

'Valetudinarianism, I suppose,' replied James, who had taken a prize in spelling.

'No,' spoke up Susie; 'it's "smiles," because there is a whole mile between the first and the last letters.'

'I know one,' said Jack, 'that has over three miles between its first and last letters.'

'What's that?' asked Uncle Tom.

'Beleagured,' cried Jack triumphantly.

'I know one,' said Phillip, 'that is longer than that. "Transcontinental" has a whole continent between its beginning and ending.'

'"Interoceanic" beats them all,' exclaimed Elsie, 'for it contains an ocean; and an ocean is larger than any continent.'

THE SECRETARY BIRD

As a slayer of snakes the secretary bird has gained the greatest reputation. To the casual observer the bird appears as a long-winged, long-tailed, bluish-grey hawk, mounted upon very long legs. In fact, the bird is considered by ornithologists as a long-legged hawk, highly specialised and adapted for ground hunting. The male bird stands four feet high, the greater part of the body being made up of legs and neck. The bird has derived its odd and significant name from the crest of long dark plumes rising from the back of its head; for it looks somewhat like a secretary of comical aspect, with quill pen stuck behind his ears. The feet of the bird are formidable weapons used in attack; the beak, which is short, strong, and greatly arched, is never used until after the victim is dead. Each foot is equipped with a sharpened, raised, inner talon, which specialised claw assists in holding the prey during the process of tearing it with the bill.

FOOLSCAP PAPER

Everyone who handles paper recognises foolscap as a sheet $16\frac{1}{2}$ by $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches. This is used as a standard size all the world over, officially and commercially. It will, therefore, be of interest to tell how this work originated. After the execution of Charles I., Cromwell and his staff, in organising the Commonwealth, made all possible efforts to remove everything which had anything to do with the old Monarchy. The paper in official use up to that time had as a watermark the king's crown; and when Cromwell was asked what should be put in the place of this crown, to show his overwhelming dislike to everything concerning royalty, he directed a fool's cap to be put in the place of the crown. This was done; and when Charles II. ascended the Throne of England it was at first forgotten to replace the cap by something else; and then too late. The king was afraid to do anything to recall things dangerous to touch; so it was neglected, and the fool's cap may be seen as a watermark on nearly all official papers in England.

FAMILY FUN

Magnetic Currents.—Procure a gold ring, the more massive the better, and attach it to a silk thread about a dozen inches long. Fasten the other end of the thread around the nail joint of the forefinger of the right hand. Rest your elbow on the table to steady your hand and hold the thread in such a position as to allow the ring to hang about half an inch above the surface of the table. So long as there is nothing on the table the ring will remain stationary. Place some silver coin immediately below it, when the ring will begin to oscillate back and forth, to and from you. If you bring your thumb in contact with your forefinger the oscillations will become transverse to their former swing. This may also be effected by allowing someone to take hold of your disengaged hand. These effects are produced by the animal magnetic currents given forth by the hands of the experimenters.

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On the Land

Milking must be done with clean, dry hands.

Water for scalding a pig should be at 151 degrees Fahr.

It will not pay to hold pigs for a rise in price, as a rule. Big pigs do not fetch the best prices.

A bacon pig should mature in about seven months, and should weigh about 170lb dead weight, or 220lb live weight.

A crop of rape is a splendid thing for pigs, and they are very fond of it.

A ton of lucerne hay is equal in value to a ton of bran as feed for dairy cows.

Good milking develops the milk-secreting organs; careless milking arrests this development.

There was a small yarding (164) of fat cattle at Burnside last week. The quality was fair. Prices, on account of the shortness in supply, were firmer. Best bullocks, £12 to £13 12s 6d; extra, £14 15s; medium do, £10 to £10 10s; inferior do, £8 to £9; best cows and heifers, £8 10s to £9 10s; extra, £13 2s 6d; medium do, £6 10s to £7 10s. There were 4364 fat sheep penned. Prices at the commencement of the sale were a shade easier than those of previous week. Best wethers, 22s to 24s; extra, 28s; medium, 19s to 21s; inferior, 17s to 18s; best ewes, 22s to 23s; extra, 24s; medium, 17s to 18s. The yarding of 46 lambs sold at about previous week's rates. There was only a small number of pigs forward, and these sold at satisfactory rates.

Lampas is a swollen condition of the palate, immediately behind the upper incisors. In young horses it is usually due to shedding of the temporary teeth and the appearance of the permanent teeth. In older animals, with whom it is very uncommon, it may be the result of digestive trouble or of feverishness. The swelling often causes this part to rise to nearly the same level as the edge of the teeth, causing difficulty in taking food or in masticating it. If the horse is running out, with plenty of good grass, no special feeding is required. If stabled, soft food should be given in the shape of bran mashes. A dose of laxative medicine is nearly always beneficial, and a little dry burnt alum may be rubbed on. If this is not efficacious, half ounce of bicarbonate of potash in the drinking water twice daily may be allowed. On no account permit burning, which is extremely cruel, and not necessary. A veterinary surgeon will sometimes scarify the inflamed part, but an inexperienced hand may pierce a blood vessel, and fatal cases have been known to result from hemorrhage.

At Addington last week the entries of stock were large, and there was a good attendance. Fat cattle were easier. Fat lambs also sold better in consequence of a shorter supply, and the fat sheep market opened at the previous week's rate for prime, but other sorts were a shade easier. Fat pigs sold well. The yarding of fat sheep was chiefly made up of large lines of good crossbred wethers from Southland. There was also a better entry of local sheep, including several pens of the first shorn sheep of the season. The market opened well, there being several outside buyers operating. Prices were firmly maintained, but eased off somewhat later on. The range of prices was: Extra prime wethers to 29s 3d; prime 22s to 26s 4d, others 16s to 21s 6d; shorn wethers, 14s 11d to 16s. The entry of fat cattle totalled 280. The yarding was of good quality, the North Island again contributing a large portion, the bulk of those cattle being in prime condition. There was a marked decline in the demand. Steers made £7 7s 6d to £11, extra to £13 10s, heifers £6 5s to £9 5s. The entry of fat lambs totalled only 68. The lambs were well grown and of good quality, and there was a keen demand, prices showing a considerable improvement. Best lambs made 17s 1d to 22s, and smaller 14s 9d to 16s 9d. Fat pigs were in medium supply, and well finished animals met with a keen demand at advanced rates. Choppers made £3 10s to £4 2s 6d, large baconers, 60s to 77s 6d, smaller 50s to 57s 6d.