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we sell to the farmers so many SPRING-TOOTH DISC HARROWS? Answer, ask your neighbor and you will know the reason why—quality and prices.

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that we sell more COFFEE than any other store? Answer, try 1 lb. or 2 lbs., and you will know.

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COUNTRY SCHOOLS—THE NEW PLAN.

[Continued From Sixth Page.]

and the impetus of the movement in his State is largely due to his efforts.

"By the consolidation method we solve, in a great degree, the problem of 'how to keep the boys on the farm,' " says Superintendent Nelson. "We bring to the home life of the farm what the boy goes to the city to get. Such a school may also become the social and intellectual centre of the community. With a library, music classes, debating club, and atheletic associations, our boys and girls will not be so ready to leave the home for the uncertainties of city life. Then, again, through the unity thus established there will come a larger social life to the older members of the community. Lecture courses may be carried out, circulating libraries may be founded, and literary clubs formed. This enrichment and preservation of our rural life is one of the most important problems of our times."

Superintendent J. W. Olsen, of Minnesota, speaks along the same lines. He says: "The small rural school offers no educational future to the boy; it holds out for him no advancing interest to counteract the allurements of outside life. The consolidated school, with the better equipment, larger attendance, new stimulus for work, opening broader horizons of life will hold the pupils, because it gives them opportunity to see what is before them to achieve, and makes more tangible the results of their own work. Under this system the farm becomes the ideal place to bring up children, enabling them to obtain the school advantages enjoyed by our centers of population, and yet to spend their evening and holiday time in the country, under the constant tender care of father and mother, in contact with nature and plenty of work, instead of idly loafing about town."

That there is plenty of room for consolidation is shown by the attendance in the schools of representative States. In Iowa over 9,000 schools, out of a total of 13,000 in the State, have an average attendance of less than twenty, and in more than 2,500 schools the attendance is under ten. In Wisconsin about 1,000 schools report an average attendance of less than ten. In Indiana more than fifty per cent. of the schools have an attendance under twenty, and even in thickly settled Connecticut ten per cent. of the schools have an average attendance of less than eight pupils.

The consolidation movement is only in its infancy, but the rapidity with which it is spreading is shown by the fact that in Ohio twenty-three townships have all their schools completely centralized, while in a hundred or more others there is partial centralization. In Iowa the consolidation plan is in operation in twenty-eight counties, and in Indiana in fourty-four counties. Without doubt the consolidation system will, within the present decade, bring about a radical change in the rural schools of every State in which the plan is practicable.—*The Outlook.*

COLOMBIA'S BENEFITS FROM A CANAL.

It should be remembered that the great canal we propose to build is not for anybody's pecuniary profit, and it is to be open to the ships of the whole world. In so far as Colombia, which, like our own country, lies on both oceans, may in future develop a merchant marine and a navy, it is of the highest importance that such a canal should be built. And it is certainly desirable for Colombia that the canal should be in the hands of a friendly power that could have no motive for aggression, and that could guarantee to Colombia the most favorable possible use of the passage for her public vessels, and for her coasting trade and merchant marine For the United States to take charge of the Isthmus, thus protecting Colombia against revolutionary disturbances in that remote region, and for the United States further to build a canal and give Colombia the use of it, would be beneficial in the highest sense, through many centuries to come, to the people of the South American republic. Nothing else could promise so much for the stability and development of the great latent resources of Colombia as to have the United States as a firmly established neighbor on the Isthmus, with the great canal open to the peaceful traffic of the whole world.—From "The Progress of the World," in the *American Monthly Review of Reviews* for February.

STATUE THAT GROWS.

Very warlike is the aspect of a singular statue, yet there is no cause for alarm, since it is nothing but a tree. Here is its history:

Ten years ago a police officer of Brussels retired from the force and went to live near Charleroi. Being an amateur horticulturist, he busied himself a good deal with trees and flowers, and one day, as he was trimming a hawthorn in his garden, it occurred to him that it would be a novel idea to train it in such a manner that it would eventually assume the figure of a cavalry officer.

At once he went to work, and after 10 years' labor he succeeded in transforming the tree into a perfect picture of a mounted soldier.

The tree is known in the neighborhood as "General Hawthorn," and hardly a day passes that strangers do not come from a considerable distance in order to get a look at it.

SOMETHING TO AMUSE.

Mr. Travers, of fragrant memory, was perhaps the readiest man at repartee that America has produced. But on one occasion he was beaten at his own game. 'Wh--wh-wh--what kik-kik-kik-kind of ah-b-bird is that?" said he to the shopman. "That's a parrot," said the other, "K k-k-can he t-t-t-talk?' inquired Mr. Travers. "If he couldn't talk better than you can," said the shopman, "I'd give him to you for nothing."

The Rev. Sidney Smith was asked for an epitaph for a dog named Spot. Without a moment's hesitation he exclaimed, "Out damned spot!"

Jekyl hearing that an empty-headed fellow had gone to Greece instantly quoted Scripture as follows: To the Greeks foolishness."

Voltaire spoke highly of Haller, whereupon someone told him that Haller had spoken ill of him. "Perhaps," said Voltaire, "we have both been mistaken."

Major Cannon, who had been drinking heavily, wandered down to the quay, and getting into an altercation with Admiral Shaw, struck him in the nose. The next day the Admiral sent a challenge. Seconds were appointed, and bloodshed seemed inevitable; when Lieutenant Ball, who was the Major's second, patched the affair up by explaining that "Cannon had gone off accidentally, not knowing he was loaded."

Col. McAdoo had lost his memorandum book, and was rushing about, shouting and swearing, and charging this one and that one with its theft.

"What's the matter?" inquired a bystander.

"McAdoo about nothing," said Lieutenant Ball, with a shrug.

"Are you civilized?" asked the lady of an Indian girl at Hampton College. "No," was the reply, "are you?"

Moritz Gotleib Saphir, as he rounded a corner in Munich, ran into a stranger "Brute!" cried the stranger.

Saphir bowed low, and said: "Charmed to know you. My name is Saphir."

When the backers of Boss Tweed claimed that he was a man of the strictest rectitude, and that Thurlow Weed was notoriously corrupt, Bill Stout was heard to mutter: " 'Tis strange such difference there should be twixt Tweed-le-dum and T. Weed-le dee."

"I've written a great number of poems but I'll not have them published till after my death," said Purrington. "Hurrah," cried Cavendish, "here's long life to you, old man!"

Dr. Stanley sat directly across the table from Major Cerf, quietly smoking his cigar as Cerf abused him, and held him up to ridicule.

Cerf went on and on, glaring at Stanley, and piling on invective.

Stanley looked at the end of his cigar, and seemed to be wondering whether he should let the ash remain or flick it off.

Mortification and distress were written on every other face in room.

At last Cerf paused. Then Stanley rose slowly, and with a puzzled expression, said inquiringly, "What is the wild Cerf saying?"

Instantly the table was in a roar.

Cerf stood for a moment in a daze. Then he left the room, and Stanley, flicking the ash from his cigar, went on smoking.

Harold—Jerrold has bought a sailboat.

Alice—But does he know anything about a sailboat?

Harold—Oh, yes. He has got his life insured and joined the church.

A MULTIPLICATION-ADDITION TABLE.

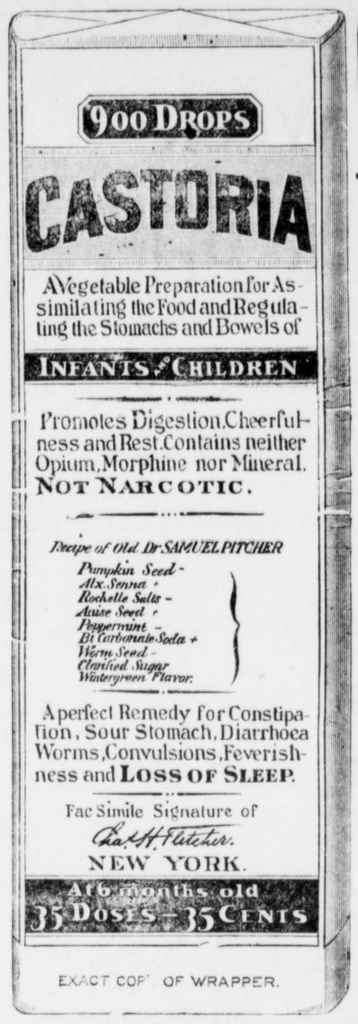
The following table was worked out by a Harvard professor. It is interesting to look at, but one is thankful it is not included among the multiplication tables:

1	times 9 plus 2 equals 11
12	times 9 plus 3 equals 111
123	times 9 plus 4 equals 1111
1234	times 9 plus 5 equals 11111
12345	times 9 plus 6 equals 111111
123456	times 9 plus 7 equals 1111111
1234567	times 9 plus 8 equals 11111111
12345678	times 9 plus 9 equals 111111111
1	times 8 plus 1 equals 9
12	times 8 plus 2 equals 98
123	times 8 plus 3 equals 987
1234	times 8 plus 4 equals 9876
12345	times 8 plus 5 equals 98765
123456	times 8 plus 6 equals 987654
1234567	times 8 plus 7 equals 9876543
12345678	times 8 plus 8 equals 98765432
123456789	times 8 plus 9 equals 987654321

—*Success.*

It is a well known fact that oxen and sheep fatten better in company than when kept alone.

The scratch of a pin may cause the loss of a limb or even death when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and unequalled as a quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by M. A. Toulson druggist, Chestertown, Md.



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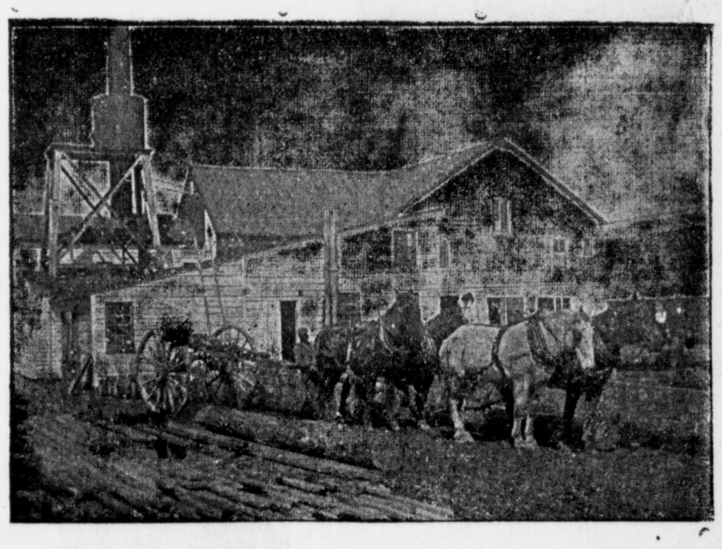

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