

Bellefonte, Pa., Dec. 17, 1897.

FARM NOTES.

—It is never a good plan to mulch or-chards late in the fall, especially in a season like the last, when there is much rain in mid-summer. This always makes a great growth of grass, which is the best protection for mice, and they increase amazingly. Later these mice find refuge in corn stocks, but as these are cleared away they hasten to or-chards, where the bark of young trees is very attractive to them when other food is

-Aphies on house plants give much trouble, and yet the plants can be protected with but little difficulty. In a quart bottle put an ounce of soap, fill three-quarters with water, add a teaspoonful of ammonia and shake well until the soap is dissolved; then place the bottle aside until the con tents are wanted for use. Put a gill of the mixture in two gills of warm water and sponge the plants twice a week. An hour after so doing sponge with clear water.

-Those who keep bees should acquaint themselves with the nature and habits of the same, so they may be successful with them. The loss of queens is perhaps the greatest loss that occurs with bees, and any one should be able to at all times detect this loss by an examination of the interior of the hive. Usually the presence of brood is an indication of the presence of the queen, and when no brood is found it rather indicates that the queen is not there.

-The Wisconsin Station found that by using a selected, well-bred Shropshire ram with ordinary ewes excellent results were obtained, The lambs were dropped in March, and in April were given oats, bran and cornmeal. In July ground peas were given in place of the cornmeal, and in Sep-tember the quantity of peas was doubled until October, when oilmeal was added. The roughage was clover hay all summer, a little green clover and some rape. The result was that yearling lambs (over one year) weighed 220 pounds live weight and lambs dropped last March weighed 120 pounds in November. It is possible that if the ewe lambs are retained and mated with a pure-bred Shropshire ram better results can be obtained next year.

—In the early settlement of the country, a year when beechnuts were plenty was reckoned very fortunate for growers of hogs. These would fatten rapidly on the fallen mast, as nuts from wood trees were called, and always made tender, well-flavored, but rather soft pork. It was, however, probably more healthful to eat than pork made from corn. In the South the hogs mostly run wild and live in winter on the nuts and roots they gather in the woods. But the same quality of pork as that formerly produced from nuts can be made now by feeding apples, pumpkins and other fruits and vegetables, mixing with it while cooking some whole oats and a very little oldprocess linseed meal or whole flaxseed. This will furnish just the kind of nutrition found in the beechnuts, and be even more digestible than the beechnuts are.

-Must our breeds of hogs be abandoned? For a century or more the hog has been bred for "an aptitude to fatten," until it has been brought to a form in which the snout is disappearing and its body is too Star. heavy for its legs. Fat has been the object, and also attained, but it is claimed that the hog has been so changed that it is now more susceptible to disease than formerly, while the quality of the flesh has diminished. One breeder in the West crossed his Poland Chinas with a "razorback" from Georgia, and reports that his pigs are hardier, and the bacon brought better prices. In England and Canada the farmers are using boars of the Tamworth breed, which produce more lean meat than fat, bacon from the hogs so produced brings from 15 to 17 cents per pound in England, while that from the United States abounding in fat, brings from 6 to 8 cents per pound. The celebrated Smithville hams, from Isle of Wight County, Va., which have held their reputation in market him on his last visit to this country was for half a century, are from the "razorback" breed, and the Irish breakfast bacon is from hogs of the Tamworth and active

-To feed chickens The Poultry Keeper says: as hens differ, no two being alike, no man can inform you how to feed your flocks as well as he can his own. You can only know by observing your hens yourself.

Look at it again. You have, say, three hens in one flock. One hen does not lay at all, the second hen lays one egg a week, and the third one lays three eggs a week, but you feed them all alike, yet one needs only enough food to support her body (and she may also eat the larger share) while the third hen, being a producer, may eat less than the others, yet it is plain that it is the third hen that should have twice as much as the hen that does not lay any eggs.

Again a farmer who does not know one breed from another has a flock of mixed fowls, with Brahma, Leghorn, or other good blood in them, and he feeds all alike but does not notice that the big Brahma will eat twice as much as the Leghorn, yet he has them all together, feeds them all alike, and makes no distinction.

Try again. You have a family—say of en. Well, ask your wife how much she is to have for breakfast, dinner and supper. The answer will be that it depends on circumstances. She will say, "How much of what?" Some will prefer roast beef, some vegetables, some soup, etc. But suppose she feeds nothing but bread. Some will eat to their fill and some will eat but little. At the next meal the appetite will vary. It is just as easy to figure out how much bread, meat, cabbage, potatoes, etc., a fam-ily of ten will eat at a meal (measuring or weighing to an ounce) as it is to know how much ten hens will eat at a meal. Why?

Because appetites vary. To feed growing stock remember that fat is no object. Feed meat, bone, bran, lin-seed meal, cut clover, and avoid corn and foods very rich in starch. Above all, with growing stock, look for the large lice on the skin of the heads. When young stock do not grow you can depend on it that lice

Here are a few rules to follow in feeding: Give but half a meal in the morning and a full meal at night, and give nothing at

When a hen does not scratch and work give no food until she sets in for a day's scratching. Remember that-no scratch, no food. The hen that lays needs twice as much

food as the non-layers.

Always scatter the food if possible, so as to give every hen a chance to get some.

ways give a variety.

Meat and cut bone are always cheaper and better than corn. Keep the hens warm in winter and al-

Uncle Sam's Menagerie, Animals Kept at the Department of Agriculture

For Experimental Purposes

It is not generally known that the department of agriculture has a menagerie in connection with it, but such is the case. The menagerie is not a very large one, nor does it contain any rare or

the domestic variety. It is a part of the division of animal industry, and the animals are used to develop interesting cases of disease and to illustrate the effects of an epidemic of a particular kind which the division may wish to experiment on with a view of stamping it out and to test various kinds of foods of which a trial is thought to be efficacious.

Comprised in this collection of animals are rats and mice, guinea pigs, rabbits, different sorts of fowls, some cattle and sheep and a few others. The larger of the animals are kept at the breeding place of the department, on the Benning road, while others are domiciled in the basement of the division of animal industry laboratory, near the bureau of engraving and printing.

Down in the basement, under the laboratory, which was visited recently by a reporter, were seen a number of coops and cages, in which were grouped guin-ea pigs, rabbits and chickens. The animals seemed to be perfectly at home

guinea pig.

A dilapidated looking chicken, which had much the same appearance as has a "Thomas Company," and after that again to the Royal Niger company.

"The position today," continued Mr. Pinnock, "would be better understood tramp who has been forced to saw wood if a good map could be put before the for a meal at a "friendly inn," rested public of the whole hinterland of our on top of a cage. The guinea pigs seemed to be the life of the place and ran in fortunately does not exist at present.

and out with apparently little or no concern whether "school kept or not." bits were confined, printed in large black letters, was the word "rabies." Upon the cards also were the warnings to the attendants and others not to put | that the French flag is already flying at | their hands in the cages. This meant that the animals had been inoculated ing from 4 degrees east longitude to 2 with hydrophobia virus, and it was degrees west longitude and from about therefore dangerous to handle the ani- 6 degrees north latitude (in the neighmals. A further precaution taken in borhood of Porto Novo and the Dahosuch cases, it is said, is not to inoculate mey country) to the town of Say on the animals carnivorous by nature, as they Niger, which is between 13 degrees and become terribly ferocious, or any ani-mals whose chief means of defense is by

to bite when afflicted with the disease, to various degrees of latitude wherein while a rabbit, which is purely a vegetarian, will simply mope and die with

out making any resistance. It was stated that one steer, which had the "blackleg," remained at one of the experiment stations for about eight years, and the persons there really became attached to it.—Washington

Cleo's Thrifty Mother.

ed Miles For Twenty Cents.

The parsimony of foreign celebrities who come to this country has been frequently amusing to Americans. There have been some very striking instances of it in recent years, but the mother of Mlle. Cleo de Merode seems to have carried off the palm in this respect. Salvini, it is said, was so penurious that he bought a sandwich on the street for 5 cents rather than pay for his supper at a hotel, and one of the stories told about that once in Philadelphia he gave the porter of a hotel a penny and told him to buy him three tacks. The actor had discovered that his trunk was damaged,

and he wanted to repair it himself. Tamaqua was notorious here for his stinginess. It was said that he sold the tickets sent to him in view of his artist's privilege and hired his own brother as a valet because he could be got at a cheap figure. Then he used to make him roll his trunks around on a truck at the foreign custom houses rather than pay the porters a fee for the work. Herr Van Biene marked as a curiosity and sent back to England a hotel bill of fare on which he had marked the price, \$1.50, for a tenderloin steak as one of the wonders of an extravagant and youthful country. It may have been nothing more than good business judgment which prompted Mlle. Calve to look for a business manager while she was here and then express the greatest astonishment that such an assistant of the most capable kind could not be hired for \$10 a week.

These are some of the stories told about the highly paid foreigners who come to exhibit themselves here. But Cleo's mother holds the record. It is said that she astonished the servants at the Imperial hotel by washing her daughter's clothes in the bathtub and ironing them herself. On the day before they returned to Europe the ballerina and her mother were seen on lower Broadway. They had gone down to one of the exchange offices in order to get \$100 in French money. It was raining. An acquaintance met the two just as they were coming out of the office.

"Why, that wretch inside," exclaimed the mother indignantly, "wants to give me only 517 francs for \$100.' Then Mme. la Mere de Cleo de Merode put up her umbrella with a mighty emphasis and stepped out on to the sidewalk. "Why, a man offered me 518 up town. But I thought I could get 520 down here. Now we shall have to walk up town, for otherwise there will be no profit left for us." Then Cleo and her mother started to trudge up town. The dancer received \$9,000 for her appearances here. - New York Sun.

Sweetness. The Blond-I wonder if I shall ever live to be 100? The Brunette-Not if you remain 22 much longer.-London Fun.

IN THE HINTERLAND.

Wealth of West Africa that France and Englan are After. The Tradesmen of the Two European Countries Are Engaged In a Struggle for Conquest Which May Call For Arbitration to Prevent

James Pinnock, African merchant of Liverpool, who was one of the original promoters of the Royal Niger company strange animals. Most of them are of and director for many years, in the course of an interview with a representative of The Daily Mail, said: "I went out to west Africa 40 years ago and visited almost every port and place in that region, including the Niger, many times, and my business has been with west Africa ever since. In 1870 I built a steamer, called the Rio Formoso, specially for service on the river Niger, and with her I explored and opened up, for the first time in history, the river Forcados. This river flows into the Atlantic

and is one of the entrances to the Niger. "The importance of this great river Niger and the hinterland is well known to those who are engaged in the African trade, but we can only expect it will slowly dawn on the mind of the British public. I am convinced, however, the more they look into it the more important they will see it is to the interests of British trade not to lose any of it.

"Fifteen years ago there were four firms trading on the Niger. They were the West African company, the Central and formed a seemingly happy family, African Trading company (and with as some guinea pigs were in the cage this latter Taubman Bros.—one of them with rabbits. One of the little white now Sir Taubman Goldie—were conand black creatures was nibbling at the nected), Miller Bros. and myself. We whiskers of a sleepy looking rabbit, all four firms joined and called ourselves which blinked contentedly, as if it en- the United African company, which joyed the operation or was too lazy to was subsequently changed to the Naresist any trespass on the part of the tional African company and after that

west African colonies. Such a thing un-The strict geography of the country is only understood by a very few. Our On some of the cages where the rab- knowledge of the hinterland, however, has increased immensely during the past few years, and to instance one particularly large territory I would point out innumerable towns and stations extendextending inland to the neighborhood A cat or dog, for instance, will strive of Nikki (now occupied by the French) are found the three British possessions and protectorates of Lagos, the Niger Coast protectorate and the Royal Niger

> "It is from the interior, however, that the future great wealth of Africa will be derived, and if all this is allowed to fall into the lap of France she will be possessed of an empire second only if not equal in the future to the whole of our Indian empire.

"See what South Africa has already developed into, and as far only as minerals are concerned. The soil of Africa has not yet been barely scratched. The population of this part of Africa, with 42-38 Allegheny St. the advent of railways, stoppage of the slave trade, cessation of internal tribal warfare, will increase in equal ratio to that of the most favored parts of the far as the multiplication of the negro NEWS AND OPINIONS population is concerned.

"The development of this hinterland will, in my opinion, exceed all the dreams of the most enthusiastic colonial party in France. Both France and England have sacrificed many men and much money in the race to grasp this priceless treasure, and the difficulty of apportioning it will, I believe, be so great that it is more than probable, to avert extremes, it will have to be referred to some other nation, or council of nations, to arbitrate on, as the matter is far too weighty for easy or speedy

settlement. "As evidence of the activity of the French I may point to the railway from Senegal to the upper Niger. This is being pushed forward with a further vote of 1,000,000 francs from the Caisse des Depots et Consignations, thus cutting and heading off all our possessions from Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Lagos down to the river Niger.

"A very great deal, if not the whole of the trouble on the Niger," added Mr. Pinnock, "would never have arisen but for the obnoxious charter given to the Royal Niger company. By reason of this charter every trader, white and black, British or otherwise, is entirely excluded from the country. Had the river and adjacent country been thrown open to free and legitimate trade, as all mer ants have been clamoring so long for, backed up by the chambers of commerce of Liverpool and Manchester, all the places in question would have long since been full of British subjects, white and colored. Trade would have developed a thousandfold, and the French would never have gone near it."-London Mail.

This One Especially.

From a Paris paper we take the following conversation in a police court: The President-It appears from your record that you have been 37 times previously convicted.

The Prisoner (sententiously)-Man is not perfect.-London Globe.

A Portrait of Wordsworth. One of Charles Lamb's friends said to him that he had never seen Wordsworth. "Why, you've seen an old horse, haven't you?" asked Charles Lamb. "Yes, I suppose so."

"Then you've seen Wordsworth."all Mall Gazette.

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