Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., June 12, 1891.

Farm Notes.

At the shearing of the Southern Michigan breeders, the ram Buckeye, 3 years old, weight 119, sheared 30 pounds, just 365 days growth.

There is a drawback in the use of bells on sheep by reason of greater excitability. A restless flock will run off more fat than the loss of ten sheep would amount to.

As a rule hens learn to eat eggs from having them broken in the nest. In arranging the nests so that in getting in and out there will be little if any risk of the eggs being broken.

No tree should be planted nearer a house than its length when full grown. Trees not only moisten the air about them, but the earth also. Sunshine should have an access to the house at all times.

Don't forget to start the cultivator or wheel hoe as soon as you can see the rows of plants in the garden; take the weeds just as they break ground, or even before; "nipped in the bud" they die easily.

An 8 per cent. kerosene emulsion was used as a sheep dip at one experiment station in which to dip the sheep and it was fully proven that a good emulsion can be safely used for this purpose, even when sheep have considerable wool upon their backs.

A horseman says in the *New England Homestead* that he gets out of the trouble of drenching a horse by pouring the dose into a pail of water, reserving a little to put into the horse's mouth. The horse then drinks the water to get the taste out of his mouth.

In hatching ducks' eggs under hens, the incubation differs from hens' eggs only in the fact that ducks' eggs pip at twenty-five to twenty-six days instead of nineteen as with chicks, and also that they generally pip from thirty-six to forty-eight hours before emerging from the shell.

The introduction of labor-saving machinery has not been an unmixed blessing. It has concentrated farm work, making the busy season busier and the dull season duller. It has not cheapened the expense of farming so much as might be supposed, for while it has decreased the amount of hand labor, it has increased the idle time of both the farmer and his help.

The statistician of the Department of Agriculture has compiled the following statement: Corn during the past year aggregated 1,489,960,000 bushels; wheat, 399,262,000 bushels; oats, 523,622,000 bushels. The December condition of the growing wheat crop was returned at 98.4, and of rye 99. This is better than the December returns for two years past.

Many cellar stables are so damp and musty as to be entirely unsuitable for the housing of stock. This often comes from water draining in through the walls from the eaves on the upper side, or surface water that is allowed to collect and run through the wall. This can be easily remedied by drawing away the surface water and placing spouting on the barn to carry off the drip.

The cheapest fence on lands which overflow, and where the posts heave out, is a hurdle fence made of wood, with the panels somewhat zig-zag, so it will not fall over, and the ends wired together. Such kind of fence can be had where lumber is cheap, as it can be made from the strips cut from boards which are straight-edged, and also from the slabs that can be obtained at the saw-mills.

Dr. C. D. Smead, at a farmers' institute, replying to the question, "In a basement barn containing 2800 square feet, how many sheep can be wintered?" saip: "Calculate for merinoes four square feet for each sheep; for the coarse breeds allow at least six feet, and not as many in a pen as of fine wooled varieties. It is better to have the stable divided into small pens than to have one large pen."

The most precious plant food in manure is its nitrogen compounds, because they are exported or carried off the farm, in the products sold, in larger quantity than either potash or phosphate; because they are most easily lost from the manure or the soil through careless management of the manure or the feeding of the crops, and because it costs more to replace them when lost than to replace any other plant food.

The green crop plowed under is composed of three chief parts. About four-fifths of it is water, or from 80 to 88 per cent.: about one-fiftieth of the whole, or 2 per cent., is composed of what are called the ash ingredients, and the rest is the so-called organic matter. This organic matter, which is really the most useful part of the green manure, makes up, therefore, about a twelfth of the whole mass put under the ground.

In a seven-year experiment, the following were the result: From seed of whole potatoes, large, 224.1 bushels; from seed of whole potatoes, small, 177 bushels; from seed of stem end of potato, 148 bushels; from seed of seed end of potato (period of six years), 168 bushels; from one eye to hill, 81 bushels; from two eyes to the hill, 104 bushels; from three eyes to the hill, 160 bushels. It is all-important that the seed should be ripe.

Damp houses and yards are where many of the poultry diseases originate, and this is the prime cause of the disagreeable disease of roup, which is so very disastrous after it once gets a good start, and in fact, there is nothing more conducive to disease and general disorder among the fowls than to compel them to spend their time in damp quarters. A sandy soil is the best, as it absorbs the moisture and dries off quickly.

On a Supposition.

"What's the matter here?" asked an officer as he came along to the house of a colored man on Beaubien street to find the man at the gate with a club in his hand at midnight.

"Reckon somebody was a-trying' to git in, sah," was the reply.

"Of co'se dey was!" added his wife from the shelter of the doorway.

"Robber?"

"Yes, sah!"

"But, man, what on earth have you got in the house to tempt robbers?" asked the officer.

"It hain't what we has dun got in dar, but what de robbers 'spose dey'll find."

"But what could they suppose?"

"Wall, sah, I was down at de bank to-day to see 'bout hittin' a job. P'raps some robber seed me. P'raps he dun got de ideah dat I draw out a thousand dollars in cash. Would't dat bring him up here mighty sartin?"

"You'd better go in and go to bed," advised the officer as he sauntered off.

"Yes, sah; but not now, sah. We heard sunthin' go woosh-biff-squash! right by de front doah, sah, an we hain't gwine to lie still an' let dem robbers git no bulge on us! Good-night, sah, but I'll circle aroun' a bit wid dis club an' let know I'ze prepared fur bizness."—*Detroit Free Press.*

The Earth is a Hugh Dynamo.

Every day the needle of the magnetic compass has been observed to sway first one way and then the other upon its pivot with no apparent cause, thus varying from the meridian of a place. Scientists have for many years been trying to account for this. One of them has just published his theory of the cause of the disturbance. He ascribes it to electricity, assuming that the earth is whirling on its orbit between two magnetic fields, and that the varying intensity of the current one way or the other produces the disturbance of the magnetic needle. The two magnetic currents, he believes, are streaming to us from the sun, one being produced by the corona, the other coming directly with the sun's rays in straight lines. In other words, according to this theory, electricity is generated by the sun. It reaches us the same way as sunlight does, and the conclusion is that it is akin to, if not identical with, sunlight itself. The revolving earth is the gigantic dynamo which excites the electric currents and makes them manifest.—*San Francisco Examiner.*

A BEE'S FUNERAL.--Two bees were observed to issue from a hive, bearing between them the body of a comrade, with which they flew for a distance of ten yards. Then, with great care, they put it down, and selected a convenient hole at the side of the gravel walk, to which they tenderly committed the body, head downwards, and then afterward pushed against two little stones, doubtless in memoriam. Their task being ended, they paused about a minute, perhaps to drop over the grave of their friend a sympathizing tear; and then they flew away.--*Doll's Dressmaker.*

——Is undoubtedly caused by lactic acid in the blood. This acid attacks the fibrous tissues, and causes the pains and aches in the back, shoulders, knees, ankles, hips, and wrists. Thousands of people have found in Hood's Sarsaparilla a positive cure for rheumatism. This medicine, by its purifying action, neutralizes the acidity of the blood, also builds up and strengthens the whole body.

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——"Do brutes have a language?" asked the president of the Millville Literary circle at a recent meeting. "Do they?" replied the secretary; "you ought to hear my husband when he looses his collar button."

——A golden rule of life is always to do just a little better than you agree to. Work over hours instead of under. Pay your note before maturity rather than after. Give over measure rather than under.

——After using Ely's Cream Balm two months I was surprised to find that the right nostril, which was closed for over twenty years, was open and free as the other, and can use it now as I could not do for many years. I feel very thankful.—R. H. Cressengham, 275 18th street, Brooklyn.

——The widow of F. M. Holiday, killed last fall by the collision of freight trains at Miller's Station, on the Western Maryland Railroad, has received from the company $500 and expenses in settlement of her suit.

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