

NOTES FROM NATURALISTS.

Ants have a horror of ultra-violet rays. Doctor Kirkland reckons that in 90 days a toad will destroy 9,720 injurious insects. The rose grows wild all over Europe, in Africa as low as Abyssinia, in Asia to and through India and in North America to the edge of Mexico. The little tailor-bird not only sews but spins, weaving raw cotton into thread for its purposes. With this thread it sews and actual stitches a sack of leaves in which to rear its young. Indiarubber trees which are tapped every other day continue to yield sap for more than 20 years; and it is a curious fact that the oldest and most frequently tapped trees produce the richest sap. A remarkable instance of mimicry in fishes is described by Dr. A. Willey in Spolia Zeylanica. The Cingalese fishes known as sea bats have leaf-shaped and leaf-colored bodies, and when in danger they sink gently and inertly to the bottom, just like a leaf. Monkeys are very numerous along the northwest coast of South America, but are not found west of the Andes from northern Peru to the south end of the continent. Their home in South America is chiefly in the forests of Venezuela throughout the great Amazon basin and along the fluvial systems of the upper half of the Paraguay and the Parana rivers. A little south of the junction of these two rivers they disappear and the greater part of Uruguay and Argentina regard them as a curiosity to be exhibited in traveling shows.

MUSICIANS, ACTORS, WRITERS.

Kubelik, Bohemian violinist, is said to have made over \$500,000 in the last three years. Sarasate is 60 years old now, and has played on the same violin since he was 12 years of age. Mme. Rostand, wife of the famous French author and playwright, is about to issue a volume of her own poems. Mlle. Marthe Dupuy, whose remarkable volume of sonnets has won the Sully Prudhomme prize, lives in an attic. Joseph Jefferson says he was hissed off the stage once. He was four years old, and tried to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner." A manuscript by the composed Paestrina was stolen some time ago in the Roman Lateran. It is valued at \$25,000, and is believed to be in Germany. Actors belonging to the Court theater, Vienna, are not allowed to perform for charitable purposes except in payment of a certain fixed fee, which is handed over to the pension fund of their theater. F. Hopkinson Smith recently remarked: "If I can tell the whole story of my novel in five minutes at a dinner table and secure the undivided attention of my listeners, I know that it is good. If I fail to do this, my work will be in vain." Lieut. W. E. Safford, recently of the navy, but now of the department of agriculture, has about 200 books from the library of the late Robert Louis Stevenson. Among them is the Bible which belonged to Stevenson's father. He bought the books in Samoa. Few Americans can boast of so long and distinguished an ancestry as Mrs. H. A. Mitchell Keays, author of "He That Eateth Bread with Me." She recently received a letter from a distant relative interested in genealogy which contained Mrs. Keays' family tree written out, showing its roots reaching back to Henry III. of England.

SHORT AND SENSIBLE.

A song in the heart is worth two in the choir. Hurry & Worry are always trying to borrow from Slow & Steady. The true soldier is always ready to help put a stop to the fighting. You'll never run up the hill of progress by running down your neighbors. Men who are willing to let you in on the ground floor usually have a trap door ready to let you into the basement. Think once before you act, twice before you speak, and spend the day in thought before you commit it to paper.

It is said that the Turks were the first to bury their dead in cemeteries adorned with ornamental headstones.

LEARNING THINGS

We Are All in the Apprentice Class. When a simple change of diet brings back health and happiness the story is briefly told. A lady of Springfield, Ill., says: "After being afflicted for years with nervousness and heart trouble, I received a shock four years ago that left me in such a condition that my life was despaired of. I could get no relief from doctors nor from the numberless heart and nerve medicines I tried because I didn't know that the coffee was daily putting me back more than the Drs. could put me ahead. "Finally at the request of a friend I left off coffee and began the use of Postum and against my convictions I gradually improved in health until for the past 6 or 8 months I have been entirely free from nervousness and those terrible sinking, weakening spells of heart trouble. "My troubles all came from the use of coffee which I drank from childhood and yet they disappeared when I quit coffee and took up the use of Postum." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Many people marvel at the effects of leaving off coffee and drinking Postum but there is nothing marvelous about it—only common sense. Coffee is a destroyer—Postum is a builder. That's the reason. Look in each pkg. for the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville."

POULTRY AND BEES

COLONY HOUSE FOR CHICKS

The Model Here Described and Pictured Has Been Used Successfully for Years.

The uses of these houses may well be likened to plant growing. We quite frequently start tomatoes and cabbage plants in very small boxes, leaving them there until time to transplant to their cold storage frames and later to the field, where they finish their growth. What would we expect these plants to amount to if left where the seed was first started? It is needless to answer this question for any sane person knows. That is just what we do with our chicks when we attempt to raise them around the buildings with older fowls.

I have these buildings set all over my place, about 100 feet apart. I wish I had room to put them farther apart. After my chicks have reached a certain age they are transferred to these houses, where they are allowed full freedom just as soon as they are old enough to know when to go in and out of the rain and storm. If farmers would keep more fowls and employ this plan, scattering the young



COLONY HOUSE WITH RUN.

and old stock out over the grain and grass fields, a great deal less damage would be done by insect pests than there is to-day. We have not the numerous varieties of birds to-day to do this work as used to be the case. Oh, no! The girls are wearing them in their hats now! So we ought to supply some domesticated birds to do the work, and thereby reap a twofold benefit and our fowls would be far healthier for it.

About eight years ago the grain fields in the neighborhood were being devoured by the army worm. I placed colonies of pullets in my neighbor's fields all about me and the pullets went after the worms as schoolboys would go after a box of strawberries. Such feasting you never saw, and the best part of the bargain was I had to supply no feed for several weeks. Water and grit was all I had to see to, and such growth I never got before nor since, and eggs commenced to come about 30 days earlier than usual. Furthermore, I received thanks from my surrounding neighbors for saving at least a portion of their grain.

My colony houses are built of six-inch drop siding; sills, studding and rafters are two by four. Ground plan is six by six feet square, facing south or southeast, five feet high in front, three feet high in rear, with a window, six-lighted, in front and door two feet six inches wide and four feet high at the east side, as shown in the cut. It is best to have the window so it can be slid wide open at will and closed as easily, so we can ventilate to meet the changes of the weather. All the furniture that goes with these little houses is two perches, six feet long, made of two by four scantling, and a brooder and drinking fountain. Each house has a yard to the south 12 feet long. No house is ever complete without this yard, for when the chicks are first moved to the houses they are probably not old enough to be given unlimited range, and it will not do to confine them in their house for it is sure to stunt their growth. If a yard is at hand they can be given the same care and treatment they were accustomed to in the regular brooder house and we know just where they are.

Following this practice the operator is not affected by inclement weather, no matter how severe or wet or windy; all work can be done indoors. In building the colony houses some people try to improve over my plans and build them larger. Don't do it. It may be all right to build them larger if you are sure you never want to use them in cold weather, but if built larger and nothing but the heat that escapes from the lamp in the brooder to keep it warm it will not be warm enough for your little chicks to enjoy a great deal of time outside of their brooder, and we must encourage them to get out as much as possible.—C. E. Matteson, in Ohio Farmer.

Regarding the Age of Eggs. An eastern farm paper recently published a lengthy article on how to tell the age of eggs. While the article is very interesting and the information it contains is no doubt accurate and reliable, we are of the opinion that the farmer who makes the most money out of eggs is not very material. The only good egg is the fresh one, and the way to make the most money out of the sale of eggs is to get them into the hands of the consumer as soon as it can be done after they are laid. Guaranteed strictly fresh eggs always and ready sale, and generally at a premium any time of year.

CLEVER HENS OF OREGON.

Their Owner Says They Can Tell Drones from Working Bees and Never Make a Mistake.

"Worth their weight in coined silver," is the value attached to his flock of hens and chickens by W. H. Penning, the most extensive producer of honey in the alfalfa region about Ontario, Ore. This high price for poultry is not on account of the beauty or size or pedigree of his flock, but on account of their having developed a faculty of intelligence which enables them to distinguish between a working bee and a drone, which enables him to secure a much larger yield of honey from his 500 hives, as his hens keep the number of lazy, idle drones, who are not armed with stings, but who have good appetites, reduced to a minimum, and more cells are filled and sealed daily by the busy workers.

Mr. Penning told the Portland Oregonian the story of the wonderful development of his hens, which are allowed to run at large among his beehives, and who, like many other "birds," have a fondness for bees, bugs, grasshoppers and other insects, but which, generally speaking, have learned to leave bees entirely alone, having in their early attempts at swallowing them found that pain and danger lurked in the stings with which most of them are armed. Within the past year or two he has noticed his hens pecking into the entrances of hives and occasionally seizing a bee, which, after placing on the ground and examining critically, they would sometimes swallow and sometimes allow to fly away.

This resulted in a careful investigation by him of the strange action of the hens, and he soon found that the fowls had learned to distinguish the stingless and useless drones from the armed working bees, and that in consequence the number of eaters, but non-producers of honey, was being kept within reasonable limits. He has also discovered that this season the old hens have taught their chickens how to distinguish between the two classes of bees. He believes that no other fowls have ever acquired this valuable knowledge, and has not found anyone who has ever heard of such knowledge being displayed by any fowl or bird. He is greatly delighted at his discovery, for it means many dollars in his pocket, and his discovery is now published for the information of all apiarists, students of entomology and the public in general.

POULTRY YARD POINTERS.

Good stock is always in demand; inferior stock must be sold for an inferior price.

"The little foxes spoil the vines," and the little mites spoil the profits in poultry keeping.

A small flock of fowls, carefully handled, will pay a better profit than a large flock carelessly kept.

Color or markings do not cut much figure when it comes to selecting a breed for practical purposes.

When supplying private customers with eggs always sort them both as to color and size. They will look better and will bring a better price.

A feast one day and a famine the next is not conducive to health, thrift or egg production in a flock of fowls. Regular feeding, well balanced, is the keynote of success.

If there are pullets or cockerels in some of the broods that grow faster than the rest, mark them and keep them for breeders another season. In this way you can build up the stamina of your flock.

The poultryman who lives near a creamery or a dairy where he can get skim milk for his fowls is in luck. It is an excellent feed for them and is especially valuable to use in mixing the mash. Buttermilk is also good.

In culling the flock it is a good plan to save the hens that proved exceptionally good sitters and mothers this season, as the cost of their keeping will be more than offset by their service next season, even if they don't lay an egg during the year.—Commercial Poultry.

FEED BOX FOR CHICKENS.

Fowls Can Enter It from Either Side and There is Small Danger of Waste.

The cut shows end view of handy feed box. The bottom board is eight inches wide and any desired length. Mine are four feet long. The strips, front and rear, are three inches wide, and the end board is six inches high in back and seven inches in front. The top board is ten inches broad, with blocks, as shown, to keep it from slipping off. Fowls can eat from either side. No slats are needed to keep them out.—W. G. Rogers, in Farm Journal.

About Unfinished Sections. After the honey flow has stopped the unfinished sections that only have a little honey in them will soon be cleaned up by the bees without destroying the comb, if covered up near the hives, leaving room for only one bee to go in or out. When given a larger entrance they destroy the combs, which are worth saving for starters next season. When there are many sections not capped over, or half filled or more, they may be sold at a reduced price, or converted into liquid honey by melting slowly. After cooling remove the cake of wax. A warm, dry, sunny place where the temperature stays around the nineties is an ideal place for storing honey. Cold and dampness cause honey to become watery and sour.—Ohio Farmer.

HUNTING THE SEA OTTER.

Extirpation of This Beautiful Fur Bearing Animal Rapidly Being Accomplished.

The demands of fashion and of sport and the innate love of destruction threaten the extermination of the beautiful sea otter. Many years before the settlement of California by the Americans, Russian fur traders had trading and hunting posts along the coasts of upper and lower California for the purpose of securing the pelts of these animals.

The enormous beds of kelp found along the shores were adapted to the habits of this otter, which fed on the sea urchins and shellfish abounding in these sea meadows. In early times, says the New York Sun, otter were plentiful on the coasts of California, Oregon, Queen Charlotte and Vancouver islands and the south coast of Alaska, and they were especially abundant throughout the Aleutian and Kurile islands.

In the last quarter of a century there has been a great scarcity of these beautiful skins, which have come only from a single point off the coast of Washington and from the islands to the south of Behring sea.

In hunting the otter the natives of these northern islands employ frail skin canoes, called bidarkas, somewhat resembling the kayaks of the Eskimoes. The natives of the Aleutians and the Kuriles are very expert with the spear, which is thrown with a hand board. A number of bidarkas, with two men in each, go in company, and when the game is sighted the canoes form in a half circle behind the otter and all the hunters who are near enough throw a spear. Then the otter dives, but as the movements of the animal are slow the light skin canoes of the hunters can easily overtake it.

The otter often doubles and comes up behind the hunters, when the canoes again form and the hunters throw their spears whenever the animal rises to the surface to breathe.

Kept under water so much the otter becomes exhausted and stays longer and longer on the surface, and the hunters are able to approach nearer, until the victim is struck with a dart, when its doom is sealed.

The habits of the sea otter are peculiar. They seldom go to land; in fact, never except during severe storms, when they sometimes take refuge on outlying rocks and reefs in the ocean. Unlike the seal they do not bear their young upon the land, but give birth to them at sea. The pup is taken upon the breast of its mother, who floats lightly upon her back as a favorite position.

When frightened, the mother takes the pup in her mouth and disappears; and even when the offspring is only a few days old, she will remain with it below the surface fully 15 minutes without rising. In feeding the otter brings to the surface several shellfish, takes its favorite position on its back, spreads its food upon its breast and breaks and eats the shellfish one by one.

TESTING FOOD FOR CATTLE

Experiments in Diet Conducted at the University of Pennsylvania—Respiration a Factor.

Yale having conducted a series of food tests with "rookies" supplied by the United States army and by volunteers from the athletic department of the university, the State College of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, carried on a series of experiments of exactly the same nature with cattle, says the Brooklyn Eagle. The Pennsylvania experiments were all directed toward the scientific feeding of cattle, to find out exactly what foods are the best adapted to produce the best milk, the best flesh and best butter. It was not the plan of the Pennsylvania scientists who conducted the tests to starve scientifically the cattle with which they made the experiments, nor to try the effects of poisons on them. On the contrary, the sole purpose of the tests has been to find out what foods, or combinations of foods, will produce the richest results and the cost thereof. To make their tests correct, they have invented what they call a respiration calorimeter. It is an apparatus which measures with exactness the gases given off by a cow or ox, and the heat generated in the animal's body during the process of assimilation. The respiration part of the apparatus attends to the gases and the calorimeter to the temperature. In this machine for months past a series of the most interesting and to agriculture the most valuable tests have been made, and the scientists who supervised them are enthusiastic over the results that they have secured.

"Old Man Kangaroo Mile." What is an "old man kangaroo mile?" The expression was used by Mr. Bent, the premier of Victoria, in a recent speech, and one of the reporters subsequently asked him what he meant. "Well, you see," he replied, "an ordinary English mile is 1,760 yards; an old man kangaroo mile would be about 500 yards extra." The old man kangaroo is the biggest and most powerful of the marsupials, and it can cover a mile very rapidly with its tremendous jumps. A race between an old man kangaroo and a motor car would be worth seeing, if it were possible to arrange and carry out such a contest.—Detroit Free Press.

As Classified. Gentleman (in library)—Where can I find the book entitled "Man, the Ruler of the World," please? Lady Attend—You will probably find it just across the hall in the fiction department, sir.—Chicago Daily News.

Going East This Summer?

Get the vacation habit. Drop your work and take a trip to some of the Famous Eastern Summer Resorts so easily and quickly reached by the Nickel Plate Road. Stopovers allowed at Niagara Falls and Lake Chautauqua on all tickets. Three elegantly equipped trains made up of modern Day Coaches, Dining and Sleeping Cars, running thru from Chicago to Ft. Wayne, Cleveland, Erie, Buffalo, New York, Boston and intermediate points. The Dining Car service of the Nickel Plate Road is up-to-date, inexpensive and as good as the best. Individual Club Meals are served at prices ranging from 35 cents to \$1.00. Meals are also served "a la carte." Passengers using the Day Coaches of the Nickel Plate Road, regardless of the class of ticket held, may be assured of the most courteous treatment by our Colored Porters in Uniform, who are instructed to give every attention to the welfare of our patrons. Tickets via the Nickel Plate Road are from 60 cents to \$3.00 lower than tickets of the same class between the same points via other lines. All trains arrive at and depart from the New La Salle Street Station, Chicago. For full information regarding tickets, rates, routes, sleeping car reservations, etc., call on or address J. Y. Calahan, General Agent, No. 111 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

"Some of your opponents, Colonel, are accusing you of putting money into politics," said the plain citizen. "Well, some of the others have been accusing me of taking money out of it," replied the colonel, "so things are about even up."—Philadelphia Press.

Fits stopped free and permanently cured. No fits after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Free \$2 trial bottle & treatise. Dr. Kline, 931 Arch st., Phila., Pa.

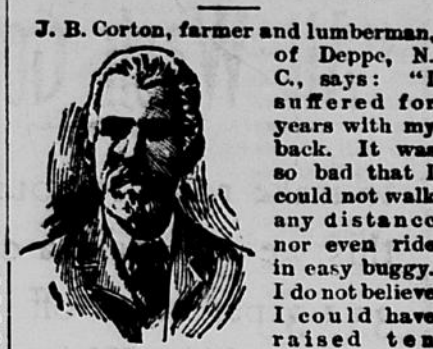
The millionaire may smoke only dollar cigars himself, but he has to smell the five-cent cigars that other men are smoking.—Somerville Journal.

Piso's Cure cannot be too highly spoken of as a cough cure.—J. W. O'Brien, 322 Third Ave., N., Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 6, 1900.

A matrimonial refusal is the original anti-trust decision.—Richmond Missourian.

COULDN'T LIFT TEN POUNDS.

Doan's Kidney Pills Brought Strength and Health to the Sufferer, Making Him Feel Twenty-Five Years Younger.



J. B. Corton, farmer and lumberman, of Deppe, N. C., says: "I suffered for years with my back. It was so bad that I could not walk any distance nor even ride in easy buggy. I do not believe I could have raised tea plants if I had not used Doan's Kidney Pills. The pain was so severe. This was my condition when I began using Doan's Kidney Pills. They quickly relieved me and now I am never troubled as I was. My back is strong and I can walk or ride a long distance and feel just as strong as I did twenty-five years ago. I think so much of Doan's Kidney Pills that I have given a supply of the remedy to some of my neighbors and they have also found good results. If you can sit anything from this rambling note that will be of any service to you, or to anyone suffering from kidney trouble, you are at liberty to do so."

A TRIAL FREE—Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all dealers. Price, 50 cents.

Worrying the Landlord. Clarinda—You can't keep a dog in your new flat? Florida—No, we had to give Fido away, but Frederick had his dear little bark put in our phonograph.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Advertisement for Castoria. Includes text: "900 Drops", "Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomach and Bowels of INFANTS & CHILDREN", "Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.", "In Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA".

Advertisement for W. L. Douglas shoes. Includes text: "W. L. DOUGLAS UNION MADE \$3.50 & \$3 SHOES FOR MEN", "The High Grade Leathers", "W. L. Douglas makes and sells more men's \$3.50 and \$5.00 shoes than any other manufacturer in the world.", "Brooklyn Leads the Men's Shoe Fashions of the World.", "W. L. Douglas uses Corona Coltskin in his \$3.50 shoes. Corona Coll is conceded the best leather in the world to be the finest Patent Leather made. W. L. Douglas, Brooklyn, N.Y."

Advertisement for Tower's Slicker. Includes text: "WET WEATHER WISDOM! THE ORIGINAL TOWER'S FISH BRAND SLICKER", "BLACK OR YELLOW WILL KEEP YOU DRY NOTHING ELSE WILL TAKE NO SUBSTITUTES", "SHOWING FULL LINE OF CARRIAGES AND HATS. A. J. TOWER CO., BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A. TOWER CANADIAN CO., LTD., TORONTO, CANADA."

Advertisement for Paxtine Toilet Antiseptic. Includes text: "FREE TO WOMEN A Large Trial Box and book of instructions absolutely Free and Post-paid, enough to prove the value of Paxtine Toilet Antiseptic", "Paxtine is in powder form to dissolve in water—non-poisonous and far superior to liquid antiseptics containing alcohol which irritates inflamed surfaces, and have no cleansing properties. The contents of every box are more Antiseptic Solution—kills longer—good for—keeps men's in the family and discharges more than any other antiseptic preparation you can buy.", "The formula of a noted Boston physician, and used with great success as a Vaginal Wash, for Leucorrhoea, Pelvic Catarrh, Nasal Catarrh, Sore Throat, Sore Eyes, Cuts, and all soreness of mucous membrane.", "In local treatment of female ills Paxtine is invaluable. Used as a Vaginal Wash we challenge the world to produce its equal for thoroughness. It is a revolution in cleansing and healing power; it kills all germs which cause inflammation and discharges.", "All leading druggists keep Paxtine; price 50c a box; if you do not, send to us for it. We'll take a substitute—there is nothing like Paxtine.", "Write for the Free Box of Paxtine to-day. E. PAXTINE CO., 4 Page Bldg., Boston, Mass."

Advertisement for Rheumatic Oil Liniment. Includes text: "TO THE MAN BEHIND THE PLOW When you are suffering from Rheumatism, crick, pain, or bruise, when your horse is suffering from back-ache, ticks and sprain try MARSHALL'S RHEUMATIC OIL LINIMENT", "Sole sale everywhere. Price 50c. Write for free circular. W. W. MARSHALL, Fond du Lac, Wis."