

FARM NOTES.

The farmer who hustles through his work in order to be ahead of his neighbor rarely has good crops to brag of.

The flavor of milk is not always due to the food. On hundreds of farms there is an utter lack of cleanliness in the handling of milk, although it is well known that sickness and death are caused by the germs which enter into milk through lack of cleanliness in milking and carelessness in other details.

Many suggestions have been made in regard to spraying, but the use of kerosene should be done carefully. Kerosene emulsion is recommended for many purposes, but there are strong and mild emulsions, according to the proportion of water used. Pure kerosene, even in small quantities, will quickly destroy peach trees.

Plants must have food and water, the same as animals. The fine white roots are the feeding mouths, while the leaves take carbon from the atmosphere. Plants make their most rapid growth when well supplied with a variety of food, and, as they convert food into salable products, they should be well fed or they will fail to give satisfactory results.

Nitrogen in plants induces growth of stems and leaves, and gives the deep green color which indicates thrift. Phosphoric acid assists in the development of the seeds. Potash is essential for the woody portions of plants and increases the yield of fruit by promoting the growth of the fleshy portions, giving quality. It is believed that the proportion of sugar in fruit is largely increased by potash. To have a perfect plant and to secure the largest yield therefrom, the soil must be supplied with all of these substances.

Wood ashes should be carefully saved under shelter. They are rich in both potash and lime. When purchasing wood ashes do not overlook the fact that dry ashes absorb moisture from the atmosphere and the weight varies according to the weather. No estimation of the composition of wood ashes can be considered reliable, as much depends upon the kinds of wood from which they are obtained, but it is not far out of the way to claim that 100 pounds contain about 40 pounds of lime, six pounds of potash and two pounds of phosphoric acid.

Those who keep late pullets with the expectation that they will begin to lay in winter will be disappointed as a rule. Such pullets seldom begin to lay until the warm weather of the spring season begins. Birds do not lay in winter in their natural state, and the barnyard fowls are no exception, as they must receive assistance in the way of food and shelter. Domestication makes changes in the characteristics of birds, and the only way to secure eggs in winter is to have the fowls under summer conditions if possible. Early pullets should lay in winter, but late pullets do not fully mature before winter, and do not lay to their fullest capacity, because they must supply their bodies with material for growth and warmth.

How can a good colt be selected? Opinions differ on this subject. Some affirm it is very difficult, if not impossible, to judge a colt before he is somewhat matured. Others pretend that at six months one can decide what he will be, while others say that 18 months a selection can be made on his merits with almost a certainty. At 18 months the ensemble of the proportions of the head, the chest and shoulders and of the body is very near what it will be at four years if the animal has been slightly raised, the legs alone lengthening slightly.

There are some indications of the general order that will serve as a guide in the selection of a colt. A colt that has a good resemblance to a mature horse will have very little to acquire. A colt high in the thighs should foretell a large horse, but if the knees are small and the hams narrow and flat the legs will be lank and puny and the colt will develop little force or value for the raiser. The colt that is said to come near the earth is the one to select, for whatever other specialty he may have this is a superior quality. The connoisseur can judge and decide the merits of a colt by a glance of the eye, but the inexperienced must take into account all the knowledge he can obtain. The growth of the common horse often terminates at three years, while that of a race horse is not often achieved until towards five years. One can therefore say a horse is fully matured at five years, but one should not demand a maximum of labor and fatigue until six years.

An unusually large amount of corn will be cut this fall. The shortage of pasture made it necessary for many farmers to begin feeding in July. This long season will require an immense amount of forage, and farmers will depend more than usual upon the fodder crop to carry their animals through. As a general rule, green fodder, particularly this year, is more valuable fed directly after cutting than at any other time if it is sufficiently mature to make good forage. In view of all this The American Agriculturist advises as follows:

The wise farmer therefore will utilize his corn crop to the best advantage. If he has stock that can be fattened on the whole corn plant before frost or at any rate partly fattened before that time, he will cut his corn now and feed it at once. If he can get his cattle or sheep to market before frost comes, they will be more profitable than if he simply keeps them in good flesh, cuts and cures his corn and attempts to fatten them this winter when they are a little older.

Where corn is intended for fodder it should be allowed to mature fairly well before cutting is started. However, if a great deal is to be taken care of begin cutting when it is still on the green order. Cut about one half a shock, allow to cure a day or two, then cut the remainder. This will result in a fodder highly digestible, although not quite so heavy as it would have been had it remained uncut a week or two longer. If possible the cutting should be delayed until the low blades have died and the kernels are well dented. In other words, it should be well advanced in the dough stage.

The size of the shock will of course depend upon the character of the corn and somewhat upon the practice in the locality. In the central west shocks sixteen hills square seem to be favorites, but farther east smaller shocks, ranging all the way from eight to ten hills square, are most common. This year the corn is short and can be handled very easily with a corn binder.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Face—that is very much soiled may be cleaned by putting it into a glass jar and covering it with gasoline. After shaking it for ten minutes allow it to stand for twenty four hours. Then give it a bath in clean gasoline, squeeze dry and roll it up on bottles, smoothing out the pattern carefully. When dry unroll and hang in the air to remove the odor. This should be done in the daytime and at a distance from any fire, preferably out of doors, as gasoline generates gas rapidly and is very explosive.

Frozen Peaches.—A quart of canned or fresh peaches, a heaping pint of granulated sugar, one quart of water. Boil the sugar and water 12 minutes, add the peaches, and cook 20 minutes longer. Rub through a sieve and freeze. Take out the heater, and stir in a pint of whipped cream lightly with a spoon.

One way of Keeping Away the Marks of Time.—The skin should be thoroughly cleansed once a day. Have the room warm and the water only a few degrees cooler. Stay in the bath five minutes, keeping yourself either under water or pouring wet all the time. But it is after you leave the tub that the really important part of the bath begins. Dry yourself thoroughly with two towels; then take a stiff flesh brush and try with all your might to rub your skin off. A cocoanut fibre brush is the best, and to get at your back it is a good plan to have a cocoanut fibre mat lung against the wall to rub yourself against. Keep up this friction for at least ten minutes. You could not invest the same amount of time more usefully. There is nothing like this to relieve the congestion of the blood, and to free the lungs from oppression. Moreover, it actually increases the size of the muscles and makes them firmer by causing the blood to circulate more vigorously in them. As to its effects upon the elasticity and beauty of the skin itself that will be obvious enough at a glance. It is the brush that furnishes the only true bloom of youth.

The bolero's lease is extended, and one meets it on many of the autumn cloth gowns, and I saw a rather smart one with coat tails in a rich dark red Sutherland tweed with strappings of silk and finished with exquisite green enamel and jet buttons. Short coats, and those a little above the three quarter length, are in evidence, but it is impossible to prognosticate with any certainty at present as to which style will be most favored. One thing I do feel sure about is that Dame Fashion will allow us much diversity of choice and that our coat sleeves will be comfortable rather than tight fitting.

The best dressed women prefer simple shirt waists and the most select tailors offer models that are comparatively plain and severe. But the odd blouse that forms the accompaniment of the handsome cloth suit or the special skirt for theater wear, home dinners and the like will be as dainty and attractive during the fall and winter as it has been during the summer months. Rich clothsuits are being shown in hand-somer, more tempting designs than ever, the fancy waists remain a necessary adjunct to correct dress, while no sensible woman consents to be without the serviceable tailored tweed or cheviot, with its accompanying skirt waists of flannel, albatross, cashmere, silk and, still newer, handsome corduroy that is made soft and light of weight. We may wear long jackets or short, loose or tight fitting coats, skirts that are plain or flounced as fashion dictates, the shirt waist remains essentially the same, differs only in detail between the season and last, and comes first on the lists of essentials whether the season be winter or summer, autumn or spring.

Teach the Children.—To take his seat at the table quietly. To use his napkin properly. To wait patiently to be served. To answer promptly. To say "thank you." Never to interrupt and never to contradict. When leaving say "Excuse me, please," when leaving the table before the rest of the party. To fold his napkin and put back his chair or push it close to the table before leaving. And after leaving the table not to return.

Fingers stained by peeling fruit may be cleaned with strong tea, rubbed in well with a nailbrush. Rinse afterward in warm water. If you are having visitors make no attempt to vary your usual bill of fare. Your guest will infinitely prefer the newness of your dishes to an imitation of her own. If you live in the country, the home made bacon and ham will be a real treat, and a bass, fresh from the river, will be a revelation to one who has only eaten fish after it has been packed in ice. If you live in the city do not attempt to serve spring chicken to your country guest. It is impossible for a town chicken ever to become the tender, toothsome morsel she is used to at home. But the juicy steaks and roasts you are so tired of, are a treat she can seldom enjoy at her distance from markets.

Dark green, Russian verdigris, bronze and hunter's green are greatly used. The various shades of castor brown and beige are not neglected. The mauve and heliotrope, shades are not so much liked as formerly, and when they are employed they are in unobtrusive tones. These are days when the eyes hurt, smart and burn, and when the eyes become inflamed only simple remedies should be used. Never tamper with the eye. It is too precious an organ. There is a simple wash made of a solution of ten grains of boracic acid in one ounce each of camphor and rose water, which is good to use. Two drops of this put in the eye three times a day through a medicine dropper placed at the angle nearest the nose will cure ordinary inflammation. If, however, it has spread to the other eye, as it is likely to do, seek the advice of a first class oculist.

A common form of eye trouble is that which attacks the eyelids, causing a continuous gummy secretion, which glues the lids together. The use of the wash already mentioned should be followed by a smearing of the lids in white vaseline which will prevent the destruction of the bulbs of the little hairs which fringe the lids. A gummy condition of the eyelids is an indication of a low condition of the system and a need for tonic.

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Novel Entertainment.

Social Meeting Flavored with a Spice of Oddity. The near approach of the social season lends special interest to novel ideas in providing entertainment and refreshments for guests. A novelty party is especially good at this season of the year. Each guest is required to bring any and all novelties or interesting things they have picked up while away for the summer and relate to the assembled company quite informally the association that cluster around them.

A TRIP-AROUND-THE-WORLD PARTY. A trip-around-the-world party is another new notion that will prove quite entertaining. Articles suggestive of different places in the world, things for which the place is famous, for instance, a cigar for Havana, an empty baked bean can for Boston, tea for China or Ceylon, lace for Brussels, shamrock for Ireland, silk for Lyons, bottle of cologne for Cologne, etc., are placed upon a table or hung upon a curtain or the wall. Then the guests are given numbered blanks to write down the places they visit in their supposed trip around the world. A prize given for the most complete list is optional, but often lends zest.

A LEFT-HANDED FUNCTION. A left-handed function creates much merriment. Each guest upon arrival has his or her right hand put in a sling and is required to do everything the entire evening with the left hand. Friendly contests, at which trifling prizes are awarded, add to the excitement. The feminine portion of the company sew a left-handed seam, as opposed to left-handed pictures cut or drawn by masculinity. There is much rivalry as to who can pay the best left-handed compliment.

MIXED CHARACTERS. Now so new, yet quite entertaining, too, is the party where each guest has a placard fastened to their back upon which is written the name of some character famous in life, fiction or history. The object of each one is to guess what character he or she represents from the conversation and conduct of the others, as each must be addressed by the others in a manner fitting the assumed character. Queen Elizabeth must have homage paid her, Hamlet should be treated with all seriousness, but one may coquette with Carmen.

A LIBRARY PARTY. Another amusement that helps most pleasantly to pass an evening is a so-called library party. At this each lady is given the name of a book and each gentleman an attractively gotten up little catalogue in which are the names of the books in the library. Selecting his title, he goes to the librarian (hostess) and she consults her catalogue and finds which lady has been given that title. A decorative set of rules is hung in the room where the party is held. That each book may only be kept out 15 minutes; that each minute thereafter will be fined, the fine being so many minutes without any book at all for each minute; that each book, if the application is received promptly on time, may be renewed once; that any nook or room in the house may be visited to read the books, and any others that suggest themselves at the time.

REFRESHMENTS. When the entertainment is provided, then refreshments have also to be considered. Ice cream sandwiches have been very popular this summer. These are composed of squares or oblongs of sponge cake with any desired flavor of ice cream pressed between. Sometimes whipped cream, flavored with a dash of some cordial; is poured over it. Ricotta cheese and cream are served, and then frozen like ice cream is a decided novelty. Ice cream croquettes are made of ice cream shaped in a croquette mold and then rolled in macaroon crumbs. A very nice sandwich filling may be made of cold ham or tongue minced through a meat chopper, and then mixed with mayonnaise to form a thick paste. Butter the bread and then spread.

Apples Make You Young. As the apple season is with us again, says *Answers*, it is well to remember that this fruit contains a larger percentage of phosphorus than any other fruit or vegetable. This phosphorus is admirably adapted for renewing the essential nervous matter of the brain and spinal cord. Also, the acids of the apple are of signal use for men of sedentary habits, whose livers are sluggish in action, whose acids serving to eliminate from the body noxious matters, which, if retained, would make the brain heavy and dull, or bring about jaundice or skin eruptions and other allied troubles. Some such an experience must have led to our custom of taking apple sauce with roast pork, rich goose and like dishes. The malic acid of ripe apples, either raw or cooked, will neutralize any excess of chalky matter engendered by eating too much. It is also the fact that such fresh fruits as the apple, pear and the plum, when taken ripe and without sugar, diminish acidity in the stomach rather than provoke it. Their vegetable salts and juices are converted into alkaline carbonates, which tend to counteract acidity.

A good, ripe, raw apple is one of the easiest of vegetable substances for the stomach to deal with, the whole process of its digestion being completed in 85 minutes. A poultice made of rotten apples is of very common use in Lincolnshire for the cure of weak or rheumatic eyes. Likewise in the Hotel des Invalides, at Paris, an apple poultice is used commonly for inflamed eyes, the apple being coarsely and its pulp applied over the eyes without any intervening substance.

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Samoans Discontented!

A letter received in San Francisco on Wednesday from Tutuila, Samoa, calls attention to the discontent among the natives over the manner in which the United States governs the island under its protection. The letter says:

"The opinion here is that the authorities at Washington must either treat this place simply as a protectorate of the United States, allowing the people the right to govern themselves under that protectorate, or they must lay down settled regulations for the government of the islands, and make ample financial provision for carrying out those regulations.

"The inhabitants want to know their real status concerning the United States. Nominally, the islands belong to the United States, but the States do nothing, and the natives and whites live in a quandary, not knowing which way to move or turn for fear of getting into trouble.

"There has been delay in the payment for lands taken by the United States government for public purposes, and also for arms and ammunition turned in by the natives. The Samoans contrast the alleged neglect with the liberality of the Germans at Apia, who are opening up the country, building roads and making other public improvements."

A FRIENDSHIP ATTACK.—An attack was lately made on C. F. Collier, of Cherokee, Iowa, that nearly proved fatal. It came through his kidneys. His back got so lame he could not stoop without great pain, nor sit in a chair except propped by cushions. No remedy helped him until he tried Electro Bitters which effected such a wonderful change that he writes he feels like a new man. This marvelous medicine cures backache and kidney trouble, purifies the blood and builds up your health. Only 50c at Green's drug store.

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