

at the right time. Their eyes met involuntarily, and Mr. Fiske's hand went ruefully to his offending elbow.

'It was my fault,' smiled the hostess. 'But please don't try to console me by throwing the rest of the service against the wall.'

THE ART OF CONDENSATION

An Australian paper had the following editorial note in a recent issue:—

A correspondent writes us to correct a story printed in this paper several days ago. 'In that snake story I sent you,' he complains; 'you make one mistake. I told you that the snake was twenty feet long, and you had it only ten feet long.' We are sorry for this, but the error was unavoidable. We were very much crowded for space when we used the story, and we had to cut everything down.

THE INTELLIGENT DOG

The conversation veered round to dogs.

'Well, Bumps, here is a dog story that can't be beat. My friend, Johnson, had a most intelligent retriever. One night Johnson's house caught fire. All was instant confusion. Old Johnson and his wife flew for the children and bundled out with them in quick order. Alas! one of them had been left behind! But up jumped the dog, rushed into the house, and soon reappeared with the missing child.

'Everyone was saved; but Rover dashed through the flames again. What did the dog want? No one knew. Presently the noble animal reappeared, scorched and burned, with—what do you think?'

'Give it up,' chortled eager listeners.

'With the fire insurance policy, wrapped in a damp towel, gentlemen!'

HE DID NOT KNOW

The case concerned a will, and Casey was called as a witness.

'Was the deceased in the habit of talking to himself when he was alone?' asked the lawyer.

'I don't know,' said Casey.

'Come, come; you don't know, and yet you pretend that you were intimately acquainted with him?' said the lawyer.

'Well, sir,' said Casey, 'I never happened to be with him when he was alone.'

A PESSIMIST

In a small country town a crowd had gathered to see the first electric car started, and during the preparation one old lady was loud in her prediction of failure.

'It'll never go! It'll never go!' she exclaimed over and over again.

When, however, the motorman moved the switch the old lady stared as the car glided steadily away, and, as it gained speed and was rapidly disappearing in the distance, she declared, with firm conviction:

'It'll never stop! It'll never stop!'

FAMILY FUN

The Disappearing Penny.—This is a clever little trick and very mystifying when cleverly performed. Take a small wineglass, coat the edge with mucilage, and place rim down on a sheet of paper until the mucilage is dry. Then cut away all of the paper close to the glass, leaving it with a paper cover. Turn the glass down on a sheet of white paper and ask some one of the company to twist up a paper cone large enough to cover the glass. Borrow a coin of another member of the company and place it near the glass on the sheet of paper. Take the cone and place it over the glass, and then taking both glass and cone together place them over the coin. Lift off the cone and the coin will not be visible, the paper cover of the glass having concealed it from view. To make it reappear again, cover the glass with the cone, lift them both off together, and the coin appears.

The Hen-and-Egg Problem.—If a hen and a half lay an egg and a half in a day and a half, one hen will lay one egg in a day and a half, or two-thirds of an egg in one day. If one hen lays two-thirds of an egg in one day, six hens will lay twelve-thirds of an egg, or four eggs in one day, and in seven days six hens will lay 28 eggs. The problem is a strictly legitimate mathematical proposition, but the peculiar way in which it is stated makes it appear to be a 'catch question.'

On the Land

Many people forget that the hoof-horn grows and expands, whilst the iron of the shoe does not, and this is the case more particularly with young horses.

Although pigs like to wallow in slush in warm weather, they require a dry sleeping place to keep them in good health, and, as they feel the cold acutely, it is absolutely necessary that they should be protected from cold and damp.

When cows are badly treated, or frightened just previous to milking, their milk is often very poor in quality, the butter fat being sometimes reduced by one-half. Butter made from milk of this description is very white in color, and sometimes inferior in flavor.

With regard to the potato disease, Mr. E. C. Pratt, an English potato grower, states that 'Irish blight can be greatly reduced, if not destroyed. The profitable lifetime of any variety of potato is from fifteen to twenty years, and when any one variety is grown beyond that number of years it loses its constitution, and consequently is more liable to disease than a new variety of stronger growth. The present varieties grown in Tasmania commercially should be discarded, and new and disease-resisting varieties should be imported from England or Scotland, the latter being the rearing bed of the potato world. On the question of spraying, Mr. Pratt was emphatic that the more times the better, as such spraying will increase the yield of the crop considerably, and at the same time prevent disease.

During the past fortnight (says the *Otago Daily Times*) the market at Burnside has held very firm, and at the same time showing no material advance. At last week's sale 159 head of cattle were yarded. The quality was still exceedingly poor, and prices ranged up to £13 10s per head, or an average of about 30s per 100lb for good beef. Owing to the scarcity of fat cattle in the local market some of the Duncdin butchers have been looking to Southland for their supplies, and several hundred head have been purchased from that district for forward delivery at up to £15 per head. About 2600 sheep were yarded, and the bulk of the yarding comprised ewes, with very few good wethers offering. The highest price reached for wethers was 21s 9d per head, which was equal to 3½d per lb, while good ewes realised up to 2½d per lb. About 1750 lambs were penned, and on the whole prices were a shade easier, first-class quality lambs selling from 13s to 14s 6d per head, while an extra good line was disposed of at 16s.

For horses and cattle a good remedy for lice (according to the *Farmer*) is made as follows: Boil for an hour eight tablespoonfuls arsenic, eight tablespoonfuls soda ash, and sixteen tablespoonfuls soft soap in two gallons of water. After being prepared by boiling add enough water to make two gallons. When cool wet the animal all over with a little of it, using a brush or currycomb to get it into the skin. Another good remedy is made of boiling stavesacre seeds, one part to twenty parts water, for an hour, and letting it simmer for another hour, then adding water to make it up to the original bulk. This applied to the affected parts brings quick relief. It is advisable to repeat the application in a week or ten days, so as to catch any new lice from any eggs that were not caught by the first application. A very common treatment is secured by mixing a pint of linseed oil, eight tablespoonfuls oil of tar, and eight tablespoonfuls sulphur. This is then rubbed on the affected parts once a day for two days and allowed to remain for a few days, after which it is washed off with soap and water. In serious cases the application should be repeated within a week or so. Of course any of the disinfecting fluids on the market, used either as a spray or a wash, will do the work satisfactorily.

At the Addington sales last week there were average entries of stock and a fair attendance. Beef met with a dull sale at late rates. Store sheep showed little change, young ewes being in the best demand. Fat lambs were slow of sale in consequence of the large proportion of unfinished lots, and prime fat sheep sold well. Pigs and store cattle were dull of sale, and dairy cows were in good demand. There was an entry of 7393 fat lambs. Extra prime lambs fetched from 16s to 17s 7d, and prime from 8s 1d to 15s 9d. The range of prices for fat sheep was: Prime wethers 16s 6d to 21s 6d, lighter 11s 7d to 16s, prime ewes 13s 6d to 25s 6d. There were 287 head of fat cattle penned, including a small consignment from the North Island. The yarding was composed chiefly of cows, with a few lines of useful stores and heifers. The sale was not very brisk, and prices if anything were a shade easier. The range of prices was: Steers £7 15s to £12 10s, heifers £5 17s 6d to £9, and cows £5 5s to £9 5s (equal to 25s to 29s for prime, 22s to 23s 6d for medium, and 20s to 21s 6d for cow and inferior beef per 100lb). The entry of pigs was quite sufficient for requirements, the demand being rather better than at the last sale. Choppers sold up to 60s, and extra to £5 5s, heavy baconers 45s to 50s, and lighter 35s to 42s 6d (equal to 3½d to 4d per lb), large porkers 28s to 32s, lighter 22s to 26s (equal to 4½d to 4½d per lb).

For Influenza take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.
Never fails, 1s 6d, 2s 6d.

The British Minister to the Court of Bavaria, Sir Vincent Corbett, K.C.V.O., is a convert, and a graduate of the University of Cambridge.