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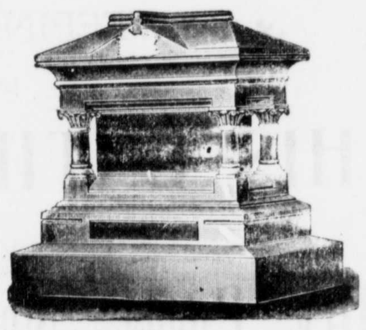

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NOT ENOUGH GIRLS TO GO AROUND.

There has been so much complaint of late on the part of the dear girls that the men were not anxious for matrimony, and that the prospect of single blessedness was becoming more and more terrible, and that it is more comforting to them to learn that statistics are against men rather than against them. There is a sort of idea current that there are constantly more women than men, and that, in consequence, the latter have their choice, while the women must face dubious prospects with what fortitude they can muster. The census figures have been analyzed, and it appears that whatever may be the situation in some localities, as a whole the women of marriageable age are 2,500,000 less than marriageable men, so that the chances of a woman getting a husband are much better than that of a man getting a wife. This is accounted for in many ways, since in this country the sexes are very nearly equal. A woman becomes marriageable much earlier than a man, though perhaps her years of expectation are less. It appears that there were in this country in 1900 the grand total of 10,448,153 unmarried men and for these there were only available 7,500,000 unmarried women. After deductions are made for those who in either sex can hardly be supposed to contemplate marriage, there remains the excess of men above referred to. Nor is this all. There are 2,700,000 widows and only 1,204,000 widowers, showing that 1,500,000 of the latter have married again, thus further reducing the supply of marriageable girls. The widows are evidently so by preference, for it is well known that a widow has a much better chance at a second matrimonial venture than a maid has at a first, but it seems that the widows are not so anxious to try a second marriage. Also divorced men seem to rush into matrimony again, while women similarly situated are more chary. Thus statistics show that there is hope for all the girls and mighty little for a large proportion of the male sex. It would appear that the reason why men do not marry is because they do not get the opportunity. If every man should determine to found a family there would need to be a Sabine raid to satisfy the demand. In the cities the men marry much later in life while they find it so expensive to maintain a family in the style which they wish, moreover, which their wives wish. There are many leading men in the city today who married long ago and went to housekeeping in the most primitive fashion, their wives doing the housework and doing it well. Nowadays there are few young women who want to do that, and they prefer to earn their own living and get luxuries rather than be the "slave" of a poor man. However, it appears that the girls now have the pick and much joy they may pick out of their present strategic position.

How to Start a Balky Horse.

For the benefit of those who have been caused great anxiety by a balky horse, lost trains as well as tempers, and even sometimes ruined the horse, the next time they have the experience to run across a balky horse, no matter how bad he is, let me tell you how to start him 99 times out of 100, says a writer in a horse paper. Of course, it may fail one time in a hundred. When a horse balks, no matter how bad he sulks or how ugly he is, do not beat him; don't throw sand in his ears; don't use a rope on his forelegs, or even burn straw under him. Quietly go and pat him on the head a moment, take a hammer or even pick up a stone in the street; tell the driver to sit still; take the lines, hold them quietly, while you lift up either front foot, give each nail a light tap and good smart one on the frog; drop the foot quickly, then chirp to him to go. In 99 cases out of 100 the horse will go right on about his business, but the driver must keep his lines taught and not pull or jerk him back. If I have tried this once, I have tried it 500 times, and every time I have suggested it people have laughed and even bet $5 and bottles of wine that I could not do it. So far I have won every bet. This makes you smile, but a horse has more common sense than most people are willing to give him credit for. The secret of this little trick is simply diversion. I am a firm believer that with kindness and proper treatment a horse can be driven with a string.

A THIEF broke into a large mansion early the other morning and found himself in a music room. Hearing footsteps approaching, he hid himself behind a screen.

From seven to eight o'clock the eldest daughter had a lesson on the piano.

From nine to ten o'clock the eldest son had a violin lesson.

From ten to eleven o'clock the other son had a lesson on the flute.

At eleven all the brothers and sisters assembled and studied an ear-splitting piece for piano, violin, flute and violin.

The thief staggered out from behind the screen at 11.30, and, falling at their feet, cried: "For mercy's sake, have me locked up or give me a rest!"

M. A. Toulson will guarantee every bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and will refund the money to anyone who is not satisfied after using two-thirds of the contents. This is the best remedy in the world for la grippe, coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough and is pleasant and safe to take. It prevents any tendency of a cold to result in pneumonia. For sale by M. A. Toulson, druggist, Chestertown, Md.

TOILER AND DREAMER.

Brave heart, that faces sorrow, o'ershadowing the day—
A toiler and a dreamer along the weary way,
Yet striving in Life's winter to reap the bloom of May.

And the mad world unheeding leaves thorns for thee to tread,
Enough for thee—the liberty to toil where Hope falls dead
On the barren highways leading up to a crust of bread!

Yet of Despair forever some undreamed Hope is born,
And Faith shall sandal still the feet red-wounded of the thorn;
And the Darkness melt in music of the Hills that meet the Morn!

—*Atlanta Constitution.*

WINTER WORK IN THE ORCHARD.

Protect the Trunks of Young Trees From Rabbits and Mice.

Young trees should have a strip of tarred paper or wire netting fastened around the trunk to prevent rabbits wood and field mice from gnawing the tender bark, for if the tree is girdled it will die. A strip of tarred paper 18 inches wide and 1 foot in length will encircle a good-sized tree. Fit the paper close to the ground so the mice cannot get under the paper from the ground; two tacks driven through both ends of the paper into the tree will hold it in place. The paper can be put on in two minutes. A mound of earth one foot in heigh around the tree may be used for this purpose instead of the paper; the mound will hold the tree steady during heavy wind. Newly set trees should be staked and the tree tied to the stake with a strip of canvass; staking and tacking on the paper can be done easily and quickly, and is much the best.

Rough-barked trees and trees infested with aphis, should be scraped; a steel hoe, ground sharp, with a short handle, is excellent for this work. After the trees are scraped scrub the trunk and larger limbs with strong soapsuds, adding a little lye to the water. A wash of cow manure, sulphur and sifted wood ashes will kill the worms and increase the growth of the tree. This last mixture is consided the best for scrubbing peach and pear trees. Sickly and delicate trees and shrubs are greatly benefited by spreading two buckets of liquid cow manure under each tree. The liquid should be sprinkled in a circle around the tree as far out as the branches extend. It should never be thrown close to the trunk, as the strength of it may scald the bark and kill the tree. This work may be done in the middle of the day when the weather is mild. It is best to wait until the latter part of January or the first part of February to trim either fruit or ornamental trees. Dead and broken limbs should be removed, as the swinging limb may break other branches. Saw the branches off close to the sound wood, making a clean cut. First saw the limb from the under side two inches or more in depth to prevent stripping the bark off the trunk or larger limb when the branch is sawed off. Cover large wounds with gum shellack varnish, melted grafting wax or crude petroleum. The varnish makes the best dressing. Seeds of stone fruits should be packed between layers of sand in small boxes and buried in the earth. Seeds of choice apples and pears should be sown in shallow drills and covered with one inch of fine earth; spread a thin covering of fine horse manure over the rows to prevent frost from injuring the seeds.

THE GOOD American farmer called upon a doctor, and was ushered into the library. At once the well-filled bookshelves drew his attention.

"Are you fond of reading?" asked the doctor, noting the wandering gaze.

"Well-yes," returned the farmer modestly.

"I should be pleased to lend you a book to take home with you," said the other. "Just take anyone that you think you'd like to read."

"O, I'm no good at selectin'," replied the old man. "You pick one out, doctor."

So the doctor, in a spirit of fun, gave the farmer a book written by Plato. The old man went his way, and at the end of a week reappeared with the book under his arm.

"Well," queried the doctor, "did you read the book?'

"Yes, I did," was the emphatic answer.

"And what did you think of it?"

"It was fust rate," responded the farmer; "I've read it through from kiver to to kiver. I never heard tell of the fellow Plato before, but, all the same, I'm glad to find that the old chap had been writing up some of my very best ideas."

Thought Her Mistaken.

One of Senator Lodge's small stock of stories relates to a member of the Massachusetts Legislature who was much impressed with the dignity of his position One night his wife woke him up and whispered:

"John, there are burglars in the house.

"You must be mistaken, my dear," said her husband. "There may be a few in the Senate, but in the House—oh, no; the idea is simply preposterous."

—*New York Times.*

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Respectfully, etc.,
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