



Quiz of the week

- 1) Which Surrealist artist is known for his paintings of melting clocks?
- 2) Now extinct, aurochs are the ancestors of which modern-day farm animals?
- 3) If someone believes in antidisestablishmentarianism, what are they opposed to the disestablishment of?
- 4) To the nearest 50, how many calories does a McDonald's Big Mac contain?
- 5) Which 1956 film starring Bing Crosby was a musical remake of *The Philadelphia Story*?

Word of the week

Impudicity (noun)
A lack of modesty

100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE June 4, 1921



An artistic beetle

THE accompanying photograph shows the wonderful diagrams formed by the *Scolytus destructor*. This small, cylindrical, wood-boring beetle, about one eighth of an inch in length, lays its eggs in the bark of the elm, the grubs feeding on the soft, inner bark. The scolytus makes radiating galleries under the bark, leaving the tree exposed to other insects, and ultimately causes the destruction of the limb affected.—S.

1) Salvador Dalí 2) Cattle 3) The Church of England 4) 550 (exactly) 5) 'High Society'



Oh, the agony!

New agony aunt Mrs Hudson solves your dilemmas

You made your bed

Q I am in a quandary of guilt because I have never known what polite society does with bed clothes when departing, a) when one's hostess runs the house; b) when there are signs of a cleaning lady; or c) if there is a housekeeper. One so wants to do the correct thing to ensure another invitation is offered.
P. D., London

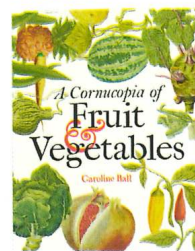
A Firstly, I should introduce myself. Once considered quite the starlet, I was recently advised to retrain by the Government and am yet to discover any kind of agony-aunt qualification, but it transpires that it really is who you know. Anyway—back to bed linen! Shall we take a moment to give thanks that we were born into a society where this might be considered a problem?

Housekeeper or no, if I were to find the bed stripped, I would assume there had been an incident. Unless your inclination to be helpful is stronger than your desire not to be known as an adult bed-wetter, I would simply make the bed in the morning (but not so well that it doesn't look slept in, unless you want the bed-wetting rumours to be replaced by accusations of corridor-creeping).

When I have guests, I expect them to leave their room in more or less the state they found it, not to have polished the loo and done a load of laundry on the way out. If you're that concerned about where your next free meal is coming from, I suggest a suitably ingratiating thank-you letter.

In need of advice? Email your problem to countrylife.letters@futurenet.com

Book of the week



A Cornucopia of Fruit and Vegetables, Caroline Ball (Bodleian Library Publishing, £15)

By the age of 40, Johann Wilhelm

Weinmann, a Bavarian apothecary, had made enough money to indulge his plant-collecting passion and subsequently commissioned a four-volume illustrated encyclopedia of plants, *Phytanthoza Iconographia* (1737–45). Caroline Ball provides a tasting menu of the many botanical illustrations—including Buddha's hand citrus—with an introductory essay that will leave the reader wanting more.



'You young people are always so obsessed with truth. The truth is often over-rated'

The Hand That First Held Mine, Maggie O'Farrell

Time to buy

Botanical Art Notebook Set (Lemon, Chillis and Apples), £10.99, Bodleian Libraries (01865 277175; www.bodleianshop.co.uk)



The Lady with Lemons Candlestick, £175, Montes & Clark (07717 750540; www.montesandclark.com)

Snake Plant with pot and tray, £65, The Glasshouse (www.theglasshouse.co.uk)

