

There are few children who do not come to love these 'brothers of the air and field' when once they are really acquainted with them, and toward what the child loves he is not apt to be cruel.

BLOWING FLOWERS

When amateurs speak of flowers 'blowing' they are not using a mere vulgarism. They are speaking real old English. In the early tongue the verb 'blowan' was used to indicate the opening of flowers. Instead of 'blow' being a corruption of 'bloom' it is the other way about. 'Blossom' comes from the same root.

We do not grow the costard apple nowadays, but our forefathers set great store by the sort and bought it eagerly in the streets from the 'mongers.' From costard monger to costermonger is a short step. Hawthorn, too, has its interest. The old form of haw was haga, which means hedge. Hawthorn is therefore simply hedge thorn.

SOME NATURAL MEASURES

The first 'natural measurement' to which the memory naturally recurs is the hand, four inches, employed in determining the height of horses. This measure is, of course, derived from the breadth of the palm, and it has become so well fixed in popular esteem that it is unlikely it will ever be superseded.

Another popular natural measure is the pace, and probably everyone who has had to do with land has used it. The usual method is to stride off, taking as long steps as possible, calling each pace a yard.

A natural measure much employed by a dressmaker is the yard as determined by stretching the material to be measured between her chin and her outstretched hand. Or, if it be a matter of inches, she will fold the bended upper joint of her thumb along the cloth. These natural measures are generally close enough to serve all practical purposes.

For many hundreds of years there was employed the measure of the forearm, from point of elbow to tip of middle finger. This was the cubit of the Bible.

THE SAME AT THIS END

A raw guard on a local train was being broken in as to the names of stations, but he wasn't very quick in learning them.

Finally his mentor told him whenever he didn't remember the station to wait until he had announced it at the front portion of the train, and then call out the same at the rear end.

As the train stopped at Battery Place the first guard called out the name; and the new one yelled out:

'Same at this end! Same at this end!'

AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

The teacher was giving the school a little lecture on good conduct and how to get on. 'Let me caution you on another point, children,' she said. 'Avoid criticising. Don't make a practice of finding fault with other people or picking flaws in what they say or do. It is a very bad habit to form and will make your own life unhappy.'

'Why, teacher,' spoke up a little boy, 'that's the way my father makes his livin'!'

'You surprise me, Georgy. What is your father's occupation?'

'He's a proof-reader, ma'am.'

The teacher coughed.

'Well, Georgy,' she said, 'I will make an exception in the case of you father.'

FAMILY FUN

Why is an orange like a church steeple? Because we have peels from both.

What kind of a cat lives in a library? Catalogue.

What sea would a seasick person like to be on? Adriatic (a dry attic).

What grows the less tired the longer it works? An auto wheel.

When has wit a father? When a pun becomes apparent (a parent).

Why should an architect make a good actor? Because he is excellent at drawing houses.

Why are spiders good correspondents? Because they drop a line by every post at every house.

What does a girl become when she ceases to be pensive? Expensive.

What is a sure sign of an early spring? A cat watching a bird on a tree.

A lady asked a gentleman how old he was. He answered, 'My age is what you do in everything.' How old was he? XL (excel).

What beneficial word is a combination of a chair and a table? Charitable.

What is the most difficult lock to pick? One from the bald head.

On the Land

Everyone should know that the hand—a term commonly used in describing the height of a horse—is one-third of a foot, or four inches.

As to whether the cow is a persistent producer or not is largely indicated by the size and shape of the udder. The ideal udder should extend well forward on the abdomen, and should be attached high behind. It should not be pendulous, but should be square, even, and the teats should be of medium size and well placed. The udder should not be beefy, but should be loose and pliable, covered with a fine coat of hair.

During the past winter some extensive experiments were conducted in Sweden on the feeding of roots to dairy cows, the results of which have been published. In one case 120 cows were under observation. They were divided into 20 groups, of which 11 got beet root, 4 swedes, 3 turnips, and 2 carrots. The quantity and composition of the dry matter contained on an average in the roots were ascertained, and each group of cattle received the same quantity of dry matter in the roots. The following are the conclusions:—(1) Apart from the varying percentage of sugar in the roots, the dry matter in the different kinds of roots has shown upon the whole the same composition. (2) The quantity of digestible albumen in turnips, beet, and swedes seems, according to the analysis, to be between 0.4 and 0.5 per cent. (3) No difference was found in the influence of the various roots upon the percentage of fat in the milk, nor upon the life weight of the animals. (4) The difference in the yield of cows fed on different kinds of roots was so slight that the dry matter in ordinary roots must be regarded as of practically the same feeding value. The value of the roots for practical purposes must, therefore, be calculated according to their dry matter, and the class of root to be selected for cultivation must be that which is found to give in this respect the biggest crop.

At the Burnside sale last week 153 head of fat cattle of medium quality were yarded. Competition was fairly brisk, and prices ruled rather better than those obtaining of late, except toward the finish, when values eased slightly. Quotations: Prime bullocks sold at £10 to £11 10s, extra to £13 10s, medium £8 10s to £9 10s, light £7 to £8 5s, best cows and heifers £7 to £8 2s 6d, medium £5 10s to £6 10s, light £4 to £5. There was a big yarding (4750) of fat sheep. Freezing buyers were operating for medium and light weight wethers, and also for ewes up to a limit. Taken all round, prices were about the same as last sale, there being very little appreciable difference. Quotations: Best wethers, 17s 6d to 19s 6d; extra, to 21s; medium, 15s 6d to 16s 6d; best ewes, 14s to 16s; medium, 11s to 13s 6d; extra heavy to 18s; others, 7s to 9s. Of the 2620 fat lambs penned, a fair percentage was of good quality. Freezing buyers were operating on a basis of the previous week's limits, and late values were maintained. Quotations: Best lambs, 13s 6d to 14s 6d; medium, 11s to 12s 6d; extra heavy to 15s. There was a large yarding of all classes of pigs, except baconers, which sold fully up to late rates. The demand for porkers was not so keen, and prices were hardly maintained. Stores also met with poor competition, and sold at prices considerably below those ruling at previous sales.

There were good entries of stock at Addington last week, though the offerings of sheep were not so large as at the previous sale. Beef sold irregularly, but without quotable change. The store sheep market had a better tone. Prime fat lambs were firmer, and fat sheep sold at improved rates. Good store cattle and dairy cows sold well. Fat pigs were in fair demand, but stores were dull of sale. The yarding of fat sheep showed a considerable falling-off from the exceptionally heavy entry of the previous week. It included a larger proportion of wethers than for some time past, and among them were some very prime lines. For all classes of wethers there was a very keen demand on the part of both exporters and butchers, and prices were decidedly firmer. Good ewes also sold well, but inferior sorts were neglected. The range of prices was:—Prime wethers, 17s 6d to 23s 3d; medium, 15s to 17s; prime ewes, 14s 6d to 18s 9d; extra, to 21s. There were 277 head of cattle penned, including some prime-quality lots. The sale was irregular, but on the whole there was no quotable change. Steers made £7 to £11, and extra to £14 12s 6d; heifers, £5 to £11 12s 6d. There was an entry of 5151 fat lambs, which was a considerable falling-off from the numbers offered of late. Some of the lines were exceptionally good, but there was a considerable proportion of inferior quality. The market was topped by a line which made 20s under spirited competition. The market for prime lambs was firmer, but light weights were somewhat easier, and sold as low as 8s. There were 4865 taken by exporters at 8s to 17s 6d, and extra to 20s. A medium yarding of pigs was of much better quality than seen for some time past, and there was a fair demand, though competition was not keen. Chop-pers sold up to 80s, heavy baconers 47s 6d to 60s, lighter 36s to 45s (equal to 4d per lb).

For Children's Hacking Cough at night,
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1s 6d, 2s 6d.