

# Today and Tomorrow

By Frank Parker Stockbridge

## INTELLIGENCE . . . at 17 years

The discovery has been announced that the average mental age of the American people is nearer 17 than 12. That is encouraging. It seems that some of the psychologists who were making mental tests of recruits during the war put a decimal point in the wrong place, or something like that and spread the idea that we were a nation of infants. Now they are trying to correct that mistake.

Without poking too much fun at these psychologists, for there is really a great deal to be said in favor of their work, I am glad that they have found out what I have always believed. That is that most people have reached their full powers of reasoning and learning by the time they are 17 or so.

What this country will be like twenty years from now depends, literally, upon what impressions the youngsters who are now between 17 and 25 get from their contacts with their elders in the next two or three years.

## BUSINESS . . . . . at the zoo

At Yale University professors have been testing the intelligence of chimpanzees by teaching them how to transact business. The chimps can get "money" in the form of colored chips by doing certain work. They quickly learn that they can buy certain things with certain colors of chips. Also they learn that other chimpanzees will steal their "money" unless they hide it or lock it up.

Some folks have an idea that anyone who can count money and make change has enough education to get by with. What they are proving at Yale is that it doesn't take much intelligence to do such things. I don't know what else it will prove, except that we are closer akin to the apes than some of us would like to believe. Perhaps this Yale experiment will be put forward by some future "brain trust" as proof that business men receive too high a premium for the exercise of their talents.

## AMBITION . . . . . college workers

The movies and some of the popular periodicals give a wrong slant on college life. They put the emphasis on sports and on the antics of rich men's sons, until a great many folk get the idea that our universities are luxurious retreats for loafers.

When I was young most college students were poor men's sons who had to "work their way" through college, by doing whatever odd jobs or vacation tasks they could find. And I was interested to read a report from Harvard that the same conditions obtain now as fifty years ago. More than two thousand students of that oldest of all American colleges are working their way, doing all sorts of things. Some work as cooks and nurses in private families, others wash windows, tend gardens, shovel snow, do typewriting, provide entertainment, give music lessons or work in garages. These young men will not regard their education as something lightly come by. A boy with ambition enough to earn his living while carrying on the genuinely hard work of a university course has got the making of a man in him.

## LIGHT . . . . . a new horizon

If ten months from now the 200-inch telescope lens for which the glass was poured the other day, turns out to be flawless and uncracked—they can't tell until it cools off—then astronomers will be able to perceive stars so distant that the light from them has been more than a billion years reaching the earth, traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles a second.

The extent of the visible universe will be multiplied by ten, when this new light-gathering instrument is set up and in action.

In a literal as well as figurative sense, what mankind needs and has always needed, is more light. Saint Paul was right when he said that human beings "see through a glass darkly."

## GOLD . . . . . from the sea

Forty years ago or so a Yankee minister named Jarnigan formed a company to extract gold from sea water. He sold stock in his company and got into a lot of trouble. But he was telling the exact truth when he said there was enough gold in the Atlantic Ocean to pave North America. His only trouble was that it cost more to get it out than the gold was worth.

Now, with gold worth \$35 an ounce instead of about \$20, chemists are giving serious attention to the problem of recovering gold from the sea. At the American Chemical Society meeting the other day a chemist who is extracting bromine from sea-water commercially said that the same process "ionizes" the gold in the water, making it more nearly possible to filter it out.

I learned a long time ago not to regard anything as impossible.



In Cup Race Crew

LONDON . . . Mrs. T. O. M. Sopp (above), wife of the owner of the "Endeavour" English yacht challenger for the American Cup this summer, will be a member of the Endeavor crew, the first woman ever to sail in the historic races for the coveted cup.

## Dolomitic Limestone Helps Fertilizers

Acid-forming compounds now being used in fertilizers should be counteracted with dolomitic limestone if the productivity of the soil is to be maintained, say agronomy specialists at State College, commenting on recent research information sent out from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Since acid ammonium compounds are cheaper than the other forms of basic nitrogen, they say, many of the complete fertilizers now sold in this country are distinctly acid forming.

In former years, the forms of nitrogen used in fertilizers would give a neutral or even a basic mixture. Such fertilizers could be used without danger.

There are two methods of counteracting acid. One is to apply limestone directly to the soil. The other is to mix a suitable liming material with the fertilizer. Danger of overliming is less when the latter method is used.

However, experiments have shown that when enough ordinary limestone is added to the fertilizer to neutralize it, there will be a loss of ammonia and phosphoric acid. Dolomitic limestone has no such bad effects.

Some manufacturers of commercial fertilizers have already adopted the use of dolomitic limestone to offset the acid-producing ammonium compounds.

## Low Grade Feeds Cause Poultry Loss

Most of the dangers of food poisoning of chickens can be attributed to the use of low-grade materials in home mixed feeds or allowing mash to become damp and decompose, says R. S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at State College.

Feeds mixed from the best materials, particularly ingredients known to be good chicken food, will not poison the birds.

Birds, however, may be poisoned by eating fertilizer or feeds which have come into contact with fertilizer. Hence, Dearstyne warned against permitting chickens access to freshly fertilized fields or to buildings where fertilizer is stored.

Many causes of high mortality are found in chilling, over-heating, crowding, poor sanitation, and germ diseases, and not so frequently in poisonous foods as some poultrymen seem to think, he said.

When bothered by a heavy loss of birds, the poultryman should check every possible cause for the high death rate. Then if he cannot determine the cause, he should send several specimens of his flock to the poultry disease laboratory at State College. With the birds should be a careful description of the trouble and the way he has been managing his flock.

He also advised that there is little use for a poultryman to send a ready-mixed mash to the State laboratory for testing to see whether it has a detrimental influence on chicks. In the mixture the various elements lose their identity and it would be almost impossible to tell which element, if any, is causing trouble.

He also pointed out that the only practical way to test a feed is to give it to chickens for some period of time. This is rather slow, and when done in the laboratory it is also expensive.

Cumberland county committee-men find that most of the cotton contracts are well in line. Individual reductions rather than a county-wide horizontal reduction will be made in the tobacco contracts.



A knowing audience, a brilliant audience cheered itself hoarse at the end of the first performance of an opera about nothing in particular which lends it charm and grave beauty—"Four Saints in Three Acts," by Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thompson. The scenery is made of cellophane. It is not true that the costumes of the all-negro cast are also made of cellophane. . . . "Most of the time the music comes near to familiar tunes, then skips away from them, but the listener hunts in his memory." As for the text—you can take it or leave it. An opera, in short, of inspired foolishness. . . . "You know how children love to run words together no matter what they mean?" . . . Well, that's the way the text sounded to one auditor. But with some superb singing!

Notable among the recent Broadway openings is the Sidney Howard dramatization of the Sinclair Lewis novel, "Dodsworth." Seen by an enthusiastic first night audience, it was reviewed favorably, for the most part, and enthusiastically for the acting of Walter Huston who takes the lead part of Samuel Dodsworth.

With eleven million dollars in assets claimed by counsel for the Hotel Roosevelt, an offer of \$25,000 cash for all assets and equipment was accepted in a United States District Court recently. "With no further bids forthcoming," said the Judge, "the offer will be accepted." . . . It was the only bid.

Alderman Curley raised his voice and arms in a huge outcry against Mayor La Guardia: "Does he think he is a monarch of all he surveys? Does he want to be dictator? . . . But the high sonority of the alderman's words disturbed "Tammany" the City Hall cat. "Tammany" stepped sedately to the front of the chamber, sat down and stared at the irate alderman. . . . "Does he . . ." The alderman stared at the cat and stopped. The cat stared at the alderman "Does he . . ." he began again. But the cat was unperturbed. Alderman Hart interrupted the aldermanic laughter long enough to express the views of the members: "I move that the privileges of the floor be extended to the City Hall cat."

Police Commissioner O'Ryan startled members of a club he was addressing recently when he said he could have any one of them murdered within 24 hours for the small sum of three or four hundred dollars. . . . "You may not believe that," he said, "but I know that

there is a minimum of 10,000 criminals in the city whom no one can change."

## Claims Every One Has A Boss Eye

Which of your eyes is the boss eye? Although human sight has developed binocularly—that is, the use of both eyes at once in order to increase the efficiency of distance vision—only one eye is actually used for most seeing. In the majority of cases it is the right eye which does seeing except when that eye is closed or obstructed by accident from viewing its object, according to the Better Vision Institute.

A simple test is to hold a finger at arm's length and line it up with some object across the room. Then, keeping one eye focused on the object, close and open first one eye and then the other. The finger and the object will remain in line for only one eye—and that's the boss eye.

Loss of binocularly is one of the two apparently increasing tendencies of human eyesight, the other being near-sightedness. Dr. Thomas Hall Shastid, an eminent eyesight specialist, has said, "Nature has sought valiantly, in two very different ways, one bad and one good, to help man's eyes adjust themselves to new conditions. The bad way has been to make him near-sighted. The near-sighted eye is at rest when it looks at near objects, but always it is a diseased eye. Moreover, it sees poorly at a distance (often at close range also) except when fitted with lenses. The good method used by nature to help man in his modern conditions of existence has been the improvement of the elasticity of the lens of the eye." Glasses, in other words, are increasingly in demand to equip human eyes for the close work demanded of them.

## Birds See No Blue, So Scientists Find

The eyes of birds are incapable of seeing blue violets, according to the Better Vision Institute, and it is for that reason that they can see for such great distances. Human eyes, which are sensitive to blue colors, are handicapped by the haze which surrounds distant objects and obscures them. The eyes of birds are the best and most piercing of all eyes, being often both telescopic and microscopic and able to discern minute objects imperceptible to human eyesight. Even vultures, contrary to popular belief, see their food even if it is carrion rather than smell it.

While birds do not see blues or violets, they can see infra-red radiations, heat waves which are invisible to human eyes. The latter have been further incapacitated by indoor living and the peculiar conditions of modern existence which evolution has had no time to meet.



Blossom Queen

WENATCHEE, Wash. . . . Roberta Hensel (above), pretty 16 year old high school girl, has been chosen Queen of Blossom Land to rule over the annual Apple Blossom Festival here which comes much earlier this year, due to a mild winter.

Motor car driving, machine work, sewing, writing and reading all put strains on the human eye which it was never meant to bear, and these strains take their toll of nervous energy unless glasses are used. Experts agree that while man's eyes are the most complex of all seeing organisms, they are not as well equipped for vision as the eyes of some animals, for instance, those of birds.

## Getting Ready For Rental Payments

The adjustment of cotton reduction contracts to make the claims of past acreage and poundage conform to the known figures for the production in each county should be completed within the next few weeks, according to Dean I. O. Schaub of State College.

Efforts are being made to start the rental payments by the latter part of April, so that that money may be available to the farmers for use in the cultivation of the present crop.

The checks will be sent out from Washington, headquarters of the AAA, as fast as the revised con-

tracts are accepted there. Tabulators at State College have finished the checking of original contracts in 24 of the 67 cotton growing counties. There is some overstatement in the claims of past production, but little difficulty is anticipated in adjusting the figures, Schaub said.

Catawba and Lincoln counties, the first two to be checked have already revised their contracts and returned them for final approval before they are sent on to Washington.

The other counties in which the checking has been completed, and which are now ready for the revision work by local agents, are: Polk, Yadkin, Cabarrus, Stanley, Alamance, Orange, Chatham, Hoke, Vance, Wilson, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Beaufort, Guilford, Gaston, Tyrrell, Alexander, Gates, Warren, and Randolph.

## Farm Questions And Answers

Question: Is the science of sexing baby chicks practical for the average poultryman?

Answer: A high degree of proficiency has been attached by specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in this work but, due to extreme care necessary in making autopsies and the necessary practice work the system is of little value to the average poultryman. For the commercial hatcheryman, however, an opportunity is offered in that a definite premium will be offered to the hatcheryman who can guarantee a run of as high as 80 per cent females.

Question: When should apple trees be treated for control of apple blight?

Answer: The trees should be sprayed as soon as the blossoms are open. The irregular blooming varieties will require more than one application of the spray. The removal of all blighted twigs, branches and blight cankered areas will also aid in the control by eradicating carry-over sources of the organism. For the spray use a Bordeaux mixture, consisting of one pound of granulated blue stone, three pounds of chemical hydrated lime and 50 gallons of water.

Question: Is silage a profitable summer feed for dairy cattle?

Answer: Silage has its place in

summer feeding as a supplement to short pasture. Where there is sufficient silage or where the silage crops yield well it is a cheap and more convenient supplement than soiling crops. It is also well to feed a reasonable amount in the morning for the first few days after the animals are turned on the pasture. This prevents the cows from going on the young tender grass which tends to scour the cows.

## Hogs Need Pasture For Proper Growth

Green grazing is essential to the development of hogs, yet they cannot thrive on pasturage alone, says Earl H. Hostetler, head of the animal husbandry research at State College.

Southern swine growers have an advantage over their northern neighbors, he said, in the year-round pastures which can be maintained in the warmer regions.

Pigs which have had access to succulent grazing before the fattening period will put on weight even when fed the concentrated fattening feed in a dry lot.

But those which were not supplied with green grazing before the fattening period, in recent experiments under Hostetler's supervision, failed to gain weight normally and finally died when not provided with green feed, legume hay, or cod liver oil.

Temporary grazing is especially valuable to sows which are suckling pig litters, since it is during this period that young pigs are liable to become infested with worms and other parasites. A fresh pasture that has not been grazed by swine in some time will decrease the danger of infestation.

Young pigs should not be allowed to graze in pastures along with older hogs, as the mature animals may infect the pigs although not apparently suffering from the parasites themselves.

Hostetler says that continuous temporary grazing can be provided throughout the year in eastern and Piedmont North Carolina by seeding abuzzi rye and crimson clover from the latter part of August to September 15, spring oats or dwarf Essex rape from February 15 to March 15, and successive seedings of soybeans from May 15 to July 15. The soybeans will be ready for grazing when six inches high.

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