

Democrat Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., Dec. 16, 1898.

FARM NOTES.

If an old rooster is not fit for the table kill him anyhow and bury him.

Never mind threshing the oats for the fowls; they prefer to do it themselves.

Hens lay better and the eggs keep longer if no males are allowed with them.

Clear up under the trees and vines before winter and many injurious insects will be destroyed.

The feeding of salt to dairy cows should be done regularly and not occasionally. It may be given as a seasoning to the ground grain or placed where they can have access to it. Cows have been known to fall off one-tenth of flow of milk when deprived of salt. There are some who do not believe in the use of salt by allowing stock to help themselves, but it is beneficial to season their food with it, which makes their food more palatable and better relished.

A correspondent in the New England homestead has an excellent as well as a humane way for the relief of chocking cattle, and he thus describes it: "When the animal becomes choked I find the obstruction by feeling along the throat with one hand, and in nine cases out of ten it is found in the gullet. With the thumb and fingers the obstacle can be forced out the way it went in, and generally the animal is ready to assist in the removal. A few years ago I had a heifer that was choked with apples every few days, and in every instance I removed them in this way without difficulty or danger of injuring the animal. I think anything which an animal gets in its throat and cannot get down in the natural way should not be pushed down, thereby endangering the life.

In making preparations for the winter quarters of the fowls do not commit the error of crowding 30 into a room only large enough for 20. One of the causes of disease is that of crowding the fowls and then attempting to overcome the evil by ventilating. When there are too many hens together the heat of their bodies causes ascending currents of air, and as the warm air rises the cold air comes in. If there is a top ventilator the warm air will also come in at the lower portion, which passes over the heads of the fowls, and causes the well-known cases of swelled head and eyes, or leads to roup. No poultry house will require a ventilator if the hens are not crowded. A dozen hens in a house 10 by 10 feet are sufficient, and any excess over that number will render the whole liable to disease.

Bloating in cattle comes from a variety of causes, and in some breeds it appears to develop more easily than in others. Cows taken from winter field and turned loose upon a good pasture field are apt to bloat. In changing cattle from one kind of feed to another bloating is also caused by ventilation. The change is made very gradual. Bloating does not necessarily mean indigestion, as many supposed to be the case a few years ago, but this disease may sometimes accompany it. It is more generally an indication that the bulk of the food taken into the stomach has fermented, and this destroys the gastric juices and causes the rapid formation of gas. The true remedy is a preventive one. Be careful in changing the food of the animals, and never let them eat too much of any one thing. But if for some reason they show signs of bloating a dose of colchicum, which is the active principle of the saffron root, can be given safely. This is a very gradual remedy in the form, and in small doses. This will correct the acidity of the stomach and in the early stages of bloating cure the disease without any discomfort to the animals. From three to five drops of the liquid colchicum in the animal's water will suffice. The dose can be repeated the first does not perform the work satisfactorily. It must be remembered in administering this medicine that it is a deadly poison when given in large doses, but if given in homoeopathic doses it is very beneficial. The animals should be fed very sparingly for a few days after the medicine has been administered.—*American Cultivator.*

The great scourge of the peach grower is the "yellows" the symptoms of which are a sickly, yellowish green color of the foliage, small leaves (often clustered and tinged with red), small and wiry new shoots growing in clusters or tufts (especially if they come out on the trunks or main branches), while fruit ripens prematurely, is small, high colored and bitter to the taste. Many causes and remedies have been assigned for the disease, but it is recognized as contagious, the safest precaution being to cut down and burn the first tree showing indications of being diseased; but it is claimed that while some varieties are more liable to attack than others the disease appears mostly in neglected orchards, or where there is an insufficient supply of plant food. Severe heading back and an application of a mixture of 100 pounds nitrate of soda, 200 pounds muriate of potash and 800 pounds of bone meal, the ground being cultivated well a few inches on the surface, and the mixture mentioned applied in March or April, from 5 to 10 pounds per tree, resulted in eradicating the disease and renewing the orchard; but others have found it impossible to prevent total destruction of the orchard when "yellows" appears under any method used.

All fertilizers should be scattered over the ground ten feet around the tree and worked in. Manure may be applied as a mulch in the fall. In addition to the "yellows" the borer is a most damaging enemy but by careful watching it can be held in check. Plant lice at the roots frequently destroy trees before they are discovered, the best remedy being to remove the earth down to the roots and drench with soap-suds into which unleached wood ashes have been stirred, so as to secure a fair portion of caustic potash. It is claimed that peach trees should be cultivated as corn and kept as clean. Crimson clover may be seeded in the fall and turned under in spring, applying also at the same time air-slaked lime, muriate of potash and bone-meal, broadcast. It is best to have a winter crop as a covering to the soil, but it must not remain after spring opens. Whitewashing the trees in February and spraying the branches with whitewash is said to delay the buds and protect against frost. The severe cutting back of a tree often gives it new life, and the centre should be well pruned, so as to admit plenty of air and warmth from the sun. In some sections, where the trees live but five or six years, a new orchard is started every year, as the old trees are removed, and one good crop in three years may give a good profit for all the work done during several seasons.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Rose Bonheur at 78 is described as "active as a girl and full of vivacity." Her white hair is cut short, and now she is likened to Adolph Thiers. Between 10 and 20 years ago she very strongly resembled Henry Ward Beecher. Her decorations are many, but on the breast of her working coat she wears only the rosette of the Legion of Honor.

The acme of smartness in a collar these days is to have it grip the neck close and high, and the height of it to be cut in a series of points or scallops, so that the face is held in a fair imitation of a rose calyx. Flowering out under your chin you have a big tulle bow, a wide brooch of lace or an eighteenth century cravat falling to the bust, but the foundation of the collar is hardly more comfortable than a seat in the stocks or the hangman's noose.

Stooped shoulders is one beauty ill that is wholly unnecessary. Any girl with real brains and a little energy and will power can make herself straight and bestow upon herself a good carriage. It is entirely a matter of doing and persevering. Most of us know remedies for our small failings, but—alas and alack—how many of us apply them persistently until a cure is brought about? Few indeed, and more's the pity.

When starting the reform always bear in mind that the chest must be held upward and outward. When this is done it is not necessary to keep the shoulders back in a forced, strained position, and so make little crook in the back of your gown. And the benefits of holding the chest thus are more than one—or two either, for that matter. If practiced continually it will strengthen the lungs. It will also develop the chest and neck as no measure of miracle-working fingers can ever hope to. The breathing exercises are also excellent. Throw open the windows each morning, and in loose dressing gown expand the lungs to the very limit. Continue this for at least five minutes. Walk slowly across the floor while going through the exercise, as this helps. It is a fact that these breathing exercises, if continued for a year, will develop the chest an inch or two, and when development once begins it increases faster than one would imagine.

Incorrect positions during sleep cause many stooped shoulders. The big, fat, awful pillow of our grandmother's day is the worst kind of a horror. No pillow at all is best, and after one becomes accustomed to sleeping that way it will be found much more restful and altogether comfortable. The best position for sleep is to lie face downward, with the arms straight at the sides. Of course, I am fully aware that most women sleep curled up like little shrimps, but then they can change their ways if they will but try.

Now to be fashionable a woman must button her waist in the back and her skirt in the front, and these new skirts fit so tight about the hips that you must fasten them in one of three ways if you would have them look right, button them from belt to hem down the centre of the front breadth, or button down the entire length of the left front seam or fasten in the two front seams like the bicycle and golf skirts.

If you want a pretty room without expense to yourself, try the experiment of decorating your walls with the pictures out from the newspapers. Every day there are interesting scenes from foreign lands, wonderful ships and beautiful ladies. Cut them out carefully and mount on squares of rough gray paper. Without framing these, tack them upon the walls in irregular designs until nearly the whole of the wall is covered. You will be amazed to see how pretty and attractive your room is. A young lady who decorated her room at a summer resort in this way was delighted with the results. Her only complaint was that her friends looked at the pictures, instead of visiting with her.

The great big pompadour still rages—on this side of the water, but in Paris the change has come. You can't pick up a foreign fashion plate and find a single pompadour on the pictured model. Everything is curls, curls, curls. Curls in the nape of the neck, curls at the back of the head, and curls clustered on temples and forehead. Not combed out curls, mind you, that blow about in delicate tendrils, but solid rings of curls, massed together in the suggestion of a bang. "We'll never go back to that," assert American girls in the vanity of their fair, white foreheads, "never, never, never."

Neither this winter nor next spring, perhaps, but—well, make the most of your picturesque pompadours while you may, for the change is coming.

At this season of the year it is almost impossible to keep the hands from chapping and looking red when they are in water as frequently as it is necessary to have them. Below is given a most excellent receipt for making Laureline, which is simply and easily prepared at home and very inexpensive.

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