

there is more of it. Unless these geniuses are constructive, leaving something behind that is helpful to the race, some permanent impress, they are of little good, save, perhaps, that of inspiration or of amusement. They may afford a transitory pleasure and nothing more. So with the "break-the-record" hen, whose fame is heralded all over the world, unless she can pass to the next generations something of the same quality, her value is very meagre indeed. So far as we know, hens have neither imagination nor the spirit of emulation. If one hen in a flock lays herself almost to death her companions neither know nor care. Therefore there is no copying of example as in human experience. Her influence must be exerted through the progeny, or it is useless. It must not (as previously pointed out) be thought there is any desire to suggest we should not put forth every effort to increase the average productiveness of our fowls. That is a necessity. This will be best accomplished by those which are above the mean of the race. "All groups of living things vary around an average or mean as regards each of their characters, and those near the average are always numerous, while as we approach the extremes in either direction the numbers become less and less." The question of averages is one that requires to be preached constantly, and especially to those who are new—beginners in the poultry industry. Many people have been misled by hearing of what abnormal hens have done than probably in any other way.

#### SISTERS OF MERCY, HOKITIKA.

The following results in connection with the National Business College, Sydney, were obtained in a recent test, by pupils attending St. Columbkille's Convent, Hokitika:—Advanced Book-keeping Mabel Andrewes, 91 per cent; Gladys O'Neil, 91; Eva Stephens, 84. Intermediate Book-keeping—Bridie Coyle, 94; Francie Braidwood, 90; Maisie Knowles, 90; Myra Heenan, 89; Coral Fox, 89; Imela Devaney, 87.

Intermediate Shorthand—Francie Braidwood, 83. Elementary Shorthand—Maisie Knowles, 93; Bridie Coyle, 92; Imelda Devaney, 90; Coral Fox, 90; Myra Heenan, 90. Speed Shorthand (60 words per minute)—Eva Stephens, Mabel Andrewes, Jean Ross, and Gladys O'Neil.

Seven hundred years ago St. Francis of Assisi went to Palestine and founded there what is still known as the Custody of the Holy Land. From that time to the present day the Franciscans, the Friars Minor, have uninterruptedly remained there and acted as custodians of the Holy Places. The Franciscan Fathers of the Church of Mount St. Sepulchre, Washington, D.C., announce the gratifying news that, on the occasion of this seventh centennial, the Holy See has been pleased to grant to their church at the National Capital the same indulgences that may be gained by visiting the shrines of Palestine.

My moving has been splendidly done. Quite a treat to see things so excellently handled. Yes, I got the New Zealand Express Co., Ltd., to move me. They are masters at the business, and so very careful. They served me well, and I am confident you will get a service that will delight you too. Offices in all towns.

#### IRELAND, ONCE AGAIN

The Irish problem has taken a new and vexed turn, not through Ireland's fault, but through England's perversity in not approving of an act which Great Britain herself bade the Irish perform (says *America*). And the strange part of the present tangle is, that this is the first time in centuries that Erin has done Britain's bidding, and yet Britain is not only sulking over it, but is actually threatening dire reprisals, in the form of many a pound of Irish flesh and a river or two of Irish blood. What can be the matter with Great Britain? Surely, she is sincere, at least now, in this terrible crisis in which her very existence is threatened. Have the horrors of war blunted her keen sense of justice or dried up the fountain of her exquisite humor? For four years and more she exhorted and even prodded Ireland to action, and now, to the amazement of the multitude, she is angry that Ireland has fulfilled her behests. The very last pre-war sentence that England spoke was a protestation that the consideration which made her jump to arms was the freedom of small nations. But Ireland has won freedom, has obtained that for which England declared she sacrificed men and money beyond counting. Why then does England sulk and threaten? Was she sincere four years ago? And during the course of the war Great Britain protested to all the world that she was fighting for the freedom of small nations and would end the war the instant she was convinced that the aforesaid nations were safe in the possession of liberty. Ireland is safe in the possession of liberty; rather, Ireland would be safe in such possession, if Great Britain, the nation which waged war that small nations might be free, would let her alone. What is the matter with England? Surely she is not hypocritical, especially now when the Bolsheviks are ready to submerge her. Yet there are her words and there are her acts, and they are contradictory.

The fact of the matter is, England is playing the most dangerous game of her history. Heretofore she tried to fool the poor, oppressed Irish only, now she is striving to fool the world, and the world will not be fooled. Jaws are set in the United States, Canada, Ireland, England, and wherever the great issue is understood. And that issue is: the war was fought for democracy and democracy must be extended to Ireland too. The sooner Great Britain stops her acting and becomes honest, the better for the world, but for herself especially, for she is nearing the brink of a precipice, a fact she would do well to recognise before it is too late.

All children ere they lie to play  
Upon a raw, cold winter's day,  
Should don warm clothes, from hat to hose,  
To guard their lungs from bronchial woes;  
And when to bed they beat retreat,  
To make precaution quite complete,  
Last thing each one should have, be sure  
A dose of Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

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