

FARM NOTES.

FOR POULTRY.

Do not feed too much soft feed. Keep four ducks to one drake. Never use imperfect fowls for breeding.

Generally, the better the scratcher the better the layer. When you get ready to fatten fowls, do the work quickly.

Separate the cocks from the hens; they molt better alone. Game chickens, given a free range, are in danger of being overfed.

Get rid of the hens you do not intend to keep through the winter. Hens require a variety of food; they get excessively tired of one kind.

The most successful fanciers are those that keep one or two breeds. Hens should be killed when they are 3 years old; they lay fewer eggs after that.

Grain is sufficient in lime and mineral matter, but bran is rich in nitrogen and carbon. Scalding fowls before picking partially cooks the delicate skin, rendering it dry and wrinkled.

While linned and cottonseed meals are excellent foods, much of them will cause a loss of feathers. It rarely pays to spend much time trying to cure a bad case of rump or egg-bound in hens. Use the hatchet.

When your birds have bowel disease, change the food for a few days and at the same time change the grit. With a small flock of 15 hens, which should raise during the season a hundred chickens easily, the use of a full-blooded cock of some large breed will add 100 pounds to those 100 chickens if allowed to grow to maturity.

The extra hundred pounds of flesh will be laid on without any additional cost of feeding, for a scrub chicken eats as much as a full-blooded one. This gain can be made by the purchase of a single good rooster, that should not cost over three dollars at most.

All consumers of honey ought to know that all pure extracted honey granulates and becomes a waxy mass resembling lard in cold weather. Its granulation early in autumn after taken from the hives on the approach of cold weather and remains so ever afterward unless it is heated up nearly to the boiling point, when it returns again to liquid. Glucose and other syrups used to adulterate honey do not thus granulate, but remain liquid, and all such found on the market and offered for honey may be looked upon with suspicion.

The masses of the people have the mistaken idea just the reverse of this and form their conclusions that the purely liquid article is the pure honey and that the granulated article is some kind of sugar. The granulation of honey should not be objected to by consumers, and when once they thoroughly accustomed themselves to the use of it in this condition they will find it much more preferable.

There is one matter on which farmers and investigators do not agree and that is when to plow. The number of farmers who believe in fall plowing is as large as those who will not touch the land before spring, and it must be admitted that there is much to learn in that direction. One of the causes for disagreement is that soils differ, not only in the same locality but also on the same farm. Then there is level land, hillside, clay, sand shallow and deep soils, and varieties of subsoils, all of which must be considered in determining when to plow.

Some farmers plow in the fall, especially in this latitude, as severe winter does not set in before Christmas during some years, with an occasional warm spell during the cold months. Plowing is then done in order to avoid the haste of getting ready in spring and also because when the ground is turned over many enemies, such as the outworm, are brought to the surface and exposed to warm rains and frosts, which destroy them, while others prefer to plow in the late fall, so as to permit the frost to enter and pulverize the soil.

Those who plow in the spring usually endeavor to do so as early in the season as they can get on the land, in order to derive the benefit of the spring frosts and also because they will then have a soil that is loose when freshly plowed, which is not the case with fall-plowed land, but those who do not object to the extra labor will plow the same field both in fall and spring; hence the preferences and methods largely depend upon circumstances and the kind of crop to be grown.

PLOWING FOR MOISTURE. Within the past five years much attention has been directed to the effect of plowing on the retention of moisture. It is now known that the amount of water remaining in the soil depends on the capacity of the soil to absorb moisture, and its capacity depends also on its treatment at the time of plowing. It is also well known that a large volume of earth will absorb more moisture than a small quantity, and as the soil will hold and retain moisture like a sponge the more soil that can be made to absorb water the greater the supply that will be stored for future use. Experiments show that after the ground has been plowed it should be compacted, which is done by using a roller over the plowed ground. Under what is known as the Campbell system, now practiced in the West, the land is plowed eight or ten inches deep, so as to loosen the subsoil, the lower four inches of soil being packed as closely as possible, a packer, or press drill, being used in each furrow while plowing, the packer being a wheel or roller or any contrivance that presses the lower portion. If the work must be done by packing all the earth in the furrow the upper three inches must be loosened with a cultivator and kept loose, even before the crop is planted. Such a system may appear novel to eastern farmers, but those in the West find that by its use they largely mitigate the effects of drought. They claim that they make a storage reservoir of every furrow, and if the plowing is not performed they use the land roller and then loosen it a top soil. It is true that the rains will go down and pack the soil, and it is naturally supposed that the loosening of the soil with the plow, only to pack it down again, would be labor wasted; but the practical experience of western farmers demonstrates that there are advantages in the method.

"Has the furnace gone out, Bridget?" "Well, if it did, ma'am it must 'a' gone out th' cellar widdy. Shure it did'n't go t'rough here."

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Politeness is the flower of humanity.

Astrakan has been employed for enormous muffs, pretty short jackets, and three quarter length capes, bordered with a cross-cut flounce set on without any fullness, and invariably accompanied by high collars. Seal skin and astrakan jackets alike are trimmed with cascaded revers of mink or sable, wide at the throat, and tapering towards the waist.

For wearing with house boleros high corselet belts are in demand, and so they are for open Eton waists, which round up in front, but show little or nothing of a belt in the back. In this case the corselet is fitted high up with its front top line somewhat arched. A stout tailor's linen lining must first be fitted to the figure and fasten on the left side. Over that drape or cover flat, with black silk, satin or velvet, plain or figured, and fasten with hooks and eyes. An immense round or square button on the left side.

Very little judgment is displayed in purchasing ready-made silk skirts. What is thought pretty on a skirt figure decides more often the selection than the harmony which should exist between the gown skirt and the petticoat. One should not forget that wherever a petticoat is not a match, or in accord with the dress skirt, it must prove a discord, and that invariably ruins the whole suit. For this reason black skirts, as a rule, are the best purchase for street wear. For winter wear, using nun's veiling for lining gives the warmth needed, all silk skirts being the reverse of warm, as those who wear them discover.

If you are troubled with insomnia sip a glass of hot milk slowly just before going to bed and bathe the feet in hot water. Imitate the breathing of one who is asleep, and drop the head very slowly from one side to the other as one does when falling asleep in a chair.

Another plan is to close the eyes and then allow them to gently roll toward the nose as though looking cross-eyed. Let the breath out through the nose and imagine it to be vapor, then seem to draw it back again, as though drawing back the vapor.

These are far better than the ancient device of counting sheep jumping over an imaginary fence. No sane woman nowadays expects a faultless skin or a symmetrical form who does not realize the importance of keeping the sanitary conditions of her body in control. The liver and kidneys make or mar all beauty efforts. They must not be clogged.

More than one half of the bad figures we see on the streets are due to careless or ignorant dressing. The woman who believes that warmth of body is only secured by a multiplicity of garments will have clumsy hips, an awkward waist line and a general appearance of being bundled up. When union underwear was universally adopted much of the clumsy look was dissipated and when petticoats were reduced in number another step was taken toward beauty of form. Unfortunately we are not all progressive and winter yet means to us the heavy garments which are disfiguring.

Warm clothing does not mean heavy wrappings—on the contrary there are finely woven, close fitting garments which are the same of comfort. Such garments are not expensive and they need the addition of but one petticoat to insure us against the severe winter.

Even if we are compelled to do our own housework, or to assist in any manner, there is no excuse for rough, red hands. Gloves can be worn when sweeping or dusting and rubber gloves can be put on when washing greasy pots and pans. When they are at all soiled from any work, give them a thorough washing and scrubbing with a good, pure soap and a moderate stiff brush. Dry them thoroughly, as imperfect drying is one of the most frequent causes of chapped hands. Rub them briskly with a towel until they are dry and smooth, and after that you can apply a little lanolin and make them still feel smoother.

The white pique collar which was so much favored during the summer, and which gave such a neat and admirable finish to tailor suits, has not been abandoned. It was far too becoming and elegant. These adjustable collars give a certain style and character not always attainable by all women with plain tailor suits. While at least one well-dressed woman has been seen with a pique collar of late, the more reasonable ones are made of cloth, bengaline or satin. Cloth, broadcloth, is the more elegant perhaps, but the others are really handsome. As was the case with those of white pique, the collar may be plain or it may be stitched; or, to be still more elaborate, it may be embroidered or enriched with black or white appliques. Designs in braid or cord, too, are sometimes used.

As to the cut, that is mostly a matter of taste and becomingness. Some of these collars are simply shawl shape, ending at the bust. They may extend across the back, in a curved or straight line, and be narrow or broad. The dainty pointed reverse shapes are usually chosen, and these may end at the vest or be continued to the end of the little jacket.

The cut must be correct. Canvas or orinoline serves for the interlining. The collar may be double or lined with taffeta or other lining silk. The revers and collar of a dress that fits often serve as the very best pattern. White is the chosen color for these pleasing accessories.

Every lady has a short skirt this winter. She may, in fact, have more, but always has one, neat, tailored skirt, which clears the ground. This is intended for walking, shopping or genteel street use. It is often very smart and has no doubt cost a good deal of money. But it is worth it, if only in the freedom it confers from the fatigue of holding up the train. We all have our trained skirts for calling or receptions, but we do not put them on as a rule before 4 o'clock, unless to wear at some luncheon christening, wedding or breakfast party.

The short skirt is often called a "trot-about." It is noticeable for the neatness of the back drapery. It bears no creases which betray how the cloth has been crumpled by being lifted and carried in a warm gloved hand.

The constant strain of holding up a trained skirt is said to make women grow crooked, raising the right shoulder unduly while the left is cramped down by the fatigue of holding up a heavy, lined cloth garment.

Some Hints for Christmas.

Go early and avoid the crush is sound advice, but what to buy when one gets there is often the stumbling block. Wise acres tell us to save half the time and labor for ourselves, we should have a list before starting of just what is desired for each one with the maximum expenditure alongside of it. The appended list of reasonable things will prove of great assistance in this preliminary. Suppose you want just a trifling remembrance for a man, say fifty cents for the cost.

Books in plenty may be had for this sum, leather card case, tobacco pouch, pocket address book, gun metal cigar-holder, woolen gloves, pocket pencil with silver protector, silver scarfpin, tobacco jar, silver bag tag, or hat marker, leather shaving pad, and beer stein, etc.

For a woman for the same sum, your list might include a half dozen silver hairpins, silver-topped salve box, a pretty white embroidered mull apron, writing folio, fan, dainty calendar, card case or coin purse, leather chantelaine bag, brush and comb tray, silver curling iron, silk mittens, or sleeveless paper vest to wear for warmth under a jacket.

Fifty cents would buy a boy handkerchiefs, wallet, sled, military cap, silver cuff links, silver tie clasp, silver coat hanger, a game or a movable picture book.

A girl could be remembered by a pocket-book, either plain or mounted, wave crest jewel box, silver handled tooth brush, picture, dressed doll, doll's go-cart, game, ice skates, pretty handkerchiefs, necktie of lace or silk.

For a dollar the possibilities are very much greater. That would buy a man a flask, gold collar button, silver-handled whisk, kid gloves, letter case in fancy leather, triplicate mirror for shaving, a soft felt hat, golf club, reading glass, silver napkin ring, fencing sticks, striking bag or driving gloves.

Your dollar list for a woman could contain black satin lined skirt, lace trimmed handkerchief, silver tea strainer, satin damask towel (hemstitched or knotted fringe), elderdown dressing sacque, lorgnette, French bronze miniature bust, Renaissance piece of various sorts, belt clasp, kid gloves, silver hat pin, bed room slippers or printed tapestry panel.

A boy would be pleased with a soldier suit, initial school bag, tool chest, toy trunk, gold pencil, gold scarf pin, football suit, football leggings (cloth or stockinette), a box of juvenile stationery, all of which may be had for a dollar.

A dollar will get a girl a ring, almost any trifle in sterling silver, engraved plate with 50 cards, fancy box of writing paper with quite a lot of paper and envelopes, metal coin purse, stick pin, silver lorgnette chain, lined work basket or a pretty waste basket.

As the amount increases the scope of choice is wider necessarily. A few of the things that may be had for two dollars for a man are Romeo slippers, silk suspenders (pretty boxed) woolen sweater, silver trimmed cane, satin full dress protector and a traveling toilet case.

For a woman, umbrella stand, house gown, mouseline de soie tie, or a chiffon jabot, silk sofa cushion, tabouret, jardenerie; tortoise shell comb for the back of her hair, fancy clock, duchess lace handkerchief.

For a boy, fountain pen, velocipede, velvet-lined leggings, boxing gloves, solid gold tie clasp, rubber coat, woolen sweater, football nose mask or head harness, slippers, Rugby footballs, camera, studs for full dress and a ring.

For a girl, solid gold neck chain, leather engagement pad, black mohair in fancy box for a skirt, fan chain, photograph frames to hold from one to six pictures, silver garter clasps, silver back clothes brush, silver bangles, bracelet, mackintosh, set of three solid gold studs and clock in leather case.

Important New Rules.

Which the P. R. R. Will Adopt January 1st, 1900.

The officials of the Pennsylvania railroad company are at work on several new rules, to go into effect on January 1st, 1900, that will effect thousands of men in the employ of the company and other thousands who may have intended to become employees of the company.

It is generally understood in official railroad circles that the following rules will go into effect the first day of next year. The company will employ no person under 18 years of age or over 35 years of age. Persons who have been in the employ of the railroad company continuously for 30 years and have reached the age of 70 years will be compelled to quit the service of the company. They will, however, be retired on a pension during the remainder of their lives. Employees who have been in the service of the company 30 years and are 65 years old can go on the retired list if they choose and draw a pension. A railroad official interviewed said the amount of pension money the employees on the retired list are to receive has not yet been made public.

He said, however, the amount would be based upon the pay they drew for their services to the company and the length of time they had been employed. The new rules take in all the employees of the Pennsylvania railroad company, both on the road and in the shops. The new departure will affect a large number of men who are employees of the company, who will be found on the retired list after January 1st, 1890.

There seems to be no objection to retiring employees who have reached an advanced age on a pension, but considerable complaint is heard about the rule which prohibits a man over 35 years old becoming an employee of the company. A man at this age is supposed to be just in the prime of life, and shermen say that some of the best employes in the company's service are now far past that age.

The question was asked recently: "If a blind-folded man be placed 1,000 feet from a marksman with a 38-55 Marlin smokeless metal patched shell, the man to drop down on hearing the report from the rifle, marksman to shoot at the man's head, what would be the result?" A correspondent answers: "Sound travels 1090 ft. a second, and the bullet would travel 1375 ft. a second, the thermometer being at 32 degrees. The blind-folded man would never hear the report."

Roofing.

A LEAKING ROOF IS A PESKY NUISANCE.

W. H. Miller, Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, Pa., puts on new or repairs old slate roofs at the lowest prices. Estimates on new work gladly furnished. 42-38

Farm Profits Slow.

Prices Do Not Advance in a Ratio With Other Products.

Franklin Dye, secretary of the State Board of Agriculture of New Jersey, has submitted his annual report to the Governor. According to the report, there are in the State 200,000 dairy cattle, and the dairy business is becoming more and more a special branch of agriculture.

The secretary says that the year 1899 has not given New York farmers that degree of increased prosperity or profits from their work that other industries seemed to be favored with, for the reason that farm products have not advanced in price in ratio to the advance in others. Such products as milk and butter have not advanced in proportion to the price of beef. Wheat is also slow in leaving the low prices received prior to 1897. Dollar wheat means an addition to the wheat growers' income in New Jersey over that of the present to the amount of \$1,000,000.

Early fruits were so low in price as to scarcely pay for gathering and marketing. The severe drought of last summer reduced the hay crop to 40 per cent. of a good yield, and potatoes to about 50 per cent. The loss to the farmers of New Jersey on these two crops alone will exceed \$2,000,000.

The Royal Gold.

At the late banquet given the Emperor and Empress of Germany by the former's grandmother, Queen Victoria, she displayed \$10,000 worth of the gold plate on the sideboards of the royal dining rooms. The sight must have been a gorgeous one, but we wonder who of the one hundred and forty guests present, thought of the lives that had been sacrificed to secure the little baubles for the English crown. It is gold that is making dead English and dead Soos in South Africa, but hundreds of millions of it wrought into fine tableware for royalty to dine from can't replace the precious lives that are given up in the greedy struggle for it that Victoria's people are making now.—Easton Sentinel.

JUST SAVED HIS LIFE.—It was a thrilling escape that Charles Davis of Bowersston, O., lately had from a frightful death. For two years a severe lung trouble constantly grew worse until it seemed he must die of consumption. Then he began to use Dr. King's New Discovery and lately wrote: "It gave instant relief and effected a permanent cure." Such wonderful cures have for 25 years proven it's power to cure all throat, chest and lung troubles. Price 50c and \$1.00. Every bottle guaranteed. Trial bottles free at F. Potts Green's drug store.

Music at Home.

"Do you play any instrument, Mr. Jim?" "Yes, I'm a cornetist." "And your sister?" "She's a pianist." "Does your mother play?" "She's a zitherist." "He's a pessimist."

Melvin Williams, the young butcher of Munson who had the misfortune to lose one of his feet by the accidental discharge of a friend's gun a couple of weeks ago while on his way in the cars to visit his parents at Oostburg, only a short time previously took out a policy which will entitle him to \$2,500.

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