

things. At Heliopolis, a city in Lower Egypt, there was a magnificent temple dedicated to the sun. To this temple the phoenix would carry the fragrant ball and burn it on the altar of the sun as a sacrifice.

THE MERITED REBUKE

The irreproachable politeness of the late King Edward VII. was not only individual and relative to persons; it was human and general as well. Once at Marienbad his Majesty and a few friends were having tea in a restaurant in the pine woods near the town. At a table close by sat another party, the host of which was a well known German prince.

The work of attending to the guests at both tables devolved upon a young English waitress, and the King did not fail to notice the rude, blustering manner of the royal German, who threatened to report the terrified girl every time she had occasion to answer his summons. Annoyed by this most unjustifiable behaviour, the King said to Sir Stanley Clarke:

'You are to convey my thanks to the proprietor here for the prompt and admirable manner in which my party has been served at this restaurant.'

The command was instantly obeyed, much to the disgust of the adjoining table, a disgust which was intensified when the King gave the timid young waitress a gold piece.

ALMOST ADOPTED

A good-sized boy was hurrying along the street, dragging his two-year-old brother after him, in spite of the loud protests of the child, when a benevolent-looking old gentleman stopped him.

'My son,' said the old gentleman, regarding him with kindly eyes, 'how old are you?'

'Twelve,' answered the boy.

'You're a stout lad for that age. I should have taken you to be fourteen. Never been sick much, have you?'

'No, sir.

'I thought not. You enjoy your victuals, sleep like a top, and can play ball all day without getting tired, can't you?'

'Yes, sir.'

'I was sure of it. I wish I had a boy like you.'

'What for?'

'So I could turn him over my knee and spank him. Pick up that baby and carry him, you young savage, or I shall be tempted to consider you my boy, for all practical purposes, right now.'

REMEMBERED HER LESSON

'What?' said the little girl. The father is rather fastidious in his speech, and he said to the five-year-old: 'You should never say "what?" my dear; always say, "I beg your pardon."' That the injunction erred on the side of sweepiness was conveyed to him when the little girl, pointing to a blossom, said: "'I beg your pardon" is the name of that flower.'

FAMILY FUN

The Floating Ball.—Take a hollow rubber ball, two inches in diameter, and put it into a basin of water. The players must try to pick it out of the basin *with the mouth only*. Most people will fail in the attempt to do this, but if one will inhale vigorously at the moment that the lips touch the ball, it will be drawn into the mouth. There must be no exhaling until the ball is allowed to drop into the hand.

Referring to abortion in dairy cows, Mr. C. J. Reakes, Chief Veterinarian, remarks in his annual report that it is a matter for extreme satisfaction that the work done during the past few years in combating this disease has given such good results. It is still necessary, however, for farmers to exercise vigilance and care in preventing the possible reintroduction of contagious abortion into their herds, and to continue the exercise of preventive measures generally.

On the Land

SOME WHEAT TESTS.

(By A. MACPHERSON, in *Journal of Department of Agriculture*).

(Concluded from last week.)

Variety Test.

This test was carried out in the same field as the manurial one, and adjoined it, and the land received the same working. The varieties of wheat were sown and harvested on the same date as the manurial tests, with the exception of the variety Red Marvel, which was not sown until the 20th August, 1910, and was some weeks later than the other varieties in being harvested.

Six varieties of wheat were sown, in plots of one-tenth of an acre each, and were drilled in with 150lb per acre of the Christchurch Meat Company's fertiliser. The seeding was at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre.

Following are the results:—

Plot.	Variety Sown.	Grain.		Plants & Stalks to	
		Yield per Acre.		a Square Yard.	
		Bushels		Plants	Stalks
1.	Pearl	20.28	...	105	302
2.	Solid Straw Tuscan	31.00	...	95	341
3.	De Noe	18.66	...	87	294
4.	Bordier	13.37	...	77	251
5.	Red Chaff	20.58	...	88	236
6.	Red Marvel	14.96	...	—	—

All varieties sown on the 24th June ripened about the same time, and were, during their period of growth, subject to the same unfavorable weather-conditions as the manurial tests. All varieties suffered from grub at the roots of the plant, with the exception of the Solid Straw Tuscan. The Red Chaff, owing to the late date on which it was sown, was slightly affected with rust. Smut was noticeable in both the Bordier and De Noe wheats, and all varieties with the exception of Solid Straw Tuscan and Red Chaff suffered from the ravages of the small birds. The Bordier and De Noe varieties, owing to their liability to shell out, were badly shaken with the high winds, and consequently suffered in yield.

The greater number of animals that can be kept comfortably upon the farm the better. The more stock the greater fertility of the soil and hence the larger crops each succeeding year, which in turn permit a larger number of animals.

Good, heavy milk cans are the kind to own, because they will last well and are not easily dented. When the cans are badly dented, as cheap ones are apt to become, it is almost impossible to keep them clean. The thin layer of tin over the iron is cracked, and that exposes the surface of the iron to the action of the acid in the milk, which soon rusts the iron. The result is that taints and bad flavors are produced in the milk and cream.

About one-half of the live weight of the pig is water. The amount of water in the carcasses, however, depends considerably on the condition of the animal (says the *Kansas Farmer*). A thrifty, growing pig that is not very fat will contain proportionally more water than a pig that is very fat or in prime condition for market. Generally speaking, pigs with this degree of variation will contain from 42 to 50 per cent. of water. In order to have a pig develop to the best possible advantage it must have sufficient water to supply this amount, and, besides, it must also have water for the general working of his internal mechanism.

It seems evident (says the Chief Veterinarian in his annual report) that swine-fever has been entirely stamped out, no outbreaks have occurred since 1902. No cases of swine-plague were discovered during the year ended March 31 last.