

**THE HORSE.**

**He is So Stupid That He Can Be Taught Any Habit.**  
 There have been on exhibition at various times horses that are apparently prodigies of mathematical insight—that can do anything with numbers that the trainer can do. Yet we absolutely know that no animal can do so much as count at all. Furthermore, it is always the horse that forms these marvels, though the horse is the most utterly stupid of all the dumb creatures that man has made his friends.

That is precisely why the horse is always taken to be made into an arithmetician. He is so stupid that he can be taught anything—any habit, that is—and, having no mind to be taken up with his own affairs, can be relied on to do exactly as he is told.

All these arithmetical fakes, whatever their details, are worked in essentially the same way. The horse is taught, by endless repetitions, some mechanical habit. A given signal, and he begins to paw the floor. Another signal, and he stops. Press the proper button, and he takes a sponge and rubs it over a certain spot on a blackboard or picks up a card lying in a certain position. That is all he does. The meaning of the act exists for the spectator only. The pawings count the answer to a problem in addition, the card bears the reply to a question, but the horse does not know it. He merely follows a blind habit, just as he will stop when you say "Whoa!" though you interpolate the word into your recitation of the Declaration of Independence.—McClure's Magazine.

**IT CAME TRUE.**

**The Large Party and the Calamity That Followed.**

"You can't make me believe," Uncle Abner Jarvis was saying, "that there isn't something in fortune telling."

His auditors were grouped round the stove in the corner grocery store. "Ever have any experience with it?" asked one of them.

"That's what I was going to tell you," resumed Uncle Abner. "Once when I was at the county fair I saw a little tent with a sign on the outside of it that said 'Mime. Somebody-or-other would tell your fortune for 25 cents. I stepped inside just for fun."

"A woman with a thick veil over her face was sitting in a chair on a raised platform. I gave her a quarter, and she looked at my hand. One of the things she told me was that I was going to have a large party at my house in less than a month and that it would be followed by a calamity."

"I laughed at that. Thinks I to myself, 'We hain't had any parties of any kind to our house for two years, and I don't reckon we'll have one quite as soon as that.'"

"But it did come true. In about two weeks my wife's Aunt Jane came to visit us, and if you think she ain't a large party you ought to see her. She weighs 287 pounds."

"But how about the calamity?" inquired the man who was sitting on the nail keg after a long pause.

"Well," said Uncle Abner slowly, "she broke down our spare bed the first night she slept in it."—Youth's Companion.

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**MALARIA.**

**A Statement of a Successful Cure.**  
 (Mrs.) Mabel Smith, Dallas, writes: "Feb. 1909, PAM-ALA has absolutely cured me of Malaria (Chills and Fever). For some months past I have lived in the swamps of Louisiana. I never saw a well day for six months. Malaria has held me in its grip and for the past seven weeks I have been confined to bed. Thanks to Pam-ala I am now entirely well again."

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The handsome pianos and diamond ring to be given away in the Co-operative Contest will be the grandest distribution of prizes ever offered in Alachua county.

Parties trading with any of the following stores will be given one vote for every penny spent:

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Votes will be given on all orders for job printing, at The Sun office, and on subscriptions as follows:

**The Daily Sun.**

\$1.25, three months subscription, old subscribers, 500 votes; new subscribers, 700 votes.

\$2.50, six months' subscription, old subscribers, 1,200 votes; new subscribers, 1,500 votes.

\$5, one year's subscription, old subscribers, 3,500 votes; new subscribers, 4,500 votes.

For a club of five one-year subscriptions (before 12 o'clock noon, Aug. 18, 1909), old subscribers, 30,000 votes; new subscribers, 35,000 votes.

For a club of ten six-months' subscriptions (before 12 o'clock noon, Aug. 18, 1909), old subscribers, 30,000 votes; new subscribers, 35,000 votes.

There is no limit to the number of clubs each contestant may secure.

**The Semi-Weekly Sun.**

\$1, one year's subscription, 500 votes.

For a club of five one-year subscriptions, 5,000 votes.

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**..... HUMUS AS A SOIL-IMPROVER.....**

By A. W. Blair, Florida Agri. Experiment Station

The dark-colored material that we call humus consists of partly decayed organic matter, either animal or vegetable. Stubble, grass, roots, cornstalks, cotton stalks, and the like, are not humus; but these materials when turned under the moist soil soon begin to decay and fall to pieces, and it is then that humus is formed. This process of decay and humus formation goes on as long as the conditions are favorable and there is any organic material left. Humus may be called an intermediate product, for under favorable conditions the process of decay goes on until there is no longer any vegetable or animal substance left, nor yet any humus; but instead, water, gases that escape into the air, and a small amount of mineral matter. We thus see why it is that we need to renew the supply of humus from time to time. If a crop of velvet-bean vines is turned under in the winter or early spring, and an examination is made in April or May, much of this decaying matter or humus will be found. If now a crop of corn or cotton is grown during the summer, and the land thoroughly cultivated, it is probable that none of the humus would be seen if an examination should be made in September. It does not follow, however, that all the humus has been used up, but it has been so thoroughly incorporated with the soil that the eye does not detect it, except that the land would look darker. During all the time the humus was gradually being transformed into simpler compounds, it was serving its purpose.

**The Uses of Humus**

Humus improves the mechanical condition of the soil, by making it looser and mellow; it increases the water-holding capacity, and thus the plant-food holding capacity of soil; it furnishes food for useful micro-organisms, which in turn convert the nitrogen of the organic matter into a form that is available for the crops; it aids in bringing into solution difficultly soluble minerals that contain plant food; and it yields a small amount of mineral plant food itself.

If one would get a good idea of the value of humus, he need only compare fields where a legume crop has been grown as part of a system of rotation, and where stable manure has been used liberally, with those fields where corn and cotton have been grown steadily year after year on commercial fertilizers. The latter are devoid of humus, and have lost much of their power of holding water and plant food. The value of humus is also emphasized where an old barn or house has been left standing in the middle of a field. Around these the crops are usually much superior to those on the surrounding portions of the field.

**Humus and Sandy Soils**

Sandy soils, on account of their open, leachy condition, are especially in need of a good supply of humus. Furthermore, the conditions in Florida favor a rapid disappearance of the humus. This "burning out" of the humus is caused by certain bacteria, and whatever is favorable to their development hastens the destruction of the humus. Warmth, moisture, and a good supply of air are conditions which favor bacterial development; and since these conditions are fulfilled to an unusual degree in Florida, it follows that the humus will disappear with more than ordinary rapidity. In such soils it is necessary to supply humus-forming materials more often than it is in a heavy clay soil.

This loss of humus is compensated for by the production of nitrates as the humus disappears. Analyses of some pineapple soils have shown that samples taken from surfaces where vegetable matter is decaying, are much richer in nitrates than those taken from clean bare surfaces, or from the subsoil where there is but little organic matter.

**How Humus May Be Increased**

The growing of leguminous crops is one of the best ways to increase humus, for in this way nitrogen also is added to the soil. Among the Florida crops which are suitable for this purpose may be mentioned the velvet bean, beggarweed, and cowpea. Humus may also be increased by a more general and liberal use of stable manure, and by turning under stubble, weeds, or grass, instead of burning them. When these materials are burnt, nitrogen is lost as well as humus.

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