NERVES OF SURGEONS

SUFFER STAGE FRIGHT WHEN FACING A DIFFICULT OPERATION.

The Way to Which It Affects Them—A Young Surgeon's First Amputation—Trembled a Needle to Steady His Nerves—Operating on a Friend.

"Is there such a thing as stage fright among surgeons?" a successful New York surgeon was asked. Though the question was perhaps a surprise, the surgeon understood the question.

"Oh, yes, indeed, there is such a thing as stage fright among surgeons," he replied. "There are two kinds of stage fright, or rather there are two different temperaments among doctors, and the fright, although in itself perhaps the same, has a different meaning, affected as it is by the material through which it passes. The first is the surgeon who is anxious to perform the operation, sees no difficulties in the way and nothing but a successful termination. His zeal is checked by reflections upon complications which may arise. Everything is lovely until the patient is before him. Then his hand begins to shake if he sees difficulties which he had not noticed upon his nervousness increases, he loses, perhaps with a fatal result. In the case of this man he grows worse as he grows older, and in old age he goes all to pieces.

"There is another temperament of the surgeon. From the time this surgeon recognizes that an operation is necessary then just though his mind will the complications which could possibly come up, and he wonders if there are any one which he has not thought of. He is by no means sanguine of a happy result. He sees this and that and the other thing. As the hour approaches he tends to embarrass his work more and more. But when he is before the subject his nervousness leaves him. He sees the difficulties, frequently, reflecting upon what might ensue. He does not hurry or get excited, but he is intensely interested, wholly absorbed by what he is doing. I remember witnessing an operation by one of the most celebrated surgeons I ever knew. It was a most difficult operation, and the amphitheater was filled with doctors who had come to see it performed. A few moments before the operation was to commence he was presented by a friend to two doctors who had come from a distance to see him operate. He bowed very politely and spoke a few words. Shortly after the time to commence operating.

"The operation was of considerable length, and when it was finished the two gentlemen to whom the surgeon had been presented approached to speak a congratulatory word or two. As he did not appear to recognize them, his friend presented them again. He expressed his pleasure at meeting them without the slightest recollection that he had met them."

"Do you recall the first operation you ever performed yourself?"

"Indeed I remember it very well. I was in a hospital where there were 2,100 beds and 13 surgeons in charge. I was one of the young assistant surgeons. If an operation was necessary in any of the wards, it was our duty to report it to the surgeon in charge, who then performed the operation if he chose. I reported to my surgeon the necessity of an amputation of a great toe. The surgeon came and looked at the case and concurred with my opinion that an amputation was necessary. I was directed to get everything ready for the operation. 'Then,' said the surgeon, 'I will come and operate if I can. If not, you go in and perform the operation yourself.'

"I told my young associates of the fix, and they said: 'Well, you go on and get ready, but he won't come. You will have to do the operation yourself.' And that was the way it turned out. The operation was to be at 2 o'clock. All the night before I was rehearsing what I intended to do in my mind and dreaming of it in my sleep. The next day I could not eat my luncheon. My hands and feet were cold. When it came time commence the operation, I could only steady my nerves by threading needles. I said: 'Give me the needles to thread. I am very particular about my thread.' I took a needle and commenced poking at the eye. In a few seconds my hand obeyed my will and became as steady as I could wish. I performed the operation successfully. After that I went on performing a great many operations, but it was years before I could take a 1 o'clock luncheon if I had to operate at 2 o'clock.

"From the conscientious scientific man nervousness never departs, for he knows that it is impossible to foresee all things. And then, again, he takes in his hands a fully human life. If an error occurs in the wrong word or habit in his line, the worst that can come is a slight damage to his reputation. If a minister preaches heterodox doctrines, the worst that can happen to him is a trial for heresy. But if the surgeon in a dangerous operation makes but the slightest mistake it may result in death. For which there is no remedy. Many and many a time on the night previous to a serious operation have I awakened myself from an anxious, troubled sleep by performing the operation in my dreams. It is also very much more trying for a surgeon to operate on a friend than on a stranger. It is hard to tell in this case what is more to be pitied, the surgeon or the patient. I think the longer a man operates the less certain he is of the outcome of any operation. A frail little woman that one would almost say a breath of wind would blow away will bear the most painful and dangerous operation when a rough, stocky and iron nerved peasant woman that one would think could survive almost any possible operation will die from something which is not, as a rule, considered dangerous."—New York Sun.

WINDMILLS ON THE FARM

Inexpensive Substitutes of This Power For Pumping Water—Steel Mills.

The fact that in some sections of the country nearly every farm has its windmill indicates the popularity of this power for elevating water. It is true that the wind cannot be depended upon to work the mill for more than six or eight hours a day on an average, and that sometimes entire days may pass when there is not enough air to motion to turn the mill. This is, to be sure, a serious fault, quite natural if not entirely destructive of the mill may result from a high wind, but against this we must place the comparative cheapness of this power, both as far as the first expense is concerned as well as the cost of running it.

Although the purpose for which wind engines are best adapted is the pumping of water as it can be stored in tanks or reservoirs for use when there is not sufficient motion in the air to turn the mill, they have other uses to which they are fairly well adapted, such as the grinding of grain, the sawing of wood and hay and the running of light machinery of various kinds. Pump an abundance of water for use in the kitchen and for the stock and also sufficient for operating a small lawn and garden. Unknowing better method of elevating water is available, so for whatever or every purpose should be without its windmill and pump.

One of the most serious objections to windmills is that in high winds they

WINDMILL AT WORK.

often suffer serious damage, the wheel in some cases being torn to pieces, while in others the entire mill is blown down. To be a success a mill must be strong enough to withstand any ordinary wind, and at the same time be light and so easy running that it will turn in a light wind. Windmills as made in this country are getting beyond the experimental stage.

The old form of Dutch windmill generally had very large and wide sails, but the early American farmers were mills with wheels carrying a large number of narrow wooden slats. This is the form that is in most common use perhaps to-day, but with the low price of iron and steel the same wooden slats have in some of the newer forms of mills given place to a smaller number of iron wings. There is a growing demand for the steel windmills which are made with single, double or triple motion, as is desired. When the wind is light the single motion may not be able to turn, while the double or triple motion mill can do a large amount of work, explains a writer in American Gardening, which illustrates some of these steel windmills at work. The mills and towers are painted after they are completed, and should run for many years without expense for repairs. Where they can be used for any other purpose than pumping water it will generally be best to get a geared mill.

Work in the Potato Field.

Constant and thorough cultivation from the time little potatoes are cultivated through the ground until the vines are too large to admit of working among the rows without injury to the plants has been the general practice of all successful growers of the potato, and especially of those who produced the great crops on the American Agricultural competition. The crops in these great competitions were cultivated in beds three to twenty feet wide. Cultivation was continued throughout the month of June and so far into July as it was possible to work among the rows without injury to the tops.

The first cultivations were with horse implements, generally with shallow cultivators at first and deeper subsequently, six inches is considered as deep cultivation, three inches as shallow. As the growth of tops increased, the only cultivation on the price crops was with the hand hoe, great care being taken to do no work deeper than dirt or injure the tops.

Both flat cultivation and hilling up were practiced, with no marked predominance of evidence in favor of either system. Both gave large yields, both have many advocates, both are employed. Generally, however, level culture is regarded as the better practice. In a very wet season the hilling system may possibly give better results, according to American Agriculturist.

Cook House For Market.

It is important that the first load of sweet corn be put on at the proper time, for, if they are sold, the amount of money secured from any given ridge will be greatly reduced. If put on too early, the ears will be spoiled by growing too large, if put on too late, the bees will have begun making preparations to swarm, and after they have done this it is very hard to get them to begin work in the sections.

In preparing bees for market the first thing necessary is to see that it is completely cured. Then it should be thoroughly cleaned and put into neat white crates. Another very important thing is that the crates should be the same all throughout, that is, the honey should all be just what it appears to be on the face of it.

HOW AND WHEN TO IRRIGATE.

As Told by Lute Wilcox of Colorado to The American Agriculturist.

So much depends upon the proper application of water that irrigation is often a failure because of a lack of attention to this part of the work. Economy of distribution at the proper time is very important. Generally speaking, all ditches in the temperate zone should be ready to receive water by May 20. The first water is turned upon the pasture meadow or orchard. Let the water remain until the ground is thoroughly wet and soft as deep as it was plowed, then let the water out of the ditch a little further on, continuing until the field is all irrigated.

Every one tells when it needs water. The grasses, clover and small grains have a bluish cast when water is needed. Whenever these green color becomes very dark and sickly take to the water. When corn needs moisture it leaves become curled in the morning. Rarely meets but little if any water after it is well under way. Carrots cannot bear an irrigation by flooding after they are half grown. If covered with water the carrots decay. All species of the cabbage family require a great deal of water. All plants in a dry climate should be pushed to their early stages by a judicious application of the proper amount of water. In general too much water is applied, which is a sad mistake. When to irrigate and the proper amount of water to apply the farmer himself must decide. The necessities of the case, the atmosphere, the condition and position of the soil, must be considered in a common sense light. Any one can soon learn about the degree of moisture in the soil necessary for the healthy growth of a plant, and the nearer uniform the condition of the moisture the more vigorous and healthy will be the crop.

The best time to irrigate is early in the morning before the sun becomes hot and the evening when it is about to go below the horizon. A good time is when a cloud comes up and a shower is expected. The work should not be done when the sun is shining hot, as the plants are liable to be scalded. I prefer beginning at a quarter in the afternoon, after keeping it up until midnight, especially on moonlight nights. At the Utah station the total yield of sweet and gluten was 15 per cent greater on plots irrigated at night.

Corn Fodder Wagon.

It is low, being entirely a foot above the ground. It possesses the advantage of a low rack without the hind draft for the horses. A long and light frame is hung between the front and rear

A CORN FODDER WAGON.

wheels of a common two horse wagon. A rack 10 feet long gives the sides of the wheels 10 feet apart. The rack is a round pole allowed from the bottom of the wheels and hitting a shorter and curve, so as to bring the pole one foot on the ground. The frame is hung by chains beneath the poles. The frame has 14 feet space in length between the wheels and is 7 feet in width. Small racks of corn are placed lengthwise in this wagon, and having wheels they are so lightly, will bring more, for the drivers of wheat. It is found a good addition to a farmer's equipment.

Irrigation Methods.

A Nebraska correspondent of American Agriculturist writes: I have observed irrigation in Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska and some other states, and not too intense to methods and results as I have. 1. The best method is the old and well known one of gravitation, taking the water from streams and conveying it direct to the land where it is to be used. Underground, where it is practicable, gives good results. Where water is raised by pumping with a lift of 10 to 40 feet, a water wheel or turbine wheel connected with a centrifugal pump is cheaper and more satisfactory. Windmills for lifting water for the irrigation of farmers' gardens or small truck farming are delicious, provided windmills have not and of the will to pick that a watertight reservoir can be built. Centrifugal pumps, water elevators or other pumps when driven by steam or gasoline engines, horse power or other expensive methods are impracticable. I do not regard any method practicable for general grain farming except where water flows naturally from streams in ditches or natural rivers.

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