

The Acantha.

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DUPUYER, - - - MONTANA.

Count de Castellane says the future of this country is perilous. The reduction of the count's income has filled him with an alarm that is hardly justified.

A Kansas paper says: "Judge Myers pronounced Staynczstraw Baczynski a citizen last week." If the judge pronounced Staynczstraw's name at the same time he ought to go out lecturing.

Chicago papers are still telling what a great failure Rev. Sheldon made in trying to run a newspaper as Christ probably would. The Kansas preacher may not have come up to the standard but if his columns are to be judged as a standard it would be difficult to edit papers as the devil probably would more perfectly than the editors of Chicago's dailies are doing.

It is curious to note that the last three theaters burned in Paris have all been state or, as they are called in France, "subsidized" houses—the Opera (1873), the Opera Comique (1887) and now the Francais. But whereas twelve years elapsed between the burning of the Opera Comique and the rebuilding, the Francais will, it is said, be reopened by the middle of July.

Among the as yet unexplored spots on the earth which are to be scientifically attacked during the coming year is Sannikoff Land, lying north of the New Siberia Islands, about 300 miles from the nearest point on the Siberian coast. A Norwegian party will try to reach the place in 1901 from the mouth of the Lena River, where they propose to spend next winter. The coming summer will be consumed in fixing the camp on the Lena.

Population of the four greatest cities of the Russian empire is given as follows in the figures of the recent census: St. Petersburg, 1,132,677; Moscow, with its two suburbs, 988,614; Odessa, 405,041 (a great increase since 1892), and Warsaw, 626,072. Contrary to what is observed almost universally throughout Europe, the men outnumber the women in the three first-named communities, while in the last, Warsaw, the proportion of women is but slightly superior to that of men.

Considerable importance is attached to the distance measuring field glass invented by Mr. Zeiss of Jena. It is simply an extension of the natural power of the eyes to estimate the distance of near-by objects. This power depends upon the fact that the space between the eyes serves like a baseline in surveying, the lines of sight converging upon a selected object from the ends of the base. In the telemeter the effective distance between the eyes is increased by means of prisms, and double images of the objects looked at are formed. The distance between the images varies with the remoteness of the objects, and a scale shows what the real distance is. Up to about two miles the results are said to be fairly accurate.

In his "System of Ethics," Mr. Paulsen says that acts are called good when they tend to promote human welfare; bad when they tend to disturb and destroy it. The highest good of an individual as well as of a society consists in the perfect development and exercise of life. He also says philosophical pessimism is not a proved theory whose propositions can lay claim to universal validity, but the expression of individual feelings, and as such can be merely subjectively true. Inasmuch as we have no statistics on the happy and unhappy lives, the successes and failures, the author says he is for the present inclined to put as much faith in the judgment of a plain man of the people as in the eloquence of a pessimistic philosopher.

A paper on the blue fox (vulpes lagopus) of the Pribiloff islands, Bering sea, by Mr. Lucas, is timely now that furs are in season. Fox farms or "ranches" for breeding the animals exist not only in the Aluetian islands, but in islands off the coast of Maine. The foxes of Pribiloff feed on sea birds, seal pups, and dead seals, for which they go out on the ice floes in spring. "Dead-fall" traps have been superseded by "box traps," which do not kill the animal, and the blue female is set free. White females, however, are killed in order to produce a breed which does not blanch in winter. Male foxes are spared if the supply is likely to fall, and all foxes let loose are marked by clipping a ring from their tails. It is hoped to turn the blue fox from a monogamous to a polygamous animal in order to increase the supply of fur. This fox is not crafty or wary of man and is taken everywhere with bait.

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm—A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

Feeding Dairy Calves.

There is a discussion going on in some of our esteemed contemporaries regarding the feeding of young dairy calves, and it is rather amusing to note some of the extravagant statements made by those who argue that a calf can be more successfully raised without milk than it can on the good old plan provided by the Creator. If, for instance, we are to believe these enthusiasts, the feeding of milk is liable to teach the calf the bad habit of laying on fat instead of flesh and muscle, and the growing of bone. Milk, then, we must conclude, is a fat-producing food not fit for young growing calves, a fallacy that requires no refuting argument.

They proceed to prescribe a manner of feeding which, according to these savants who can improve upon nature's methods, is better than milk for the calf, in that it does not produce fat, causes "pot-bellies," which say they are a great desideratum for modern dairy calves, and tends to the growth of great coats of hair in winter to take the place of fat which they so much fear. Having thus provided what they consider a perfect ration, and it consists of flour, flax-seed jelly, hay tea, etc., they do not tell us what is the objection to sweet skim milk, nor figure the cost of their ration to show wherein it is more economical than a ration of dry corn meal and skim milk, which has been found a perfectly satisfactory ration and cheaper than one containing oil meal in any form, and it should be remembered that of all its forms "jelly" is the most troublesome to prepare.

The fact of the matter is that in the West at least the proposed ration would cost about as much as milk at the prices it has been bringing when shipped to the factory or made into butter or cheese. In the East, where the price of milk is higher than in the West, there may be reason for depriving the young calves of it even during the first few days of their lives. We would prefer, however, to feed the calf sweet milk for ten days or so and then utilize the sweet skim milk that can so easily and cheaply build up, by the addition of corn meal fed dry, to perfectly take the place of the whole milk which can be more profitably sold.

The Farmers' Review is heartily in favor of feeding growing dairy calves upon a highly nitrogenous ration, but it does not believe that milk is apt to spoil a heifer as a prospective milker, for mother's milk is the best-balanced ration that can possibly be formed for growing young animals, and it is absolute bosh to say that it lessens the chances of a dairy-bred heifer becoming a profitable milking cow. Keep the calf growing naturally and it will not be stunted by the laying on of fat, nor is it necessary to produce a "pot-belly," which merely indicates an unhealthy state of the digestive apparatus and is far more likely to stunt and injure the calf than a ration containing a certain proportion of fat, without which no ration for any known purpose would be complete.

Poultry Notes.

How old should a hen be when she is sold off or killed for family use? The answer is, she should be killed after her second year. But in spite of this quite general answer, it is a known fact that some poultrymen keep their Brown Leghorns till they are about ten years old. One Brown Leghorn hen was kept till that age, when she had to her credit about 2,000 eggs, a good average, we must admit. Light Brahmas are said to be good layers till quite old. However, we lack data, as the domestic fowl has been sadly neglected in this. She is such a small piece of property that we have never thought it advisable to keep her for ten years and count her eggs. A systematic series of trials of this kind might give us a good deal of light on a dark subject.

The man that wants to become a successful poultryman must not become discouraged. This is the first requisite. He is sure to have most discouraging things happen to his flock, and, after three or four years of such happenings, he will feel that poultry raising is a delusion and that there is no success possible in it, anyway. But that is just the time when he should not think of quitting. It would be just as reasonable for a child, after having had a full run of all child's diseases, to think of giving up trying to live for fear of a constant recurrence of measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough and the like. The poultryman, in his early disasters, is getting his child's diseases. Having once had them he is not likely to have them again. He has learned in the dear school of experience and is now ready to apply his lessons.

It is not perhaps known generally

that the feathers of hens form a considerable article of commerce. There are in Chicago and New York firms that make a business of buying and selling feathers of all kinds of domestic fowls including the hen. They have agents that travel through the country buying up all the feathers they can get. The farms are not visited, but the large shippers of poultry are, for the reason that they have feathers in sufficient quantity to make the visit of an agent an object. Most of the feathers of the hen are used for filling feather beds and pillows. The large feathers of the cocks have particular value, as they are used for trimming ladies' hats, and most of them are sold for eagle's feathers. The feathers that are used for stuffing beds and pillows bring from 5 to 6 cents a pound, but the "sickles," the long tail feathers of the cock, sell as high as 30 cents per pound. The separation takes place in the establishments where the fowls are dressed. A mixed lot of feathers has little value to the buyer.

"Beard" is a term used for a bunch of feathers under the throat of some breeds of chickens, such as Houdans or Polish.

"Stag" is a term used for a young cock.

Applying Protective Inoculation.

Bulletin 91 of the Kansas Experiment Station says: One of the greatest difficulties encountered in our experiments with protective inoculation is to convince farmers that it is useless, or worse than useless, to inoculate sick or exposed hogs with an attenuated culture of swine-plague germs. This may be illustrated thus: Suppose an animal were poisoned by drinking a great quantity of some strong fermented liquor, like brandy, which contains about fifty per cent of alcohol: would it not seem ridiculous to attempt to save this animal's life by beginning now to accustom it to the effects of alcohol by feeding it additional but diluted portions of the same beverage? Attempting to save an infected animal by administering dilute or attenuated doses of the poisons (toxines) that are the actual cause of the disease is an analogous case. But, on the other hand, by feeding the diluted poisons before the full-strength poisons have been administered, the animal organism will gradually accustom itself to stronger and stronger doses, until full-strength doses can be administered without harm. There are, of course, limits to all these assertions, but within these limits the facts will bear out the statements. On these principles protective inoculation rests, and this once fully understood, there will be no danger of confounding protective inoculation with curative treatment. The average farmer is unwilling to go to any reasonable expense in order to protect himself against a danger not yet in sight, but when it is too late he is too often willing to go to the opposite extreme and permit himself to be imposed upon by the very worst kind of pretenders. As already stated, our great difficulty lies in trying to induce farmers to inoculate their pigs in time, before they have swine-plague or cholera, and before their neighbors' pigs across the road begin dying of this disease (or diseases?).

Calves that Won't Drink Milk.

We once raised a calf that never learned to drink milk, writes a contributor to National Stockman and Farmer. It was the only case of the sort I ever heard of and we naturally supposed that it would die, for by no possible means could it be taught to drink any milk, more than just to taste of it. It grew very thin, even before we gave it up, but as nobody wanted the job of killing it we turned it into the field and let it take its chances. After that it lived somehow, on grass and water, and it did not get any too much of either, for we had the bad habit of turning calves into a sort of clearing that had neither water nor feed in much quantity, expecting the calves to live mainly on milk. The calf that would not drink milk seemed to fairly dry and shrivel up till it was a sort of walking shadow, but it made a great fight for life and came out in the fall quite an animal, so that it wintered with the other stock and began the second year about even. It was a heifer and as a cow developed the ordinary milking qualities of the rest of the herd, none the worse, apparently, for its experience. Nobody had any idea why it disliked milk. I cannot remember whether it began by sucking the mother or not, but suppose that it did, as it was common to allow the calf to remain with the cow till the milk was fit to use.

My experience is that all possible effort to get calves to eating solid food early is valuable. We take to late summer or fall calves as we watch them more. These can be taught to eat grass early and as it does not physic them as the over-succulent spring growth does, they can eat as much as they will without injury.

"Carunculated" is a term used when the head and neck of a turkey cock are covered with small fleshy protuberances.

Dairy Notes.

A patent has been issued in Germany covering a process of condensing milk by freezing and thawing it in a centrifugal separator when in motion. The work is said to be rendered easier by first separating the cream and condensing the skim milk, after which it is mixed with the cream. It is claimed for this kind of condensed milk that it can be again diluted to its original volume, and also that it does not have the sweet taste to which some people object in the condensed milk we now use. However, the mere patenting of a process does not prove its utility, and we may have to wait indefinitely for a demonstration of its value.

What is pure milk? The eye cannot tell and the nose cannot tell. Even the chemist and the microscopist fail, when each works by himself. Scarlet fever germs may get into it from poorly-washed dishes, typhoid fever germs may get into the cans when they are washed at some contaminated well, and there is not one chance in a million that they will ever be detected in the milk. The only safety is pasteurization of all milk being sent to the city. The dealers and the customers should insist on this. While it is true that 160 degrees of heat will not positively kill all tuberculosis germs, yet it can as a rule be depended on to kill all or render them harmless. But typhoid fever and scarlet fever germs perish at a less heat, and thus pasteurization is for them effective.

It was believed that when the different states adopted brands for their state cheese and put on a trade mark the cheese or butter would be protected. But as soon as the manufacturers did this the counterfeiters took hold and boldly imitated the brands, taking care, however, to sell them outside the state in which they were registered. A New York dealer declares that he finds the registered brands being imitated in Chicago and all over the west and south. In Chicago are men that manufacture stencils to be used in branding cheese after the registered New York brands. Thus the reputation that New York has built up is being stolen by every manufacturer of poor cheese in the country and the brands act as a protection to the manufacturer and consumer only in the state in which they are registered.

Cow's Milk for Lambs.

A contributor to the Breeder's Gazette says: I notice that A. E. C. of Pleasant Hill, Kas., said in a late number that he tried feeding young lambs on cow's milk and the lambs died. Four years ago last December I bought eighty sheep that were very poor. They commenced having lambs in about three weeks, many of them having twins and some of them triplets. I saved about 95 per cent of the lambs, and all were dropped from Jan. 12 to Feb. 27. I could not have saved 60 per cent of them but for cow's milk. I think over half those lambs got their first food from a heifer. I did not do much else for five or six weeks but attend to the lambs. As soon as a lamb said it wanted something to eat, if it could not get it from its mother I took it to the heifer, opened its mouth and put into it the little teat and squeezed milk into it.

If a lamb gets too hungry and chilled before it gets the milk it often dies, but I have filled them as full as they could hold with cow's milk before they were a half-hour old scores of times without hurting them. After a lamb gets a fill from a heifer it will take hold of a sheep's little teats much better. There have been days when I went to the young cow with a little lamb perhaps twenty times. It injured the heifer some as to giving milk, but that was nothing compared to saving fifty lambs. After the lambs were a few days old they were fed from a bottle with a rubber nipple. I fed every one that did not get enough from its mother for awhile until they began to eat grain and turnips. It is a novel sight to see forty or fifty lambs crowding around, struggling for the first suck from the bottle.

My lambs were all dropped last winter in January and February, and I saved 98 per cent of them. I did not take more than five or six to a cow because their mothers lacked milk. My first lamb weighed fifty-nine and one-half pounds at 8 weeks old. The heifer that fed successfully so many lambs ate about twenty-five pounds of turnips every day, which no doubt made her milk better for young lambs. I have lost less lambs than that noted breeder Lyman Hill (my neighbor), and I believe it is because I feed more turnips, though he feeds a great many swedes.

In a recent opinion rendered Attorney-General Akin of Illinois holds that the acts of 1897 and 1899 providing for the identification of owners of sheep killed by dogs are invalid, and that the act of June 19, 1898, is still in effect. This law provides that owners must present proof of their loss between ten and forty days after the sheep are killed or injured.

The mother's heart is the child's school room.—H. W. Beecher.

ENTERPRISING YANKEE WIDOW

She Knew the Value of a Life Pass and Made Use of It.

One of the islands in Panama bay used to belong to an enterprising old woman from Connecticut, the widow of a sea captain, and she lived all alone there in a little cabin for several years after her husband died. In the course of time—that is, about ten years ago—the Pacific Steam Navigation company desired that particular island for warehouses and repair shops, and when it came to make the purchase the ancient Yankee dame drove a very hard bargain. She made it a condition of the sale that the company should give her a life pass upon its steamers between Panama and Valparaiso for herself and a maid, to be used at her pleasure. This was done without misgivings. The manager of the company thought it was only right to give the old woman a sea voyage now and then, but experience caused him to think differently, for as soon as she had conveyed the title to the property, and had received a card signed by the president and general manager granting her passage at all times on their line, she calmly moved aboard their best steamer, selected a stateroom and cruised up and down the coast for several months. At Guayaquil, Callao, Valparaiso and other of the large ports she would go ashore while the ship was loading and unloading, but she always left most of her traps in the stateroom and came aboard again before the sailing date. When she got tired of one steamer she would try another, and was not contented with getting her living free of cost, but actually attempted to make a profit out of the arrangement. The old woman had never enjoyed the luxury of a maid in her life before she entered into this contract with the steamship company, but on several occasions brought a woman aboard whom she introduced as such, and she demanded that she be allowed free passage. The company's officers discovered that she was collecting fare from these women—that is, scalping her pass—and declined to carry any more of them. The old woman made a terrible fuss about it, and threatened to sue the company for violating its agreement, but a lawyer she consulted advised her not to prosecute the case, and she reluctantly abandoned it. She continued to live aboard the Pacific steamers until her death a few years ago.—Chicago Record.

FEASTED UPON FOE'S CARCASS

Merrymaking of a Frisco Neighborhood Over Death of a Ghost.

Two hundred residents and property owners of the Sunset district participated in a novel entertainment the other evening. For some time past a voracious goat belonging to Phillip Diez has been a constant source of annoyance to its owner's neighbors on account of its depredations in their yards and its beligerency when disturbed on these occasions. All sorts of schemes were devised and executed for the purpose of circumventing this unwelcome visitor, but with persistence worthy of a better cause the goat overcame all obstacles, overruled all objections and continued to show an extremely bold front to all who sought to discourage his raids. Finally, in desperation, a committee of his victims called upon the goat's owner and demanded satisfaction. Recognizing that his goat was incorrigible and anxious to conciliate his angry neighbors, Diez consented to sacrifice the animal to the public good and suggested that his visitors help him to eat the carcass of the brute. This idea was accepted with avidity and the committeemen left, highly elated over the success of their mission. On talking the matter over with their friends, however, other victims of the goat's idiosyncrasies expressed a desire to attend the obsequies and the idea suggested by Diez was finally adopted as the keynote for a public demonstration. A committee of arrangements was accordingly appointed, a formal program drawn up and some 200 invitations were issued. The affair took the form of a banquet at Park View hotel, followed by an entertainment. The goat's meat had the distinction of being served on a separate table. P. J. Diez was given the place of honor as toastmaster in recognition of his generosity in sacrificing his pet.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Type as Ammunition.

At the time of the Maori war in New Zealand a newspaper correspondent had a strange experience. The publishing office of a newspaper was close to the scene of some of the hottest fighting. During the struggle the Maoris ran out of ammunition for their guns, and, raiding the newspaper offices, charged their guns with type and stereo blocks. This novel ammunition proved very effective. One of the white invaders was severely wounded with a patent medicine advertisement, and another was crippled for life by a church bazar announcement, and the editor, who had taken refuge with the British troops, had a narrow escape from being hit with one of his own poems.