

WAS ASK

WALTER J. DELANEY
(By W. G. Chalmers)

"How did I come here?" murmured Ralph Norton, and turned in his bed and gazed out through the window of a cheery, sparsely furnished room. Far as he could see the sluggish river wound in and out a low marshy stretch. Barges loaded with coal moved lazily along. Beyond a group of dilapidated factories and shipyards was the city. It recalled the last fading picture presented to his consciousness, how long since he knew not, but that problem was instantly solved.

"We found you outside, where you had fallen into a cinder pit," spoke a melodious voice, and Ralph turned his glance to see, seated near his bed, a young girl sewing. She was poorly, but neatly dressed. She wore few articles of adornment, her hair was worn without attention to fluff or dummers, but the sweet repose of her face, the kindly gentle eyes arrested the attention of the invalid and held it riveted.

"You have been there four days, unconscious," she went on. "You must not move, the doctor says, for your left ankle is broken." Ralph winced as, moving the member in question, he was promptly made aware that it was not in normal condition.

"You are strangers to me," said Ralph weakly, "and this is a strange place. I recall wandering aimlessly about the docks with my suitcase."

"That is here, safe," spoke the girl. "We found it by your side. You must have stumbled and fallen. The doctor I called was at first serious about the bruise on your head, but he said this morning that all danger had passed for that and you would have the broken limb only to trouble you."

"Only," repeated Ralph bitterly under his breath, and then sheer weakness caused him to close his eyes and his mind drifted hazily.

His thoughts took in a present very unhappy and forlorn condition. He had left his home after a quarrel with his wealthy uncle, to make his own way in the world. Alas! it had been a hard, awakening experience for the disappointed young man. He had found false friends, hard knocks, brushed aside in his efforts to secure work by men with a "punch" as well as those "with a pull." He had to confess that he had not the training to combat in the journalistic arena with those who knew the ways better than he.

He had come from home with a very good outfit, and his dressiness had helped him get several good assignments with a society journal. The season over, however, he lost his position. No new ones offered. His money ran out and, selling off some of his effects to settle his debts, he placed the rest in a suitcase. Ralph was city-weary as he wandered aimlessly. He had a vague idea of finding some place where he could bury himself and forget his old vain ambitions. Near the spot where he now found himself his misadventure had overcome him, and here he was, helpless. Apparently he was not friendless, however, for his environment suggested that he was under the charge of a faithful and attractive nurse.

It was dusk when Ralph awoke again. He observed a light in the next room and made out his nurse and a weakened, fish-faced old man conversing.

"I am poor, very poor," the latter was whining. "I cannot afford expense, if he has any."

"No, uncle," spoke the girl definitely, "I know from his ravings while in fever his whole story, and it is a pitiful one. See, uncle, he himself will surely find some way to pay the surgeon when he is well. As to the little he costs us, the way we live, you can surely spare that for the sake of sweet charity."

"Charity! charity!" groaned the old man. "Who gives me charity? No, no, I tell you I am poor, poor! See how miserably I am obliged to live! See how hard I work in the city! He must pay—pay!"

"He will, when he recovers," declared the young girl. "Oh, uncle, would you drive him out, possibly to become crippled for life, because of neglect? Be humane, for my sake; I will work the harder for you."

"Ha! he has struck your fancy, eh?" snarled the old man.

The girl blushed hotly, but she said, with girlish dignity:

"The memory of the poor brother who died bids me be kind to the stranger."

The old man grumbled, but his countenance told her point. He extracted a crumpled letter that she would see in the address did not contain some name that might be sold to pay the bills.

understand that the miserly Galbraith, as he learned his name to be, was a miser for whom his piece shined. He had some business in the city in the scrap-iron line.

Within two days Ralph was able to sit up. When the girl, Otilia, in some way got a pair of crutches, and inside of a week he was able to move to a bench outside the house and hobble around.

He had unpacked his belongings from the suitcase. Recalling the conversation he had overheard, he did up the dress suit that had done vast service in his society reportorial experience. He asked Otilia to dispose of it. The sale brought a pitiful sum, but it quieted old Galbraith for a day or two. Then Ralph handed her the watch he wore, a cheap timepiece that did not go. She seemed embarrassed as these negotiations showed the rigidly persistency of her uncle and placed her in a false position with the guest whose respect she cherished.

Ralph was pained to note the sharp corners she had to cut in order to provide the meals from the narrow amount her uncle allowed her. It could not be otherwise that day by day the sterling qualities of his devoted nurse wooed his mind from all thoughts save interest, and then deep gratitude and finally love.

After the sale of the watch he observed that Galbraith was more favorably disposed toward him. Then he, accidentally learned the secret of this. He missed a gold necklace that Otilia had once worn. He was sure that she had disposed of this and that the proceeds had gone to Galbraith as if coming from their patient. His soul was stirred.

That evening Galbraith came home in a great state of excitement. He showed Ralph a newspaper advertisement stating that one missing Ralph Norton would learn of something decidedly to his advantage by communicating with a certain law firm. Within twenty-four hours Ralph learned that his uncle had died leaving him a fortune.

It was a happy day for Ralph when he sent Galbraith a check for a liberal amount. Then there was a royal gift for his faithful nurse. Accompanying it was a letter, telling her of his love.

There came a brief note. It bade him forget the obscure girl so far removed from his social circle. It hoped he would find some fitting bride in his own class and that they would be happy.

When Ralph went in quest of the Galbraiths he found the old house on the river deserted and abandoned.

For a year he watched, waited and hoped. Wealth had not its anticipated charm, with his thoughts fixed ever and always upon the one woman who had befriended him in his distress and whose loyalty and simplicity had won his devotion.

Then one day, just a year after his first meeting with Otilia, an amazing visitor came to Ralph. It was Galbraith, but a new Galbraith. He was arrayed decently, almost gorgeously. "I sold out my business," he clicked with a shrewd grin, "hence, some profit. It was for the sake of my niece. You remember Otilia?"

"I shall never forget her!" cried Ralph, starting from his seat. "Where—where is she?"

"You would see her?" questioned Galbraith.

"I have been searching for her for a whole year."

"And your mind has not changed concerning her?"

"It never will! Speak out, man—where is she?"

"Come with me," said Galbraith, and as they walked along he told of how Otilia had been at a school studying for a year, how she was now at the comfortable home he had provided for her.

"It was a test," said the old man. "Otilia wished for education, to wait a year, and see if you still remembered her. See, neither of you are poor now, and she is a jewel!"

And within the hour Ralph Norton fondly folded in his arms his darling!

List of Parasites Made

An important step has been taken in routing the army of snakes, tapeworms and other animal parasites that are likely to prey on man's vitals.

All of these "worms" from every part of the world, though it is chiefly in the tropics that such pests abound, have been grouped, classified and described by the United States public health service in a very complete key catalogue. The publication is of extreme professional importance to health officers, physicians and medical students, for it is so arranged that it enables them to recognize any such parasites with a minimum of effort and study.

Could Retire

We have a strong suspicion that it is not the difference in salary between what the average man earns and what the press agents say he gets, but the mighty wall of newspaper transcripts.

FARM STOCK

CLOVER AND SOY BEANS FOR LAMBS

Red clover and soy bean hay were compared in recent experiments conducted at the Iowa agricultural experiment station, Ames, which show that if soy bean hay can be produced at a sufficiently low cost it may be used satisfactorily in place of red clover in the ration of fattening lambs.

The result obtained, however, varied considerably between the various lots fed. On a basis where clover hay was figured at \$16 per ton, whole soy bean hay proved in one lot to be worth \$32.03 per ton, while in a similar lot, it was worth only \$13.75 a ton. The two lots showed an average value of \$22.89 per ton of whole soy bean hay as compared to \$16 for the clover.

Soy bean hay has proved in these experiments to have a somewhat higher feeding value than clover when fed along with shelled corn, cottonseed meal, corn silage and block salt. Less of the other feeds was required per hundred pounds of gain in three out of the four soy bean hay fed lots as compared to the clover lot. Good leafy soy bean hay with a high percentage of matured beans, is known to contain more protein than red clover hay, and, hence, when the former is fed less protein supplements need to be added to the fattening lamb ration.

The results are reported in a new bulletin, "Soy Bean Hay for Fattening Lambs," No. 234, which may be secured by writing to the bulletin section, Ames, Iowa. The authors of the bulletin are John M. Eppard, C. C. Culbertson, W. E. Hammond, and K. K. Hennessy.

More than a fifth of the soy bean hay fed to the lambs was refused when the hay was fed whole. With one group of lambs the hay was ground and mixed with the grain feed. In this case the lambs were forced to eat all of the hay, but because they were forced to eat the stemmy portion containing so much fiber, the feeding value of the hay was lowered and the lambs made less profit than did the others. In another lot the hay was ground and fed separately, but the selling price, gains, and the cost did not warrant the expense of grinding. The experiments showed clearly that grinding did not pay.

Forage Crops for Hogs Most Economical Plan

The use of forage crops in hog production has been advocated and recognized for a long time, by experimental stations and the agricultural colleges and many farmers have found they could not afford to raise hogs if pastures were not used.

Recent experiments in South Dakota indicate that pigs self-fed on corn and tankage, on pastures of alfalfa, rape, and bluegrass, will make a greater daily gain than those fed in a dry lot. This gain might be only .25 of a pound, per day, but when realizing that it is the aim of every feeder to have his hogs reach a weight of 200 to 225 pounds in the shortest possible time, the importance of pasture cannot be overlooked. The experiment conducted at the college indicated that over a period required for a 50-pound pig to reach the market weight of 225 pounds, those which had use of forage crops made a saving of 25 days, as compared with those on dry lot.

It is also claimed that pigs on good pasture make more economical gains. These facts seem to be borne out in the experiment in comparing the amount of corn and tankage required per 100 pounds of live weight. It is stated that a distinct saving financially, as well as with labor, can be made by the use of good pasture.

Water for Stock Should Be Nearby and Fresh

Every hot day is another day for the farmer to own some well-watered stock, but that stock should be his own hogs and cattle, horses and chickens, and the water should come from a good well and be handy and fresh all the time. Hogs and chickens are most often neglected, but both can be watered with self waterers providing the water is clean and fresh. Too often good water is missing, even though the animals are housed in high-priced barns pastured on high-priced land, and fed high-priced feed. Water is absolutely necessary in normal growth and action of the body in the digestion and absorption of food. In the absence of water, waste cannot be properly eliminated and the action of all the vital organs is hindered, body temperature is increased and the utility of the animal is seriously handicapped.

Horticultural NEWS

STORING APPLES FOR THE WINTER

With proper farm storage facilities and careful handling, Stayman, Rome, Baldwin, Paragon, Stark, York Imperial, Winesap, and other varieties of apples may be marketed through the winter, thus lengthening the apple season, removing the usual glut on the market, increasing consumption and generally returning a greater profit for the grower. In making this statement A. Freeman Mason, fruit specialist at the New Jersey state college of agriculture, explains what he considers proper facilities and careful handling.

"The essential features of a storage room are: protection from heat, frost, and rodents; ample ventilation to carry off gases developed by the ripening processes; and the maintenance of humidity to prevent shriveling. "A cool, damp cellar with several windows, doorways, or ventilators which can be opened at any time the outside temperature is lower than that of the inside, makes a desirable storage. A building above ground, having double walls and ceiling insulated either with dead air space or with sawdust, is also good. It is very necessary to keep sufficient moisture in the air. This will be possible if the floor is a damp earthen one, but if concrete or wood, it must be sprinkled daily, or as often as it becomes dry.

"Slat crates make the best storage package, because they are economical of space and are well ventilated. The five-eighths basket is also desirable. Round bushel baskets, hampers, and barrels do not offer as good a ventilation as crates, but they may be used. Barrels should never be headed when put in common storage.

"Wrapped apples keep best. Newspaper or tissue wraps may be used. Oiled wraps, coated with an absorbent oil which takes up the injurious gases given off by the ripening fruit and thus preventing scald, are on the market and are highly recommended."

Old Strawberry Plants Transplanted in Fall

We have transplanted strawberries in every month of the year except December, January and February, and made them live. That was in northern New Jersey. The best time is in late March or April, but many prefer late summer or early fall. It is not common to transplant old plants that have borne one crop—strong runners are better. Yet if you care to do so you can probably make these plants give a fair crop next year, says a writer in the Rural New Yorker. After they have fruited cut off the tops and dig the plants up with as much soil as possible around the roots. Wait until there has been a good rain and then put the plants in the new place—a little deeper than they stand in the old bed. There will not be much use trying to transplant such plants while the soil is dry. Properly handled they will give a fair crop next year. As for wild plants we would let them alone. We have dug up many of them and planted in good soil on the theory that in this way we might find some superior variety that would come back when given good culture. Out of the hundreds we have handled in this way only two ever proved superior. The rest were inferior—hardly worth picking even when given the best of care. Better let these wild seedlings alone. Use only strong plants of well known varieties.

Survey Is Made of New Jersey's Peach Trees

How many peach trees are in the commercial orchards of New Jersey? What county leads in the number of commercial trees? These and several other questions are answered in the report of a survey made by the United States Department of Agriculture and the state department of agriculture. Judging from the number of peach trees three years old or under the ravages of diseases and insects have not discouraged our fruit growers. According to the report there are 585,000 of such trees in the commercial orchards of the state. Of trees of all ages there are 2,296,000.

Elberta at present is the favorite variety, leading the list with 848,000 trees. Belle is a poor second in numbers, having only 265,000. Carman ranks third with 215,000. Growers, however, are rapidly abandoning this semi-clingstone variety, as it cannot stand the competition of better varieties. Its production has become unprofitable. Horticulturists at the New Jersey experiment station have accordingly perfected several varieties of excellent quality to supersede the Carman.

POULTRY

CARE OF PULLETS VERY IMPORTANT

Poultrymen are coming more and more to the conclusion that summer care of the young stock cannot be overemphasized. Observation throughout the state has shown that the success of a poultryman with a flock of laying birds is usually the reflection of his success in rearing the pullets.

It is generally acknowledged by the leading poultrymen that one does not have to raise poultry for very many years before the importance of clean, steady, and well-grown pullets is recognized. In nine cases out of ten the flocks which experience trouble during the winter months are the flocks in which trouble was prevalent while they were on the range, according to L. M. Black, extension specialist in poultry at Rutgers university.

Growing a clean profitable pullet includes a great number of small steps which when put together assure success, says Mr. Black. As with the mature birds, the houses must be comfortable and clean. Overcrowding and overheating have their effect in stunting the growth of the birds, and so a square foot of floor space should be allowed to each growing pullet and, in addition, sufficient roosting space. On hot days the houses should be cool and comfortable.

Frequent house cleaning is practiced by the most successful poultrymen to help prevent a rapid spread of disease during warm, moist weather. This, says Mr. Black, is particularly effective against coccidiosis.

Alternate rances which supply an abundance of green feed and some shade are the rule on the best farms in the state. The birds are never without a daily supply of green feed. Shade is considered essential during the hot days. The ground, now believed to be the source of many of our most troublesome diseases, is frequently cropped and cultivated so that the direct rays of the sun may act as a germicide.

Culled Poultry Flocks Are Earmark of Success

Exceptionally successful poultrymen who do not cull their flocks periodically are in the minority in New Jersey, according to the state poultry specialist. The practice is becoming universally recognized as essential for greatest profits.

Several advantages of culling, or slacker elimination, are mentioned by the specialist and first among them is simplicity and ease. Not a cent of outlay is necessary and the benefits are almost immediately received. Some hens are poor layers but great feeders. To wait for them to lay is to wait for something that will amount to little even if it does finally occur, for these birds soon quit.

Various characteristics distinguishing the slacker from the layer are used by poultrymen in clearing from their flocks all of the boarders. Appearance of the tall feathers, color of the comb and wattles, and shape of the body both to visual and manual examination, are among the signs read by poultrymen. Newcomers in the business are supplied, on request, with helpful bulletins by the New Jersey College of Agriculture, New Brunswick.

In addition to requiring no outlay, culling causes no loss. The eliminated birds are sold at good prices on the poultry meat market.

Because of the influence of heredity, the general laying average of a flock is materially raised over a period of years by persistent culling and the use of good cockerels. This factor is considered particularly important by leading poultrymen.

Fix Flavor of Eggs

In investigations made some years ago, by feeding nitrogenous and carbonaceous feeds, it was found that hens fed a ration of wheat, middlings, cottonseed meal and skim milk, produced eggs with a disagreeable flavor and odor, small yolks, and poor keeping qualities. On the other hand, hens fed largely on cracked corn and corn dough laid larger eggs with richer yolks and better flavor. When there was a proper blending of both nitrogenous and carbonaceous materials, there was improved flavor.

Poultry Facts

The well-fed, well-housed hen certainly knows her eggs.

Whitewash looks good on the outside of poultry houses, but on the inside it does good.

In ancient times capon meat was highly prized by epicures. It is growing in popularity in this country.