then he was taken home and locked in his room.—Chicago Times-Herald.

### Concerning the Nightcap.

The nightcap almost universally worn some twenty-five years ago are now quite as universally discarded. There is a diversity of opinion in regard to the wisdom of this change. While some doctors assert that there is much less baldness since they were abandoned, others declare, with equal fervor, that neuralgia and osteoarthritis are much more common since the nightcap was banished from the wardrobe.