

Bowser Would Lecture

But Mrs. Bowser, As Usual, Spoils His Scheme

Mr. Bowser paced the floor seemingly a profound thought, though now and then he glanced at Mrs. Bowser in a furtive sort of a way.

He wanted to ask her something, but was a little afraid to. She finally helped him out by remarking:

"You seem to be a little nervous tonight, Mr. Bowser?"

"Well, it is not exactly nervousness," he replied as he took a seat, "but I have had a great opportunity offered me today, and, perhaps, it is better we talk it over a little."

"Of course it is. If you have had a great offer it will affect me as well as you. What is it?"

"It is to go lecturing," he blurted out in a kind of desperate way. "A professor named Childhammer was in the office today, and after hearing my voice and noting how clearly I announced every word, he said that a great deal was wanted for me."

"He meant that the public were waiting for a lecture from me, and he said with him as my agent I could clear a thousand dollars a week."

"You are a lucky fellow," remarked Mrs. Bowser, "but, of course, it would depend somewhat upon the nature of the lecture. What do you propose to call it?"

"The Force of Will Power," my dear. And I think that is a great title. It covers the whole ground. I think you will agree with me, Mrs. Bowser—I think you will."

"And men will go home from the lecture with wills to be great and they will become great?" queried Mrs. Bowser.

"That's it—that's just it. They can't be great in a minute, of course, but force of will will eventually lead up to it."

"But how do you know you can influence other minds?"

"Well, I expected that question, and am prepared to answer it. Suppose you sat in the audience and I was lecturing. I influence you to do this or that and you instinctively obey. You feel my will power and your own will becomes as naught."

"I don't know about that," said Mrs. Bowser, in a doubtful way. "I have had best try your scheme around the house, before you take it before the public."

"That's what I wanted to do," replied Mr. Bowser. "If I can influence you and the cook, I can influence others. I don't propose to influence every man in my audience, but I think I can influence eight out of ten of them. If I can, and there is not the slightest doubt in my mind, the scheme will be a great one, won't it?"

"It certainly will, Mr. Bowser. Go ahead with your influence."

"That is something like a true and loyal wife. Now, then, I look fixedly

at it that he was red in the face. He looked at her in an angry way, and exclaimed:

"Mrs. Bowser, you are fighting against my will and trying to defeat me!"

"No, I am not," she replied. "I clearly felt your will that I should play the piano, and I played. I didn't want to play, but your will made me play. Don't be discouraged, dear. You have got a good thing if you will stick to it a little longer. Now tell me to do something else."

Mr. Bowser told her. He told her to go and sit in a chair, a few feet away. Instead of doing so, she began to wait around the room, and, once in a while, she gave a modest, but



"She Gave It a Kick."

rather high kick, something he had never seen her do before in his whole life.

"Stop!" he shouted. "By George, woman, don't think to baffle me in this way, for I tell you I won't stand for it!"

"But you told me to wait and kick," she protested. "I never should have done it in the world except that your will was stronger than mine. It seemed as if I heard you say the words that set me waiting. I am a little afraid your scheme has lost a wheel some-where. Let us try it again."

"Not by a darned sight!" he roared. "I might have known better than to talk with you about it! I ought to have got ready and gone right off without a word to you, but I'll be hanged, woman, if I allow you to beat this game! I am now going to call on the cook, and see if she has got built up enough to know what force of will is."

He turned his head away, and, for a long minute, he exerted himself, like a man trying to think he hasn't got the toothache, when he has it. The worst kind, and then a smile crossed his face, as he heard the cook clattering upstairs. She looked in at the door, and said to Mrs. Bowser:

"Oh, ma'am, I wanted to tell you that we haven't any butter for breakfast."

Mr. Bowser had walked her to the door, and said that her mother was dying, and she must go home right away. He hadn't even thought of butter, and he didn't care a bit whether they had any butter for breakfast or not. He turned his head to find Mrs. Bowser smiling at him, and he was up, intending to say some long, hard



at you, and will you go to do something. You hesitate two or three seconds, and then you do it."

There was a hostess' note from Mrs. Bowser, and she gave it a kick and upset it, and cried out:

"You wanted me to do that thing, and I have done it with great success. Ready to go up?"

Mr. Bowser had walked her to raise her right hand to her brow, and he couldn't see where the success came in. Perhaps he had not exerted will power enough. After a moment he tried again. Mrs. Bowser rose up and turned about and made a horrible fange on the keys of the piano, and when she smiled to him there was a glad smile on her face, as she exclaimed:

"Success Number two. Mr. Bowser, you surprise me. You surely will go lecturing and make your thousand dollars a week, and I can order white diamonds tomorrow."

Mr. Bowser had walked that she go over and look at the clock on the mantle, so he said so much force

ORCHARD GLEANINGS

PROTECT ALL SMALL FRUITS

Mulching Is Recommended to Pull Them Through Drying Blasts of Winter Weather.

Small fruits should be protected from the drying blasts of the winter winds if they are to come through the ice in good shape, bearing an abundant crop next season.

Old straw or strawy stable manure makes an ideal mulching material. In fact any material of this sort will do but coarse manures such as fodder are not so satisfactory.

The mulch is applied three to four or even six inches deep and it may be put on by hand or with a manure spreader.

Where the patch to be mulched is small the hand method is efficient but where a person has a large area of berries to cover the manure spreader will economize in both time and labor.

Where there is danger from winter killing the bush fruits such as blackberries had best be laid down before mulching. This is not usually necessary excepting with red raspberries or with tender varieties of the other bush fruits.

Laying down is accomplished by first plowing or spading a furrow along one side of the row and close to the plants. The bushes may then be bent over into this excavation and the earth which has been removed, thrown over them. A mulch may then be applied over this.

HOW TO GROW STRAWBERRIES

Success of Crop Depends on Clean Cultivation—Killing Weeds to Grow Is Mistake.

(Clemson College Bulletin.)

Cultivation is the secret of success in strawberry growing. It should be thorough and clean. A frequent mistake made by many growers is allowing the bed to grow up in weeds after the berries are harvested. At the end of the harvest the mulch should be removed or incorporated into the soil, depending upon the amount and the condition of the mulching material, and then the plants cultivated thoroughly. Frequent shallow cultivation should continue throughout the summer.

Ordinarily fertilizer will not be needed until early fall, at which time a liberal amount of commercial fertilizer or decomposed stable manure may be applied preparatory to mulching.

The plants should be grown in narrow raised rows by the single-crown method. Better and larger berries are produced by the single-crown method. Plants that were set last fall or the

while earnest and enthusiastic enough in their desire to further the cause of agriculture, went at their subjects from the wrong end.

Now and then a speaker would mount the platform to harangue his audience in this fashion:

"No farmer is playing the agricultural game to win if he does not make use of commercial fertilizers. They are indispensable in successfully maintaining high production of crops through a period of years. On my own farm I have used mixed fertilizers for twenty years and my crops are as large today as they were when the soil was virgin. Unquestionably, fertilizers are the secret of my success."

No attempt was made to bring out the fact that while such a practice might have worked out well enough in the particular farm of the particular lecturer, in the particular locality in which he resided, it might not do at all in another agricultural region where the soil was of a radically different type, or where other, equally variable factors entered in.

In the case of the one-day, two-day and three-day schools, which will be conducted by county agents and extension specialists, co-operating with the local farm bureaus, all such topics will be approached from the standpoint of the general principles underlying soil management, the rational feeding of live stock, and so on, so that farmers can apply the information given to their own needs without any fear that it will breed trouble for them.

The schools will be open to all who would attend. Institutes will be held, and these will be conducted in a few places, though where they are arranged for they will be patterned after the schools.

A schedule of dates and places where these schools will be offered has been announced by the extension department of the college as follows:

Lawton, dairying, and horticulture, January 14 and 15; Merrick, dairying and farm management, January 15 and 16; Rockford, soils and potatoes, January 15 and 16; North Olney, poultry and plant diseases, January 15 and 16; Ingham, home economics, January 15 and 16; Goodville, dairying and horticulture, January 16 and 17; Maple Rapids, farm crops, home economics and poultry, January 17 and 18; De Witt, farm crops and plant diseases, January 17 and 18; Lowell, soils and potatoes, January 17 and 18; Lacota, dairying and horticulture, January 18 and 19; Carol, farm crops and animal husbandry, January 21 and 22; Mott, dairying and home economics, January 21 and 22; Carlisle, farm crops

and tractor, January 22 and 23; County Line, dairying, January 22 and 23; Birkville, poultry, January 22 and 23; Millersburg, home economics, January 23 and 24; Dorand, farm crops and animal husbandry, January 23 and 24; Colonia, horticulture, January 23 and 24; Kent City, farm crops, home economics and soils, January 24 and 25; Bear Lake, dairying, potato and club work, January 24 and 25; Golen, farm management and crops, January 24 and 25; Lawrence, home economics, January 25 and 26; Bertrand, poultry and crops, January 25 and 26; Mt. Thor, farm crops, home economics and soils, January 26 and 27; Ponsfeld, farm crops and animal husbandry, January 26 and 27; Buchanan, farm crops, home economics and soils, January 27 and 28; Greenfield, farm crops, home economics and live stock, January 28 and 29; Edinburg, February 1 and 2; Watervliet, farm crops and soils, February 1 and 2; Arden, dairying and crops, February 4 and 5; Fremont, farm crops and dairying, February 6 and 7; Gilead, animal husbandry, home economics, and farm management, February 5 and 6; Paris, soils, February 5 and 6; Plover, dairying and farm crops, February 6 and 7; Garfield, farm crops and dairying, February 7 and 8; California, animal husbandry and farm management, February 7 and 8; Verona, farm management, home economics and potatoes, February 7 and 8; Sargis, home economics, February 7 and 8; Butterfield, dairying and crops, February 8 and 9; Cadmus, animal husbandry and poultry, February 12 and 13; Ludington, horticulture, home economics and farm crops, February 12 and 13; China, farm management and home economics, February 12 and 13; Sandusky, farm crops and dairying, February 14 and 15; Grand Haven, horticulture, February 14 and 15; Cottrellville, farm management and home economics, February 14 and 15; Victory, township drainage and farm crops, February 14 and 15; Three Oaks, animal husbandry and farm crops, February 10 and 20; Free Soil, home economics, February 10 and 20; Onondaga, dairying, February 10 and 20; Quincy, drainage and farm crops,

February 10 and 20; West Branch, farm crops and dairying, February 10 and 20; Lucas, soils, February 10 and 20; Arcadia, dairying, and home economics, February 21 and 22; Union City, drainage, home economics and farm crops, February 21 and 22; Fayette, farm crops and dairying, February 21 and 22; Hartford, soils, February 21 and 22; Spring Lake, farm crops, home economics and dairying, February 26 and 27; Holland, dairying and poultry, February 26 and 27; Colvert, soils, February 27 and 28; Athens, home economics, February 28 and 29; March 1; Eaton Rapids, farm crops and dairying, February 28 and March 1; Jamestown, dairying, February 28 and March 1; South Haven, soils, March 1 and 2.

Other schools scheduled since the first list was made out: Fowler, farm crops and dairying, January 22 and 23; Romulus, dairying, January 29 and 30; Fair Rock, farm management and dairying, January 31 and February 1; Britton, farm crops and poultry, February 7 and 8; Oceana, soils and farm crops, February 12, 13, 14 and 15.

M. A. C. TESTS SEED BEANS
Pieces Laboratories at Disposal of Farmers—Samples Inspected Without Charge.

(From Office of Publications, Michigan Agricultural College.)

East Lansing, Mich.—A plan for assisting farmers with their seed-ben problems will shortly be set working by the departments of farm crops and plant pathology of the college. These departments, which have been equipped, will run free germination tests of seed, and will also inspect it for disease if samples are submitted to them for examination.

There is this season more than common need for the thorough testing of seed," Dr. G. H. Coons of the department of plant pathology declared recently, "for much of Michigan's bean crop was wet when it was harvested last fall."

"Wherever there is a farmer who would like to learn just what percentage of his seed will germinate, and to just what extent he is free from disease, he can secure this information by mailing a sample of the seed to J. W. Nicholson of the department of farm crops in East Lansing. These samples will be tested for germination and examined for signs of disease and a report of the result mailed to the person submitting them."

Eighty of the seed will be made in March, though samples will be tested at any time they are sent in.

PLAN FARM SCHOOLS, ALL OVER MICHIGAN

College to Reach Farmers During Winter Months.

SUBJECTS TO BE TAKEN UP

Farm Crops, Dairying, Horticulture, Home Economics, Poultry and Potatoes Will Be Few of Courses to Be Taught.

From Office of Publications, Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—School bells now are ringing out an invitation to the farmers of Michigan calling them during January, February and March to sessions of M. A. C.'s farm extension schools. These will be conducted in more than 100 rural communities in practically every county in the lower peninsula, and a few in the northern, and through them the college will carry to dwellers in the country facts of importance about such subjects as home economics, farm crops, farm management, soil management, treatment of plant diseases, horticulture, organization for boys and girls club work, animal husbandry, pedigreed grains, poultry and a number of others.

These meetings, which officially have been entitled "schools," will actually be small samples of the college itself—fruits of M. A. C.'s effort to extend its services into the state. While not new in a "brand new" sense, they are a recently developed agency for reaching rural citizens which really are "fruits of M. A. C."

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The DAIRY



FIRST-CLASS BULL FAVORED

Associations Are Now Making It Possible for Farmers to Secure Service of Purebred Sires.

The owner of a large herd of grade cows can well afford to own a first-class bull, and bull associations are now making it possible for the owner of a small herd to own a share in a good, well-bred bull. A co-operative bull association is a farmers' organization, the chief purpose of which is the joint ownership, use, and exchange of high-class, purebred bulls. If skillfully managed, these associations should be eventually the greatest single factor in the upbuilding of our dairy herds.

To build up a valuable and profitable dairy herd, careful and intelligent management must be combined with selection and breeding. If treatment

is not given to the bull, it will be a waste of money. The bull should be selected for its ability to produce milk of high quality, and for its ability to breed well.

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