

"Now, it happened that he was happily married, very domesticated, and not accustomed to staying out at night. So at midnight his wife became very nervous. She dispatched the following telegram to five of her husband's best friends in the city:

"Jack hasn't come home. Am worried. Is he spending the night with you?"

"Soon after this her husband arrived home and explained the cause of his delay. While he was talking a boy brought in five answers to her telegrams, all worded practically as follows:

"Yes, Jack is spending the night with me."

SMILE-RAISERS.

"Were you carefully brought up, my boy?" asked the merchant of the applicant for a situation. "Yes, sir; thank you, sir. I came up in the lift," said the boy.

The Squire (in command): "What's that you say! Can't form fours! Why not?" Private: "Cos there's only three of us, sir." The Squire: "Well, then, confound you—form a triangle!"

The logician: "Yus, yer can take it from one as thinks things out for hisself. The reason why they're a-knockin' off all these trains is becoss they're runnin' short o' paper for time-tables.

Employer (to office boy): "If anyone asks for me, I shall be back in half an hour."

Patsy: "Yes, sorr; an' how soon will you be back if no wan asks for you?"

"I say, Bill, is somebody poorly at your house? I heard a lot of running up and down the stairs during the night."

"No; it was only the wife. She signed on for a tram conductor, and she was just having a bit of practice."

A young lady from the country got into a tram. The vehicle had not got far when the conductor said affably, "Your fare, miss." The lady blushed.

The conductor repeated, "Your fare, miss," and the lady blushed more deeply.

The conductor began to get riled. After a pause, he again repeated: "Miss, your fare."

"Well," said the lady, "they do say I'm good-looking at home, but I don't see why you want to say it out aloud!"

A little work, a little play
To keep us going—and so, good day!
A little warmth, a little light
Of love's bestowing—and so, good night!
A little fun to match the sorrow
Of each day's growing—and so, good morrow!
A little trust that when we die
We reap our sowing—and so, good-bye!

I turn far away
From the shadows of dreaming,
O'er the long road before me
My white star is gleaming.

And I turn me my face
To my star shining o'er me,
And the high Death that waits
On the long road before me.
—Patrick Pearce.

PILE

Can be instantly relieved and quickly cured by the use of BAXTER'S PILE OINTMENT. This excellent remedy has been a boon to hundreds of sufferers all over New Zealand. Sent post free on receipt of 2/6 in stamps, or postal notes, by—

WALTER BAXTER :: CHEMIST, TIMARU.

ON THE LAND

The Board of Agriculture has been supplied by Mr. C. R. Aston, agricultural chemist, with particulars regarding the amount of potash contained in fern and in the ashes at sawmills, which are now being wasted. He informed the board that he was continuing these investigations, and hoped that some methods might be devised to profitably utilise the potash that might be obtained for manurial purposes from these and other sources in the Dominion. The results of these inquiries it is proposed to publish at an early date.

Speaking to a Lyttelton Times reporter, Mr. A. H. Cockayne, Government Biologist, who has been making investigations into turnip diseases, said he had completed a tour of Canterbury, Otago, and Southland. He found dry rot in turnips fairly widespread in the main turnip areas in the south, but the disease was not so serious as it was during the two or three preceding years. Nevertheless, the loss sustained in the south had been very considerable. The Agricultural Department had made full arrangements to carry out a series of investigations in the Southland district, and it was hoped that some solution of the trouble would be arrived at. The Canterbury district did not, of course, occupy the same important position as Southland in the matter of turnip-growing, and the disease was not anything like so serious in that province.

Can wheat be profitably grown in the North Island? The Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, replies in the affirmative. He writes in the *Journal of Agriculture* to the effect that if promises made to the Department's officers materialise 40,000 acres will be under wheat where wheat had not been grown before, or where its cultivation had been discontinued. About 12,000 acres of this was new wheat land in the North Island. North Island average yields, from Auckland to Wellington, ranged from 22.97 to 28.12 bushels per acre. At Weraroa the yield had been 50.35 and 30 bushels. "The contention that the North Island generally is not suitable to wheat-growing," writes the Minister, "is not borne out by the records of recent years. . . . Excellent crops of wheat were grown in the early days of settlement in those very districts where the cry of unsuitability is chiefly heard."

The first annual meeting of the New Zealand Forestry League, formed in Wellington 12 months ago, was held in the Chamber of Commerce, Wellington, last week. The president (Sir James Wilson) stated that already the league had aroused a considerable degree of interest in forestry, and he hoped that before long the Government would recognise the necessity of demarcating and conserving the forests of the Dominion. Sir Francis Bell, while Acting-Minister of Lands, had authorised Mr. D. E. Hutchins to demarcate the Waipaoa kauri forests, and his recommendations were now in the hands of the Government. Sir James advocated the taking of a census of private plantations suitable for milling purposes, and of the varieties of timber being grown. Speaking of the cost of planting, Sir James asserted that £8 per acre or even less than that would be the outlay. Private planting should be encouraged. There were millions of plants at Whakarewarewa available for farmers if required. Mr. W. H. Field, M.P., drew attention to the great waste of timber going on, and instanced the case of the valuable Kohokohe Forest, near Wellington. He hoped the league would be aggressive, and press its claims upon the Government. It was decided to arrange a deputation to wait upon the Prime Minister in order to urge the need for a separate department of forestry, with a trained forester in charge, and to ask for a systematic demarcation of the remaining forests. Sir James Wilson was re-elected president.

NO RUBBING LAUNDRY HELP contains nothing injurious to hands or finest fabrics.

Napier's
Ironmonger and
Cutler.

A. H. Wilson
Napier

Special Value
in
Table Cutlery