

A RECIPE FOR WRITING DETECTIVE STORIES

Although Mr. G. K. Chesterton writes detective stories, he has a small opinion of their originality or of their literary value. Here is his recipe for the benefit of those who may be tempted to try their hand at a kind of story-writing that is always popular. Mr. Chesterton says: 'I like detective stories; I read them, I write them; but I do not believe them. The bones and structure of a good detective story are so old and well known that it may seem banal to state them even in outline. A policeman, stupid but sweet-tempered, and always weakly erring on the side of mercy, walks along the street, and in the course of his ordinary business finds a man in Bulgarian uniform killed with an Australian boomerang in a Brompton milk-shop. Having set free all the most suspicious persons in the story, he then appeals to the bulldog professional detective, who appeals to the hawklike amateur detective. The latter finds near the corpse a bootlace, a French newspaper, and a return ticket from the Hebrides, and so, relentlessly, link by link, brings the crime home to the Archbishop of Canterbury.'

MADE HIM SICK

It was at a children's party. The youngsters had just done more than justice to the luxurious spread provided by their hostess, and games were now the order of the evening.

'Now, children,' said she, 'we will play the zoo, and each of you must represent a different animal.'

Then going to a little girl, she asked:

'Now, Carrie, what are you going to be?'

'I'll be an elephant.'

'And you, Reggie; what are you going to be?'

'I'm going to be a lion.'

'And what are you going to be, Hilda?'

'I'm going to be a tiger.'

Then, crossing to the other side of the room, the hostess, noticing a youngster sitting all alone, asked:

'And what are you going to be, Tommy?'

'P-lease,' was the halting reply, 'p-lease, I—I'm going to be sick.'

A NEW VERSION

A school teacher in the Italian quarter of an American city told her children the story of the fox and the grapes. Tony was especially delighted with the story, and eagerly sought his chum, Joe, who was in another class. By good luck, the teacher overheard Tony's version.

In his excited, broken English he told the fable much as it is written, until he came to the end. This was his rendering of the climax:

'De olda fox he say, 'Da grape no good, anyhow; all souri.' I guess I go geta da banan.'

FAMILY FUN

An Immovable Card.—If a friend laid an ordinary visiting card on the bare table and asked you to blow it right over, you would think he was asking you to do an absurdly easy thing, provided the card was not fastened to the table in any way. But it is not so easy after all, for unless you try in the right way you may blow till you are tired but the card will still be the same side up. Still more simple it looks when the two narrower ends of the card are bent over about a quarter of an inch, so that the turned-down edges are at right angles to the card, and the card is stood on these turned-down edges. It seems as though a raised card must be easier to blow over than one laid flat, but it is not. The solution is very simple; you must not blow on the card, but on the table at some distance from the card, and the trick is easily done. Try it on your friends, and see how many can do it in the first minute.

On the Land

The Ashburton Dairy Factory Company has completed arrangements to purchase the surplus cream of the Temuka Dairy Factory Company up to April, 1912. This will enable the Ashburton factory to increase its output by about half a ton per day.

In the Ashburton County (says the *Press*) lambing this season has not been quite so good as in previous seasons, and it is estimated that the general average over the whole county will be between 80 per cent. and 85 per cent., as compared with 90 per cent., which has been the average for several years. Notwithstanding the lowered average percentage, Mr. J. Brown, of Anama, from a flock of 5000 ewes got a lambing percentage of 104, which constitutes a record for the county.

The grass grub, which has been responsible for so much damage in Canterbury this year, is now in the fly stage, and farmers who wish, as far as possible, to reduce the likelihood of further damage from the same source next year ought now to adopt the most effective means known for dealing with this pest—the lighting of fires in their paddocks at night (remarks the *Press*). Past experience has proved this to be about the best way of destroying the fly of grass grub, and in some instances it is stated that when fires have been kindled the flies have been attracted to them in such quantities as to extinguish the flames with their dead bodies.

At Burnside last week the fat cattle yarded totalled 220, chiefly bullocks, with a small proportion of cows and heifers. There were no heavy-weight cattle forward. The quality all over was about the average. On account of the number yarded prices receded from 10s to 15s per head. Prime bullocks, £11 10s to £12 15s; extra, to £14 15s; medium to good, £10 to £11; light, £8 to £9. 2751 fat sheep were penned, a fair proportion being prime heavy ewes and wethers. Notwithstanding this full yarding prices opened equal to those of the previous week, and hardened for prime sheep to the extent of 6d to 1s per head. Prime wethers sold at 24s to 26s; extra prime and heavy, 27s to 30s 6d; medium to good, 20s to 22s; unfinished, 18s to 19s; best ewes, 20s to 22s; medium to good, 17s 6d to 19s; inferior, 13s 6d to 15s. Fat lambs—183 penned, nearly all nice quality. Competition was keen, and prices advanced about 1s per head. Best, 16s to 17s 9d; medium, 14s 6d to 15s 6d.

There were fairly large entries of stock and a good attendance at Addington last week. Store sheep were a little easier, with the exception of forward wethers. Fat cattle were unchanged, and fat lambs were very firm at the rates ruling a fortnight ago. Fat sheep were down 1s 6d to 2s per head. Fat pigs were easier, but there was a good demand for stores. There were 282 fat lambs of good to prime quality penned, and the number was below butchers' requirements, and competition was therefore keen. Prices were very firm, and well up to, if not above, the average of those ruling a fortnight ago. The bulk of the lambs made 16s to 18s 6d, and others 14s to 15s 9d. There was a large entry of fat sheep, of which rather more than half were shorn, and the yarding again included a number of Southland lines. There was a good demand, but with a more plentiful supply prices weakened by about 1s 6d to 2s per head as compared with the previous sale. The range of prices was: Woolly wethers, prime, 21s to 25s 11d; others, 16s 5d to 20s 6d; prime shorn wethers, 16s to 20s 7d; others, 13s 11d to 15s 6d. The offerings of fat cattle totalled only 182 head, and there was a good general average of quality. There was a good demand, and prices were fairly firm. One exceptionally prime steer made £26, others £7 17s 6d to £11 5s, extra to £17 10s, heifers £6 to £8 7s 6d, extra to £14. There was a larger entry of pigs than a fortnight ago, and both demand and prices were easier. Choppers made £3 16s, large baconers 32s 6d to 60s, extra to 81s, others 45s to 50s.