

budding Dr. Johnsons have been equally original in the matter of definitions.

'An abstract noun is one that cannot be heard, seen, touched, or smelt'; or, to take the pessimistic view of another, it is 'the name of something which has no existence, as goodness.'

'An axis is an imaginary line on which the earth is supposed to take its daily routine.'

'The Pharisees were people who like to show off their goodness by praying in synonyms.'

The following is illustrative of history as remembered by the Quaker schoolboy:—

'Joan of Arc was a peasant's daughter, dressed in a man's clothes, and went to fight the English and was slain, and her soldiers said don't you think you had better wait till to-morrow to besiege Rouen.'

'The Wars of the Roses killed a lot of the important knights and they never got another start.'

'Elizabeth had a better claim to the throne than Mary, for she had possession nine-tenths of the throne by law.'

'Far away on the deep the Spanish Armada saw the beacon fires twinkling in endless chain from St. Michael's Mount to the Yorkshire Moors, and knew that England was ready.'

'Charles I. was going to be married to the Infanta of Spain; he went to see her and broke it off at once.'

It is interesting to be informed, too, that 'Every German goes to school at an early age, however old he is.'

CURED HIM

An elderly man once consulted Sir William Gull, the eminent physician, about stomach complaints, but there was a formidable obstacle to diagnosis in the patient being quite deaf.

'What do you have for dinner?' roared Sir William into his right ear.

'Oh, no,' was the reply; 'plenty of that—two miles regularly after breakfast, and two more after dinner.'

'How long do you lie abed of a morning?'

'Well, doctor, I shall be sixty-nine this day three weeks.'

Without further parley the doctor gave him some simple prescription. At the door the man turned round and, in the loud, rattling tones of one very deaf, called out:

'Doctor, can you cure deafness?'

Sir William shook his head, and made his lips express 'No.'

'I thought so. You've been very kind to me. Therefore I make you welcome to this prescription,' which he pulled from his pocket, adding, 'it cured me!'

FAMILY FUN

The Shepherd's Flock.—A shepherd was asked how many sheep he had in his flock. He replied that he could not say, but he knew that if he counted them by twos, by three, by fours, by fives, or by sixes, there was always one over, but if he counted them by sevens, there was no remainder. What is the smallest number that will answer these conditions?—The number of the flock was 301. This is found by first taking the least common multiple of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, which is 60, and then finding the lowest multiple of this, which, with 1 added, is divisible by 7. This 301 is exactly divisible by 7, but by the smaller numbers there is 1 as a remainder.

The Money Boxes.—When four money boxes, containing pennies only, were opened and counted, it was found that the number in the first with half of those in all the others, in the second with a third of all the others, in the third with a fourth of all the others, and in the fourth with a fifth of all the others, amounted in each case to 740. How much money did the boxes contain, and how was it divided?—The four money boxes contained £6 1s 8d, and the number of pennies were 20, 380, 500, 560.

On the Land

Don't allow your cows to be chased by dogs or hurried when going to or from pasture.

Over-kept, fermented, and soured foods tend to produce acidity and other changes in the milk.

Don't expect a cow to give as much milk when half-fed as when properly cared for.

The average weight per bale of the past clip, as dealt with in Australasian markets, has amounted to 332.11b, as against 335.51b the previous year, 337.71b in 1907-8, and 339.71b in 1906-7.

The flavour of milk is very readily affected by the character of the feed, as, for instance, by turnips, garlic, wild onions, mouldy hay and grain, damaged silage, and distillery grain.

It costs less to raise two pigs weighing 250lb each than one weighing 500lb. The rate of growth decreases with the sizes and age of the animal, and the amount of feed required for maintenance increases.

The following mixture per acre has given the greatest yields of mangels:—1cwt nitrate of soda, applied as a top-dressing; 1cwt of sulphate of ammonia, 4cwt superphosphate, $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt sulphate of potash, 3cwt of salt, applied at planting time.

The vegetable kingdom is dependent upon the mineral kingdom for plant food; the animal kingdom subsists upon plants and other animals, hence the relationship, and also the absolute necessity of a complete knowledge of the soil, because upon it depend all living things for sustenance.

At last week's stock sales at Addington there was an average attendance, and, with the exception of the fat and store sheep sections, the stock entries were about the same as at late sales. There was a yarding of 264 fat cattle, the bulk being from the North Island. Altogether, the whole sale was of a much firmer tone, but no quotable advance in prices can be noted. Steers realised from £7 7s 6d to £13 2s 6d; heifers, from £5 17s 6d to £12 10s; and dry cows, from £5 to £13 10s. The supply of fat sheep was in excess of requirements, and, though opening well, the sale got weaker, with prices 1s below late rates. The range of prices was as follows:—Extra prime wethers, to 30s 6d; prime, 21s 6d to 24s; others, 15s 10d to 21s; prime ewes, 17s 9d to 24s; others, 14s to 17s. About 70 of the new season's lambs were penned. The prices ranged from 7s 6d to 21s. There was a large entry of fat pigs, and a weaker demand. Choppers fetched up to £4 7s; heavy baconers, from 55s to 70s; and lighter kinds, from 45s to 52s 6d—or equal to 5d to 5½d per lb. Heavy porkers made from 32s 6d to 37s 6d, and lighter descriptions from 25s to 30s—or equal to 5½d to 5¾d per lb.

At Burnside last week there was a yarding of 190 head of fat cattle, a large proportion of which were very prime quality. The sale was uneven throughout, and except for prime heavy weights the market was weaker to the extent of 5s, and occasionally 10s, a head. Prime bullocks sold at £11 10s to £12 10s, extra heavy to £15 5s; medium to good, £8 10s to £10 10s; prime cows and heifers, £7 15s to £9. There was a moderate yarding of fat sheep, 2709, chiefly wethers, being penned. There were no extra heavy weights, and the yarding generally was below the average. Several northern buyers were present, and there was keen competition for the best lines, which sold at an advance of 1s to 1s 6d on the previous week's rates. Light wethers and ewes showed no change. Prime wethers, 23s 6d to 26s 9d; medium to good, 19s to 22s 6d; best ewes, 20s to 24s 6d; medium, 17s 3d to 19s. Eleven nice quality spring lambs, the first of the season, were sold under brisk competition at 30s to 20s. The pigs forward totalled 180. There was a large number of stores forward, for which there was good competition, but prices ruled somewhat easier as compared with last week. The yarding of fats was medium. Porkers, baconers, and choppers met with ready sale, and prices can be quoted on a par with the previous week's rates.