WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Mrs. Moffett Suicides at Aurora, Wyoming.

AN EXCEEDINGLY STRANGE CASE.

The Terrible Deed Committed Before a Large Mirror.

J. W. Stryker returned this morning from Aurora where he was called last evening by the death of Mrs. Moffett by suicide. Mr. Stryker brings some additional information regarding the sad affair. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon Mrs. Moffett's sister, the wife of the agent there, whose name is also Moffett, went out to bring in some water. About the same time the young man who is working there as operator during the temporary absence of the agent, had gone out on the platform in company with a friend, a young gentleman.

Mrs. Moffet, the deceased, had stepped into the bedroom next to the office and apparently stopped before a mirror and shot herself. It is a handsome large glass, and from the position in which the body was found it is supposed that Mrs. Moffet held the revolver in her right hand. The ball entered directly in the top of her head and crashed down through the brain. She fell backward and expired instantly. Her sister, Mrs. Moffett, and the young gentleman, rushed to the scene. She had fallen directly back from the mirror. Her head was turned to the left and the revolver lay at her side. She lay in this position when Mr. Stryker reached Aurora last night. Nothing has been disturbed. Mr. Stryker took charge of the remains and placed them in a coffin, and they will be shipped to Ogden tonight.

No reason is known why the deceased should have suicided. She was in a delicate condition and the only reason that can be assigned for the act is that she was laboring under a temporary aberration of the mind. The peculiar method of the deed is an evidence of this. There was an old gun and also a revolver in the house but no one knew that there was a cartridge anywhere around.

The deceased's home is at Rock Springs, but her husband is in Ogden on business. She left no note or communication of any kind to any one. She was about twenty-seven years of age and a highly respected young lady. She had often remarked that she would never shoot herself because she would not have the courage to do such a thing. Indeed she made this remark only a day or two before her death. It is thought that she may have said this for the purpose of throwing her sister and friends off their guard.—Enterprising.

SHOOTING SCRAPE.

County Assessor Mot Mair has returned from Henry's Fork and brings an account of a shooting affair that occurred near there over a land controversy. He saw the injured man brought in. His wound was painful though not necessarily fatal and he was taken to Carter station, where he was formerly employed as a teamster. Only meagre accounts were obtainable, and even they were conflicting, it being rumored that the shooting was the result of a quarrel over a mining claim instead of a land dispute. The participant in the affair were Del Watson and Bob Nelson. One report is to the effect that the trouble grew from a misunderstanding concerning a mine claim and was of several weeks' standing. The parties met on May 9th when hostilities were renewed and Nelson pulled his revolver and shot his antagonist.

Another version of the affair is that Watson tried to jump some land, the property of Nelson and when the latter endeavored to persuade Watson to take his home from the pasture and move away, he pulled a knife on Nelson, who promptly beat a retreat to his cabin and getting his rifle returned to where Watson was. He then renewed his request for Watson to leave his ranch at once, but Watson was stubborn, and the shooting followed some heated words.

Whichever way it was, the shooting actually occurred and Watson carries the bullet.

An Odd Christening Scene.

A remarkable christening ceremony was held at the home of Fred T. Weatherbee and wife, in Springfield, Mass., the other day, when their infant daughter was named Edith Blossom. There were four generations on hand to witness the ceremony, while a great-grandmother, two grandfathers and a grandmother alternately caressed the little one, who was the center of attraction. Ex-Collector C. C. Hubbard, of Hartford, Mrs. Weatherbee's father, came up with a Bishop's Bible printed in 1559, and thumbed by members of the Hubbard family since 1654 until the leaves are worn back in the center.

From the strange old type of this historic book the story of Christ blessing little children was read by Rev. C. H. Fay, who is the second husband of the child's great-grandmother, and then, as if little Edith Blossom needed more to make the occasion memorable, she was dressed in a christening robe made by Ann Maria Blossom for her infant grandaughter, Mary A. Blossom, when the latter was baptized, fifty-one years ago.—Detroit News.

No More Gay Policemen.

There was an interesting talk on misfit police uniforms at the meeting of the lieutenants. Superintendent Lemon instructed the lieutenants to return all badly fitting garments to the contractor, so no man would be allowed to go on the street with a misfit uniform, and they would lose pay for each day lost by reason of having imperfect fitting garments.

This laudable desire to show off the Adonidific forms of the policemen brought Lieutenant Thompson to his feet. He thought it would be impossible to get the fits required, as some of his men had returned their clothing twice, and it had come back as leary and imperfect as when sent. The superintendent informed the disenting officer that the excuse was not a good one. He said the officers could send the clothing back every day if necessary until it was made to fit, and once more announced that the misfit policemen would lose their day's pay.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Convinced Against His Will.

Judge—Guilty or not guilty?

Prisoner (musing)—I thought I was guilty, your honor, but my lawyer says I aren't, and he's proved it, and I believe it, and when you hear him talk, your honor, you'll believe it too.—Epoch.

FARM AND GARDEN.

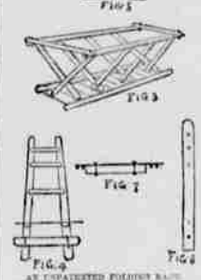
SUBJECTS OF PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE TO AGRICULTURISTS.

A Folding Rack Invented but Not Patented, by an Ohio Farmer and Recently Described, with Appropriate Illustrations, in The Country Gentleman.

The rack here illustrated is put together entirely with bolts. Take two pine planks, 10 inches wide, 1½ or 2 inches thick and 14 feet long; bolt eight cross pieces on these, by a light board bottom, bolt on cross pieces at each end, 2 inches thick (Fig. 1). Make this the width of your wagon, to fit between standards. Put in rubbers for standards, or nail on blocks or strips, so that the rigging will not slip backward and forward; then cross or bolt on each side a piece of iron about 10 inches long on the bottom of the rack outside for the wheels to run against.

AN UNPATENTED FOLDING RACK.

Now, for the rack or side pieces, take eight pieces of pine, 2 by 5 inches, 4½ feet long; put bolt through each, 16 inches from ends that you intend to set the box, and cut the ends as far as fit against the sides of the box; then bolt these together, and they will form four cross pieces (Fig. 3). Now take a strong board, about 1 by 10 inches, 14 feet long, lacing your cross pieces placed 3½ feet apart, bolt your boards, one on the upper edge of each row (as shown in Fig. 5). Then you can fold it up, or open out when in use. Now make your standard for the front (Fig. 4) 7 feet long and 3 by 4 inches, and bolt on the front end of the rack a piece of heavy iron in the shape shown in the cut (Fig. 4), so as to make two loops, and let the ends of the standard pass into the loops, and bolt it.



AN UNPATENTED FOLDING RACK.

Make the standard for the hind end of one piece, 4x2 inches (Fig. 6). Bolt on a piece of iron, making one space for the standard to pass into (Fig. 7). Bolt in three three holes in the top of the rear standard for an iron rod to put your hind-board on; also, on the top cross piece on each end of the rack, bolt on a heavy spring iron the shape of loop or square to put standards through before they pass into the loops on the bottom cross pieces.

Absconding Bees.

Bees often desert their hives in early spring. Sometimes this is caused by dissatisfaction with the hive, sometimes from want of food, and often, doubtless, because they are weak and dissatisfied. As a rule, good strong colonies, with ample stores of food, seldom give trouble in this way.

As to the prevention, Root in his "A B C of Bee Culture" says: "If you would not lose your bees by natural swarming, clip the wings of all queens as soon as they begin laying; then look after them often and know what is going on in the apiary every day during the swarming season. If you would not have runaway swarms in the spring, and while queens are being fertilized, confine your experiments to pecks of bees instead of pints."

Professor Cook, in his "Bee-keeper's Guide," says: "Sometimes swarms break loose and take wing for their prospective home before the bee-keeper has hived them. Throwing dirt among them will sometimes cause them to light again. Throwing water among them in form of a fine spray will always do this. For such purposes a some hand pump is desirable. Another important use for a fountain pump in the apiary is this: If a swarm, when clustered, be sprinkled occasionally, it will remain clustered indefinitely. While most customs have a reasonable basis, the common one of horns and bells and beating of pans to stop a swarm is a notable exception. It does not the least good."

By the death of Dr. Joseph Leidy America lost her most eminent biologist. Especially in the field of paleontology was Leidy great, so great as to be counted the peer of any living investigator in that field in Europe. It is to be observed that he, too, was one of the poor boys who must rise by their own efforts. He was even called to pay for his own education. He had to take his living to earn all the time he was pursuing scientific researches. This he probably failed to reach the highest that his powers were capable of grasping. This is why we have so few purely scientific men in America. Bread and butter work and study for the love of study will not pull well together. Of the younger American men of science who are left, Professor Elliott Coues, of the Smithsonian institution at Washington, will perhaps come the nearest to taking Dr. Leidy's place as a biologist.

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