

FARM NOTES.

The proper way to clean a hen roost is to first carry everything out doors—roost poles, nest boxes and loose boards. Give them a dose of oil and apply the match. If the wood takes fire it can be put out by throwing sand on it. Now rake out all the fowl dirt, and give the inside a good coating of whitewash. Do this once a month.

If one has a farm he is his own employer, and if he does not succeed it will be due to his faults or mistakes. Many persons would succeed who fail if they would work as hard for themselves as they are compelled to do when employed by another. It is the work applied at the right time and vigorously that brings success.

The Michigan experiment station found after repeated tests that about four times as much food can be obtained from a meadow by allowing it to mature hay than by pasturing it. This means that four cows can be kept on the land by growing hay instead of pasturing it, or to show it in another light, four times as much land is required for pasture as for hay, for the same number of cattle. Green food is given by growing soiling crops, but in soiling, from two to three times the number of cows can be maintained than by pasturing.

Farmers use the cultivator for a plow; that is, they cultivate deep, with the object of loosening the soil between the rows. If the ground is to be broken up the plow is the thing to do it with, but two inches is sufficient depth for cultivation. Grass and weeds should never be allowed to grow to a height to demand "plowing" with a cultivator. Keep the top soil loose and never allow grass or weeds to more than sprout above ground. Deep cultivation frequently does harm in disturbing the roots of the plants grown as a crop.

An important matter in spraying is to know what to use. For fungi or parasitic plant life, use bordeaux mixture; insects with biting mouths, such as the codling moth, are treated with solutions of Paris green or London purple, and those with sucking mouths, such as aphides are destroyed with kerosene emulsion or whale-oil soap. Spraying must be done frequently. To give only one or two applications and expect success will result in loss of time, as insects multiply very rapidly and the later hatched ones must be destroyed in order to completely exterminate the pests.

New ideas in grafting will be readily adopted by all fruit growers. The long-accepted method of cutting the grafts in winter and keeping them in a cold place used on outside trees, has been found excellent from experience, but a Missouri fruit grower states that he has obtained better results with plum grafts that were cut in spring and grafted an hour after cutting, while apple grafts, cut and used the same day, did not give a single failure. When testing the plum grafts, the grafts used on outside trees, and those used on a few until satisfied that the results will be successful.

Barley is not extensively grown, yet it is a superior stock food and will grow on soils that will not produce wheat. In England hogs are fattened on barley and the meat contains more lean than that produced from corn. In feeding pigs as a test barley gave better results than corn, a pound of growth being secured from three and a-half pounds of barley, at a cost of 2 cents per pound, while corn cost 4 cents per pound. Pigs, however, grow more rapidly than adult hogs. Ground grain superior to the unground. In steer feeding both corn and wheat surpassed barley and with lambs the results were about the same with corn, wheat and barley. Corn and barley mixed gave better results than either alone in some cases. These tests should make barley a favorite where it is not now grown at all.

The stableman in the cities take more care of their manure than the farmers, and sell it at an advantage. Water is the season when the farmer can accumulate the best manure because the animals are then kept in the barnyard, whereas in summer much manure is lost by drying or washing away when dropped by the animals in the fields. Even if the manure voided in the fields is retained on the land it is frequently in spots, causing heavy growth of weeds, which are portions of the field may be bare. Saving the manure does not mean that it should remain in the barnyard and lose a portion of its value, but it should be collected and composted under cover. It is cheaper to so handle manure, and use out material as absorbents, than to leave it exposed to the sun and wind. The latter duty was named February, February and February. On this occasion, amidst a variety of ceremonies, the names of young women were put in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. The pastors of the early Christian church, who by every possible means endeavored to eradicate the vestiges of pagan superstitions, substituted in the present instance the names of particular saints instead of those of the women, and as the festival of Lupercalia had commenced about the middle of February, they appear to have chosen St. Valentine's Day for celebrating the new feast, because it occurred nearly at the same time. This is, in part, the opinion of the learned compiler of the lives of the saints. It would seem, however, that it was utterly impossible to extirpate altogether any ceremony to which the common people had been much accustomed, a fact which it is easy to prove in tracing the origin of various other popular superstitions, and accordingly the outline of the ancient ceremonies was preserved, but modified by some adaptation to the Christian system. It is reasonable to suppose that the above practice of choosing mates would gradually become reciprocal in the sexes, and that all persons so chosen would be called valentines, from the day on which the ceremony took place.

Tommy had misplaced his knife, and after searching through all his pockets without success he exclaimed: "Oh, dear! I wish I had another pocket." "Why, if I had it might be in that," was the little fellow's reply. Johnnie, aged 6, recently attended church and after listening attentively to a discourse on the parable of the wise and foolish house-builders said to his mother on the way home: "I don't think the man who built his house on the rock was so very wise after all. 'And why not, Johnnie?' asked his mother. 'Because,' answered the young observer, 'he wouldn't have any place for a cellar.'"

After all danger of frost is over, which is usually about the time when the apple trees are in blossom, tomato plants may be put out, as they are tender and will not endure frost. Peas for a later crop, Lima beans, string beans, squash, egg plants, and later cabbage, as well as sweet corn and melons, may be planted. The garden crops that do not take much room to grow may be planted in rows of sufficient distance apart to permit of using a hoe (about 18 inches apart) but corn, tomatoes, egg plants and Lima beans require from one yard to four feet between the rows, according to conditions of growth. The most important matter with the beginner is to keep down weeds and grass between the rows. There is more pleasure in working a garden than may be supposed, and it will promote the health of anyone who engages in such employment.

THE EMPTY HEARTH.

As I sit beside the empty hearth, there's silence all around; But I hear the ticking measure of a cradle on the ground; My little baby sleeping draws her breath with gentle sigh, And my son, of play now weary, nestles close with drooping eye. His hand is warm within my hand, his head upon my breast; Is sweet with the scent of childhood, of the young bird in the nest; His face is hidden from me, but his eyes are strange and bright, And he whose eyes are like them walks toward me thro' the night. I soon shall hear his footstep—oh! his footstep!—on the stair, The door will open, he will come and stand beside my chair. —God! save me from those dreams! The hearth is empty; far is he; And his little children lie asleep on another woman's knee. —Anna-Tatiana "Reims of Unknown Kings."

World's Supply of Coal and Oil Limited.

According to Lord Kelvin, it will all be exhausted 346 Years from Now.

In 346 years there will not be a pound of coal or a gallon of petroleum left in the whole earth, according to the statement made by Lord Kelvin before the Mathematical and Physical section of the British Association at its recent meeting in Toronto. Lord Kelvin, with his unrivalled power of applying his mathematical knowledge to the solution of practical questions, has made this startling calculation very carefully.

A fair average of the growth of coal in the earth, Lord Kelvin said, was two tons for each square metre in a thousand years. Dividing the figures already obtained, would give the age of the earth since plant life began as 20,000,000 years. Turning to Great Britain, Lord Kelvin said that there was still available in that country 146,000 million tons of coal, or about six-fifths of a ton per square metre of area. Judging from the present rate of consumption this supply might last 100 years or less.

Sir Henry Bessemer, the great steel manufacturer, has made some calculations about coal which will make these figures better understood. One million tons of coal would form a cube 300 feet square by 300 feet high, or they would represent a bed of coal one mile square by one foot thick. The coal mined in Great Britain in 1881 would make 55 great pyramids, or would rebuild the great wall of China, with one quarter to spare. The British output of coal in 1883 would form a pillar one mile high by 164 feet square.

Edward Hull, a famous English geologist, has calculated that the amount of coal in Great Britain which exists at depths at which it can be mined, is 80,000 millions tons. W. Stanley Jevons, reasoning from these figures, calculated that the British coal supply would be exhausted in 1975. Sidney Lytton, reasoning from another set of figures, set down the consumption of the last pound of British coal for 1990. Mr. Lytton, replying to a suggestion that Great Britain might import its supply of coal from North America, which now has 40 times as much as the United Kingdom, after its own stores were exhausted, figured out that it would take 2,100 steamships, each making 13 trips a year, and each carrying 6,000 tons of coal as cargo, to make up England's deficiency.

Huxley pointed out in a carefully written article that, "wanting coal, all the great towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire would vanish like a dream. Manufacturers would everywhere give place to agriculture and pasture, and not 10 men could live where 10,000 are now amply supported."

Richard P. Rothwell, who was the mining expert in the eleventh United States census, gives the coal production of the United States for 1896 at 166,241,271 short tons, and adds that the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania are being rapidly worked out.

Lord Kelvin says that when the world's supply of coal is exhausted at the end of 346 years, mankind will only have wood left for fuel. Meanwhile he advocates the use of all the power of Niagara Falls, which he calculates at 4,000,000 horse-power. While this power could be distributed by electricity over a radius of 300 miles at a pressure of 80,000 volts, with a loss of only 20 per cent. Lord Kelvin thinks that all the factories that want to take advantage of Niagara's power should be gathered within a radius of 40 miles.

St. Valentine's Day.

The Festival was Celebrated by the Romans—Was the Time to Choose Mates.

Mr. Donce, in his illustrations of Shakespeare, says regarding St. Valentine's Day: "It was the practice in ancient Rome, during a great part of the month of February, to celebrate the Lupercalia, which were feasts in honor of Pan and Juno, whence the latter deity was named Februata, Februialis and Februella. On this occasion, amidst a variety of ceremonies, the names of young women were put in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. The pastors of the early Christian church, who by every possible means endeavored to eradicate the vestiges of pagan superstitions, substituted in the present instance the names of particular saints instead of those of the women, and as the festival of Lupercalia had commenced about the middle of February, they appear to have chosen St. Valentine's Day for celebrating the new feast, because it occurred nearly at the same time. This is, in part, the opinion of the learned compiler of the lives of the saints. It would seem, however, that it was utterly impossible to extirpate altogether any ceremony to which the common people had been much accustomed, a fact which it is easy to prove in tracing the origin of various other popular superstitions, and accordingly the outline of the ancient ceremonies was preserved, but modified by some adaptation to the Christian system. It is reasonable to suppose that the above practice of choosing mates would gradually become reciprocal in the sexes, and that all persons so chosen would be called valentines, from the day on which the ceremony took place."

Out of the Mouths of Babies.

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Washington and Baltimore.

Special Ten-Day Excursion via Pennsylvania Railroad.

Washington is a most interesting city. The capitol, the congressional library, the national museum, and the monument are among the great creations of civilized man. To afford an opportunity to visit the city while Congress is in session, the Pennsylvania railroad company has arranged for a series of low-rate excursions to the national capital, to leave Pittsburg, February 17th, March 17th, April 14th and May 12th. Round-trip tickets will be sold at rates quoted below, good going on special train indicated, or on train No. 4, leaving Pittsburg at 8.10 p. m., and carrying through sleeping cars to Washington; returning tickets will be good on any regular train except the Pennsylvania Limited. These tickets will also be good to stop off at Baltimore within their limit. Special train of through parlor cars and coaches will be run on the following schedule:—

Table with columns: Train leaves, Rate. Locations: Altoona, Bellefonte, Clearfield, Philadelphia, Pottsville, Tyrone, Washington.

Should the number of passengers not be sufficient to warrant the running of a special train, the company reserves the right to carry participants in this excursion on regular train. Tickets on sale in Pittsburg at union ticket office, 360 Fifth Avenue, and union station, and at all stations mentioned above. For full information apply to agents or Thomas E. Watt, passenger agent western district, Fifth Avenue and Smithfield street, Pittsburg. 43-3-4t.

California.

Personally-Conducted Tour via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The next personally conducted tour to California via the Pennsylvania railroad will leave New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburg by the "Golden Gate Special" on Wednesday, February 16, stopping at the great Mammoth and New Orleans during the Mardi Gras carnival. Four weeks will be allowed on the Pacific coast. Returning, stops will be made at Salt Lake City, Colorado Springs (Garden of the Gods), Denver, Chicago, etc. Round-trip rate, including transportation, meals, carriage drives, hotel accommodations, and Pullman berth Los Angeles to San Francisco, and transportation in California, \$335.00 from all stations east of Pittsburg; with hotel accommodations, meals, transfers, and carriage drives through California for four weeks, \$125.00 additional. An experienced chaperon will accompany the party for the benefit of the lady tourists. For itineraries and full information, apply to ticket agents; tourist agent, 1196 Broadway, New York; or address Geo. W. Boyd, assistant general passenger agent, Broad street station, Philadelphia. 43-5-2t

Facts About 1898.

The year 1898 will begin and end on Saturday. It will have six eclipses, of which only two, both of the moon, taking place January 7th and December 27th, will be visible to North America.

Lincoln's birthday will fall on Saturday, Washington's on Tuesday, Decoration Day and Fourth of July on Monday, Christmas on Sunday. Labor Day will be September 5th, Thanksgiving should be November 24th. First Sunday in Lent, February 27th. Palm Sunday, April 3rd. Easter Sunday, April 10th.

The Hebrew year 5659 will begin at sunset of Friday, September 16th. On July 4th the 123d year of American independence will begin. The four seasons will begin on these days in 1898: spring, March 20th; summer, June 21st; autumn, September 22nd; winter, December 21st.

Ironical Ifs.

If mistakes were crimes most men would be in jail. If all flesh is grass then babies must be new moon hay. If might doesn't always make right it seldom gets left. If you live to a green old age beware of the bunco man who is not sharp as a raiser he can never succeed. If all the world's a stage the real estate dealer must be the property man. If you have a bad memory you can improve it by doing things that you can't forget. If the bicycle succeeds in displacing the horse it may also do away with the nightmare. If a man is smart he can always catch on and if he is wise he will always know when to let go.

One of the Results of Protection.

Already almost every one of the great essentials under modern conditions of life has been "trusted." The laws of trade have for the most part been abrogated by vast accumulations of capital. Many things are practically "trusted" where the designation has been avoided. There has been scarcely a week since McKinley was inaugurated which has not seen the birth of one of these gigantic monopolies. The people must act through their legislatures. They must act promptly for their own preservation and for the preservation of peace. For sane, reasoning, men, who have no desire to subvert or unsettle the rights of property, will not sit quiet while two hundred odd combinations trifle with the destinies of the country, even to the matter of very life and death.

Many Pennsylvanians will hear with regret that the celebrated farms of Colonel James Young, at Middletown, are not likely to continue under one management, as heretofore, and that an extensive series of public sales of the vast quantity of personal property will take place during the next three months. The young farms have been a fine advertisement of Pennsylvania agriculture, and it is unfortunate that they cannot be operated as heretofore.

Wasted Opportunities.

All those who during the war lost sleep or lost their appetites or lost track of any of their friends should at once write to a pension attorney. They don't know what they are missing.

BUCKLEN'S ARNICA SALVE.—The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by F. Potte Green.

Try Holding Your Breath.

The modern quick moving elevator, when it sinks suddenly, gives many persons an unpleasant, qualmish feeling. Into a well filled elevator in a big shopping store the other day stepped from one of the floors two women.

"Do you know," said one of them to the other, "that if you hold your breath going down in an elevator you don't have that unpleasant feeling; you don't feel it at all."

Of course nobody in the elevator listened intentionally, but nobody could help hearing what she said. Conversation instantly ceased, and everybody drew a long breath. The elevator shot downward in silence. "Ground floor!" said the elevator man as he threw back the door, and the women streamed out from the car upon the floor, talking now gayly, and there was one at least who said that the plan was effective. —New York Sun

FREE PILLS.—Send your address to H. E. Bucklen & Co., Chicago, and get a free sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. A trial will convince you of their merits. These pills are easy in action and are particularly effective in the cure of Constipation and Sick Headache. For Malaria and Liver troubles they have been proved invaluable. They are guaranteed to be perfectly free from every deleterious substance and to be purely vegetable. They do not weaken by their action, but by giving tone to stomach and bowels greatly invigorate the system. Regular size 25c. per box. Sold by F. Potte Green, druggist.

A REAL CATARRH CURE.—The ten cent trial size of Ely's Cream Balm which can be had of the druggist is sufficient to demonstrate its great merit. Send 10 cts., we mail it. Full size 50c. ELY BROS., 56 Warren St., N. Y. City. Catarrh caused difficulty in speaking and to a great extent loss of hearing. By the use of Ely's cream Balm dropping of mucus has ceased, voice and hearing have greatly improved.—J. W. Davidson, Att'y at Law, Monmouth, Ill.

The Sphinx's Riddle. Johnny—What is "the riddle of the sphinx?" Papa (with a meaning glance at mamma)—The riddle of the sphinx is this: How can she, being at least part woman, sit there year after and century after century without ever saying a word? Ah, my boy, I guess it'll never be answered either! —Cleveland Leader.

Hood's Sarsaparilla is known to be an honest medicine, and it actually cures when all others fail. Take it now.

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HARNESS, HARNESS, HARNESS,

SADDLES,

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—To-day Prices have Dropped—

THE LARGEST STOCK OF HORSE COLLARS IN THE COUNTY.

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33-37

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A SOURCE OF DANGER

is a leaking waste pipe or trap, a poorly ventilated closet, or any plumbing that is defective. Epidemics of disease resulting from just such things have killed thousands and will kill thousands.

Is your plumbing all right? Dare you risk having it any other way? Consult us about it.

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Insurance.

ACCIDENT AND HEALTH INSURANCE.

THE FIDELITY MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION WILL PAY YOU

If disabled by an accident \$30 to \$100 per month

If you lose two limbs, \$200 to \$5,000

If you lose your eye sight, \$200 to \$5,000

If you lose one limb, \$83 to \$2,000

If you are ill \$40 per month

If killed, will pay your heirs, \$200 to \$5,000

If you die from natural cause, \$100.

IF INSURED,

You cannot lose all your income when you are sick or disabled by accident. Absolute protection at a cost of \$1.00 to \$2.25 per month.

The Fidelity Mutual Aid association is prominently the largest and strongest accident and health association in the United States.

It has \$6,000,000 cash deposits with the States of California and Missouri, which, together, with an ample reserve fund and large assets, make its certificate an absolute guarantee of the solidity of protection to its members.

For particulars address

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NOW IS THE TIME TO EMAMINE YOUR ROOF.

During the Rough Weather that will be experienced from now until Spring you will have a chance to Examine your Roof and see if it is in good condition. If you need a new one or an old one repaired I am equipped to give you the best at reasonable prices. The Celebrated Copyright Tin Shingles and all kinds of tin and iron roofing.

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MOLASSES. PURE MAPLE SYRUP, IN ONE

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