

FARM NOTES.

An elevated site is desirable for a poultry house. Not more than fifty fowls should be kept together for breeding purposes. A low shed kept well littered with straw is best for the ducks and geese. Feed the growing chickens late in the evening and early in the morning. In the fall is the best time to set out small fruits, especially raspberries. Poultry in the orchard destroy insects and keep trees in a good condition. As a rule, currants do far better when mulched after they get large enough to bear. From good thrifty breeding stock one may reasonably expect to raise good, strong, healthy chickens. The raspberry and blackberry canes should be thinned out, leaving about four good canes in each stool. Prune out the old currant bushes rather severely after the leaves fall, giving a good circulation of air through the branches. Trees that were grafted in the spring should be gone over carefully and all water sprouts be removed, so that all of the sap will go to the grafts. Quinces, grapes, blackcap raspberries, gooseberries and currants are all easily propagated by cuttings, so that an abundant supply of plants can be easily secured. The pigs intended for slaughter after cold weather begins will weigh more at killing time if fed a mess of bran and milk along with the corn that is given for fattening. A mess of finely cut clover hay, scalded, with bran added, will also prove an excellent ration. Give dry quarters in cold weather and sufficient litter for bedding. The free use of lime in the autumn, especially under fruit trees, will materially assist in destroying fungi. Use air-slaked lime, and apply it freely. It is not as efficacious as some of the spraying mixtures, but is beneficial to a certain extent at this season. Some soils require lime, and it will prove as valuable under trees as on land intended for regular crops. Horses prefer carrots to all other roots, and enough carrots can be secured from an acre of land to supply a large number of horses during the winter. If farmers will feed carrots to horses and cows less grain and hay will be required, and the animals will not only prefer the variety of food, but be kept in excellent condition at less expense than to depend solely upon dry food. Farmers are beginning to learn that it is not necessary to manure in the hills, but that when manure and fertilizers are spread over the land the crops will be benefited more by such applications than in the hills, because more water is utilized in dissolving out the plant food, and also because the roots of all plants reach in every direction and seek their food. Sometimes it happens that over-doses of fertilizers in the hills are harmful. The best and cheapest way to preserve hilly lands and prevent gullying and washing of the soil is to keep them in grass, for which purpose Bermuda, in the southwest, is unsurpassed. To plant hillside with cultivated crops, no matter how judiciously the rows are laid out or how correctly the hillside ditches may be run, the soil will be badly washed, if not cut with gullies. Kept in grass, which may be mowed or pastured, it is possible to improve such lands. An orchard is a necessity on the farm. It is well known that a farm containing a good orchard will sell at a fair price, when farms with indifferent orchards are sacrificed. The buyer always looks for the greatest number of advantages, and if apples, peaches, pears, plums and the small fruits can be found, instead of only an apple orchard, the value of the farm will be increased much more than the original cost of the orchard. If the farm is not for sale the orchard will be a source of profit to the farmer. Late plowing is sometimes beneficial in allowing the frost to assist in destroying insects and pulverizing the soil. When manure is broadcast on fall-plowed land it is better to harrow it in rather than leave the land rough, as the liability of loss from washing of the manure by rains will be lessened. When plowing at this season the ridges should be so thrown up as to derive the most advantage from cross-plowing in the spring. It requires excellent judgment to plow a field as it should be done if there are wet places or uneven surfaces. The pig sty often is filled with materials for absorbing manure, but they are not cleaned as frequently as should be the case. In winter, if the yard should contain absorbents, they become soaked during rains and are disagreeable locations for adults or pigs. The pig prefers a dry location, as it suffers severely on very cold days. The materials in the pig sty will be of more service if added to the manure heap and a plentiful supply of cut straw thrown into the yard in its place. The covered shed, or sleeping quarters, should be littered a foot deep with cut straw, which may then be thrown into the yard, but the yard should always be cleaned out after a rain and dry material then added. It would astonish many farmers to make an investigation of the number of weed plants that are to be found in grass lands, and even in meadows that are supposed to be in a high state of cultivation. They are more conspicuous in the pastures, because our most common weeds will grow on land where the cultivated grass makes but little growth. The daisy, the rag weed, mints and others are often to be found by the hundred on a single square foot in the pasture, while in spots the thistle, milkweed and orange hawkweed have taken almost complete possession. But there are many in the rich manured mowing, where the grasses grow so much faster and ranker as to hide them until the hay is taken off. Too close pasturing is in some cases responsible for these weeds. Some of these larger perennials must be dug out, root and all, before they can make seed, or cut down so often that they will perish because of a lack of leaf growth. In some cases plowing, manuring and re-seeding with clean seeds seems to be the only remedy, and it is not always easy to get grass seed free from the seeds of weeds, and a course of three years in cultivation, killing every weed in the field or around its borders, may be the only way to reduce their number.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

In a colonial dining room, with white woodwork and mahogany furniture, two tones of wall covering are preferred to all others at present. For a very light room an old blue is used, while for one where there isn't much sunlight a golden yellow is the choice as giving a light, sunny effect. To be in keeping with the colonial idea there should be very narrow self-toned stripes, giving the effect of a solid color. Don't forget the chestnut dressing that is such a decided improvement for turkey filling as the days approach when King Turkey graces the board. Loose Norfolds, almost counterparts of those worn by men, are seen upon the suits of morning wear, but are trying. All-round useful jackets are of covert tan and black cloth, and are in box style or half fitted back, with loose fronts, and not a few show capes over the shoulders, some single, some double, some triple. Whatever tends to lengthen the shoulder line is correct, and as capes possess that tendency to a marked degree they are sure to be conspicuous. Teach your daughters that 100 cents make a dollar. Teach her how to wear a simple linen dress, and to wear it like a queen. Teach her how to sew on buttons, to mend stockings and mend gloves. Teach her to dress for health and comfort, as well as for her appearance. Teach her to arrange the parlor and library. Teach her to say no, and mean it, to say yes, and stick to it. Blue and white barred gingham is a finishing which gives a delightful air of freshness to a boy's bedroom, without seeming effeminately dainty. It launders finely, and its clean blue and white gives a pleasing sense of immaculateness. Make a spread for the bed with wide ruffles around the sides and ends. The window seat can be made with a covering of the same, easily removable, and if the seat be made with a lid, so that the interior can be used as a catch-all, it will commend itself to the boy. Chair and couch cushions should be covered with ruffled slips of the same. The commonest mistake in framing pictures are in choosing frames of too ornate a character, too narrow margins or mats of the wrong color. Green is in high favor for picture frames just now, and two other very new ideas are exceedingly desirable. One is a soft silver gray or forest green frame with the corners rounded in a Japanese fashion. The second is of rosewood of a rich old mahogany tone and has "cabinet" joined instead of mitered corners. Veneered frames, really a mat of wood, made from one piece of wood, with the opening cut in the centre for the picture, are very popular. The girl who has learned to do cross-stitch or Russian embroidery skillfully is happy, these days. She is also busy upon long or shaped strips of canvas, being solidly covered with the gay and quaint needle work done in brilliant silks. These strips will presently transform the pongee or taffeta shirt waist suit of the passing season into a charming costume for afternoon or informal evening use. Yokes, plaisters, bretelle or other bodice decorations, with stock or collar, cuffs or some kind of sleeve trimmings, belts, and sometimes buttons covered with the embroidery are variously supplied—and applied. Frocks of black or dark blue taffeta or of natural-colored pongee look especially well decorated in this way. Black Chocolate or Devil's Cake.—Half a cup of grated chocolate, a gill of milk, half a cup of brown sugar. Boil these together until as thick as cream, and let cool. One cup of brown sugar, half a cup of butter, two beaten eggs, two-thirds of a cup of milk, vanilla flavoring. Mix well, heat in the boiled mixture, add two cups of flour sifted thoroughly with a leaping teaspoonful of baking powder. Bake in layers, and when cool put together with boiled frosting. Or you may bake the cake in a loaf-tin, and cover the loaf with chocolate icing.

There is a disposition lately to have cherry-stained woodwork in rooms where mahogany furniture is used. White enamel woodwork is far better. It is extremely difficult to secure a pretty, soft cherry stain, for one thing; for another the prevalent reddish tone is trying, and still another, the contrast between the white of the woodwork and the mahogany furniture sets off both. We women would think it terrible if compelled to wear a uniform. How we would rebel and what tears we would shed if somebody who had the authority actually made us all dress alike. How perfectly horrible it would be. Yet when it is the fashion to wear something daunting from the back of our hats every living woman of us straightway hangs any old thing she can lay hands on to the rear of her chaparral and goes flustering and bobbing up the street, looking exactly like the sister that precedes her, and the one ahead of her, and so on unto the beginning of the procession. Somebody says coats must be loose-backed. And again straightway we put ourselves into these hideous boxy things, though we all hate them, and march along as shapely as a pine board. But wear a uniform? Never! Dress alike? Not all the powers of the air and earth combined could compel us to do it. Individual we will be to the end of our days, even if that individuality takes the form of copying exactly Mrs. Smartest's hat and coat. The fat has gone forth that the belt shall continue to slope in the front and set high at the back. This is especially to the advantage of the long-waisted woman, who, unless she is judicious, is sure to have a straggling air where waist and skirt meet. Belts with an upward curve in the back are always for the woman of lengthy waist. A long waist is to be desired, but its advantage is to be seen from a front view only. Belts continue to appear in silk, suede, leather and elastic. To remove salt water stains dip a piece of the stained material into vinegar and rub until the stain disappears. For grease stains rub with benzine, lay between two pieces of blotting paper and iron with a moderately hot iron. Rich foods should be avoided, by those having oily complexions, and in washing plenty of soap and warm water should be used. A simple wash for an oily face is made of one ounce of tincture of benzoin in a pint of elder flower water. Drop in the benzoin slowly to prevent curdling.

Mary McDonald Fed Washington's Soldiers at Valley Forge.

When George Washington's hungry soldiers climbed the barnyard fences of the farms at Valley Forge Mary McDonald was there to receive them. To-day she is an inmate in the Home for the Aged and Infirm Colored Persons, in West Philadelphia. The other inmates all speak of Mary as being their "Grandman," and well they might. If she lives until the 14th day of November she will celebrate her one hundred and thirty-second birthday. Her cheerfulness is one of the secrets of her long life—in not only her own opinion, but that of the scientists who have studied her history. She never has worried, she told them candidly—not even about her age. Proof of this looks down from the wall of her room. In a little frame the following inscription is preserved: Mrs. Mary McDonald Was Born The Eleventh Month, The Fourteenth Day In the Year 1770. In the upper corner of the frame a leaf is pinned and these words are written beneath it: This leaf is from the Elm Tree where General Washington first took command of the American Army, in Cambridge, Mass.—the seventh month—third day—in the year 1775. When the leaf was given to "Grandman" three years ago she took it and kissed it and placed it beneath her pillow. When she was asked: "Will you sell the leaf, Grandman?" "No, no, no, no," she replied. "I'll keep it as long as I live. If they laid three millions down they couldn't have it. Give it to me"—and when handed the frame she kissed it again and again and said: "I love it—I love it—with all my heart."

Mary was sitting in a big arm chair in her cozy little room eating her supper, which consisted of bread and butter and apple sauce and strong tea. She does not seem to weigh more than forty pounds. Her frail little body sometimes droops like a piece of brown parchment. Yet the vitality that animates her appears inexhaustible. Lieut. Peary Says that Sum Would Bring Success in Polar Hunt. Lieut. Peary, who recently returned to civilization from a four-year search for the North Pole recently started for Washington after spending a few days at Portland, Me., settling up the estate of his mother, who died there about a year ago. His foot, which was frozen during his journey, is doing well, and he believes he will not need an operation. To friends at Portland Peary said: The pole can be reached. It is a question of money. Could I have put my ship as far north as I intended, and as I could have done had she been equal to the requirements, I could have made the pole. Money will do it—money in the right hands. No, not millions, either; \$200,000 will do it. For this amount I could keep a party in the north ten years and follow my original plan of marching by stages on the pole. A good ship, plenty of time and sufficient money will do it. On no account shall I make an effort to return to the North. I have done all that could be done with the facilities at my command, and shall now resume my duties in the Navy, reporting to the Department at Washington in a few days. In coming back this time I abandoned further possible endeavors to reach the pole. Possibly, had I covered the 350 miles between where I turned back and the pole, I might have added nothing to our information as to extreme polar conditions. We can very well conjecture conditions surrounding the pole. I am confident it is in the ocean—that is, no land is there. Of course, the great thing would have been to attain what I strove for. The disappointment is keen, and yet I think I have done all any man could have done under the circumstances. Were Substantial. "I understand that you serve good, substantial dishes here," said the stranger to the waiter. "Dat's what we does, boss," replied the colored gentleman. "I th'owed a plate at dat fool nigger in de coobner de odder night and never even chipped it!"

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