

FARM NOTES.

The best way to feed corn to young chickens is cracked or crushed.

A good dust bath will go far toward keeping fowls in good condition.

Clear, raw corn meal wet with water is not a good feed for young ducklings at any time.

Destroy the nest of a sitting hen as soon as the chickens are a day old. Give her a new nest and burn the old one.

On the farm if more than one breed is kept it is necessary that they be kept separate, and one or the other must be kept confined part of the time.

Separated early and raised up by themselves, pullets are worth at least 25 per cent more for use than if allowed to run with a lot of cockerels.

It is important to keep the young turkeys dry until they are about eight weeks old, and even then they should be strong and well developed. Dampness is almost always fatal to young turkeys.

The Keifer pear is one of the best varieties for canning, and is also hardy and a strong grower, but the supposition that it is free from attacks of blight is not corroborated by growers. There is no blight-proof pear.

Nothing is better to prevent loss of ammonia from the manure heap than so-called. Keep the heap, so that the so-pods can pass down to the bottom of the heap. Chemical action is facilitated, but there are formations of salts that prevent loss.

To build and fill an ice-house for home dairy use is a cheap and simple task. Ice laid on edge will keep better than when packed on its side. Use but little sawdust, or other packing, but pack close, as a circulation of air between the cakes of ice is more destructive than direct heat.

A crop of weeds removes from the soil as much of the elements of fertility as a crop of grain, and exhausts the soil just as quickly. Do not grow weeds. Plow them under as soon as they take possession of the land, by which process they are returned to the soil from whence they came.

Many are prone to allow their horses to run out through all kinds of weather until late in the fall, and until their coats become rough and shaggy. This is wrong. Frosty grass is not good for horses that have been used to dry feed and must yet do hard work. They should be stable as soon as the nights become uncomfortably cool, and then they may be turned out to grass again after the sun has dispelled the frost.

A hole in the granary through which the grain would be lost would be as good as a hole in the wall. A hole in the stable, through which the cold air enters and chills the animals, causes a loss of grain just as surely as the hole in the granary, as more food will be required to assist the animals in maintaining warmth. It is the things that are unobserved which sometimes cause loss. When the flow of milk is reduced, or the animals do not make gain proportionately to the food allowed, there is always a cause, and it should be sought.

The old-time method of whitewashing the trunks of trees is not usually credited with its full value. Farmers follow it considerably, though, perhaps, more from a country habit than with a definite reason before them. Prof. M. T. Macoun, horticulturist for the Canadian department of agriculture adds that it is most efficient composed of 50 pounds of lime, 24 gallons of water and six gallons of skim milk, or those proportions. The milk makes the wash stick better, giving the lime more opportunity to exercise its caustic properties.

There is more loss storing potatoes than in storing any other crop. Barring all waste from rot, there is a heavy shrinkage, both in quantity and weight. A bin holding 100 bushels will show a shrinkage of nearly one-tenth, besides a greater loss in weight. A bushel basket full, that will weigh fully 60 pounds in October, when taken from the field, will not weigh so at all after being stored in the cellar during the winter. The shrinkage in weight is much less when kept in pits closely covered with earth, for there is then less chance for evaporation.

The Art of Calf Feeding. J. H. Grinsdale, in the Farmer's Sentinel, says that there is an art in calf feeding. The only diet for the first three weeks to be its mother's milk, and that fed so often that it would not get ravenously hungry at any time. It should be fed four times a day at first. The calf will not be watered in the winter and have its quarters kept clean. Never feed the calf so much as to bring on the scours, as there is nothing more injurious to the growth of the calf, but feed all that it can digest, and it can be gradually brought on to a diet of warm separator milk.

The decomposition of manure depends largely upon the amount of moisture in the heap. When manure is dry the chemical changes occur slowly, but more rapidly when the heap is wet. When manure is mixed with a liberal supply of absorbent materials, and stored under shelter, it will undergo but little change, but when wanted for use it may be decomposed in a short time if saturated with urine. If the bedding used in the stalls is out fine it will serve the purpose desired fully as well as when uncut, but the main advantage is that the fine material may be more intimately mixed with manure, and will then better absorb the liquids, to say nothing of the easier handling, loading and distribution of the manure on the fields when the season arrives for spreading it.

Rotation of crops should include some mode of clearing the land of weeds. Wheat and clover, followed by corn, clean the land, provided the corn crop receives thorough cultivation, but many weeds come up in the corn field after the corn is "laid by," and it is not unusual for crab grass to take possession of the field. Corn should be followed by another hoe crop, such as potatoes, cabbages, turnips or carrots, and at no period during the growing season should the land be allowed to grow weeds, as a late crop of sweet corn, to be used as fodder, may be grown and cut at any stage of growth. The system of rotation should be governed by the condition of the land and the value of the crops in market. No grain crop, however, should follow another, if it can be avoided, but if two grain crops are produced in two seasons the third crop should be clover or the land made to produce green manural crops for turning under, lime being also used.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

The fashion of wearing the stock collar and tie seems mainly responsible for the revival of that pretty old-fashion, the wearing of a bow of lace, tulle, or chiffon at the throat; the prettiest evening or theater gowns with transparent lace collars are now finished with a fluffy bow of some light, ethereal material, which may be tied either at the back of the neck or under the chin. There are great advantages in either of the ways of wearing it—at the back especially it hides a thin neck and helps in the fastening of the collar, besides leaving the front free for the display of the pendant locket or charm now so fashionable.

In all the new autumn gowns the very low shoulder effect is the proper thing, the decided tendency being towards widening the shoulders. This is effected by epaulettes, cape-collars, bertha, bretelles or in innumerable ingenious ways. The sleeve fullness is still confined principally below the shoulder, most of the sleeves drooping or sagging artistically.

The stout woman has little to complain of—even much to be thankful for—in the styles of the present season.

The vogue of the straight front figure is a boon to her kind, but she must be careful to avoid the extremely low front corsets which are so becoming to the thin.

Or, if she prefers this low-cut garment, some other provision must be made. In such a case the bust girdle—a corset cover lacing in the back and stiffened with whalebone—supplies the necessary support.

While her best lines are those not exaggerated in any particular, a stout woman cannot successfully go in for the very severe effects.

She should be careful in selecting her wardrobe to avoid styles that are too pronouncedly plain.

It is usually better for her to wear a little garniture to break the broad surfaces, which, unrelieved, are so ungraceful.

Only such garnitures as are applied flat are possible to her, however. Puffings, shirtings and raised trimmings will be found, almost invariably, to add to her size.

Again, the idea that tight-fitting clothes make her look smaller is a disastrous one. The inch or two that she contracts at waist or hips by this means serves to throw the other portions of the body into a bold relief; to draw attention to their defects.

Dark colors, inconspicuous patterns, should be a rule with all women burdened with flesh when it comes to a question of materials.

Bright colors attract attention; white increases the apparent bulk; black or dark cool tones make an object appear small. Black and dark blue are always inconspicuous and in good taste.

An over-large woman should avoid the very large hat. The broad brim and much trimming add to her silhouette in a most undesirable degree.

On the other hand, the very small hat is equally unwise. Her ideal choice will be between the two.

She should have a frame fitting the head perfectly and a brim projecting over the face in front, but the trim turban or toque or walking hat is always preferable for her purposes to the more elaborate creations.

It is essential in doing anything with the eye brows, because the hairs are not, as a rule, very numerous, and the unnecessary loss of one is a matter of importance, especially when one is doing her best to cultivate them.

Tartar should be removed from the teeth at least twice a year. Don't let it accumulate, for it brings a whole train of evils in its wake. Don't use any but the best tooth brush, and the best dentifrice you can buy. It is well spent in purchasing the best of toilet requisites. The teeth should be brushed the last thing at night; this is most important. Use a tooth brush slowly and deliberately and polish your teeth after cleaning them. Even with very plain features, a poor complexion and thin hair a girl may be almost charming if she has sparkling white teeth.

Fingers that would otherwise be pretty are often disgraced by hangnails. Nothing can well be uglier than these little red tags of flesh at the corners of one's nails. Sometimes they are caused by pushing the skin down when it is dry, or using a sharp instrument, like the edge of a pair of scissors. When the skin has grown upon the nail soak the finger tips in warm water for five minutes, then push it down gently with the towel. If one makes use of this gentle process two or three times a day, or remembers to dry the ends of the fingers by rubbing down, instead of up, the nails ought to keep a good shape without the danger of making hangnails.

After all is said and done, good health is the only beautifier. It adds a brightness to the eye, a tinge to the cheek, a pearly luster to the teeth, a plumpness to the form, an elasticity to the step, a ring to the laugh and a winsomeness to the smile that nothing else can. Pomades and powders may hide wrinkles and blotches, but health drives them away.

Therefore, if you want your girls to be considered pretty, handsome see to it that they are properly fed and cared for. Be especially careful to see that their nervous systems are not overtaxed, and that their nervous energy is not all used up in school.

Fashion plates have a great deal to do with marring the beauty of a girl of the period. The picture here is a fragile, waisted, willow creature fit only to look at, and that not very long at a time.

Why don't they picture the fat one, the lean one, and the plain one, and give these some common sense talk on how to make the best of their bargains? Instead of that the fat ones are encouraged to lace, the lean ones to pad, and the plain ones to dye and stain and paint and powder and so unnatural in order to appear like unto the pictured beauties.

Men may laugh and flirt with painted beauties but they don't marry them; it won't wash; it is no good.

Novel and Seasonable Entertainments.

The hostess who can devise a novelty for the entertainment of her guests is the one most certain of having her invitations accepted, and, better than that, of securing for herself a reputation for social leadership, which is dear to the woman who is not under the painful necessity of making bread and butter with her brains if not with her hands.

In giving a pumpkin party the guests must be reminded that the pumpkin figured conspicuously in the popular juvenile fiction, "Cinderella and the Glass Slipper."

There should be as many mice as guests, with baby ribbon reins running to and through an opening in the pumpkin, which should be hollow. Attached to these ribbon reins are small bits of pasteboard, each of which is written a line. The lines should be divided equally in rhyming couplets, though it does not follow that they will be drawn out in that order. The aim is to secure for masculine and feminine selection ten lines that jingle. For example, there may be a dozen lines, six of which read:

"The pumpkins ripe, the pumpkins melon."

"At autumnal feast, with pie the best."

"When winter winds blow from the east."

"Why gloomy be, and give a sigh."

"The best beloved of every pumpkin."

"With red apples and pumpkin pie."

"Then, of course, the coupling of the other six should read as follows:

"In color its a fine, deep yellow."

"The pumpkin, of course can stand the test."

"The pumpkin pie add to the feast."

"Is the pie of pies the yellow pumpkin?"

"When you can have some pumpkin pie."

"You can't be gloomy if you try."

The two who secure the couplet rhyming are given some little token in keeping with the nature of the form of a pin cushion in the form of a pumpkin or a little glass slipper for flowers, as a reminiscence of Cinderella and her pumpkin coach.

When supper is announced a large pumpkin pie should occupy the place of honor on the table. It should be a ring to signify matrimony, a time table suggesting travel, a coin, indicative of riches; a thimble for the bachelor maid or man, and a little clover pin for good luck.

For a chestnut conversation the guests gather about the open fire. As the nuts pop open the person who placed the nut on the fire is in duty bound to tell a story, the oldest, most absolutely moth eaten being the one greatest in demand. To him or her who resurrects the most ancient joke or tale is awarded the prize, which could be the book "The Opening of a Chestnut Burr," a screen or calendar on which chestnuts are painted or little charms in the form of silver chestnuts.

The chestnut party permits of variation in making a game, using the chestnuts as men in playing. For example, a white cloth could be stretched over the dining table. On this cloth should be marked spaces numbered from five to a hundred. Players flick the chestnuts from the other end. To remove another chestnut from a space counts for the opponent whatever number the chestnut rests upon. The highest score wins. The game is limited by the players to any number they desire.

Swallow Characteristics.

Easy Ways to Remember the Markings of the Different Families.

It is very easy to remember the barn-swallow, says St. Nicholas. Hay-forks are used in the barn; this swallow has a very conspicuously forked tail. Remember, also, that the farmers get much hay down in the meadows; you often see barn-swallows flying low over these meadows for insects. Keep in mind also, that the under parts are of chocolate color.

On the upper edge of an excavated bank by the roadside there is a dark layer of soil and vegetation. There is a dark band across the breast of bank-swallow. That is easy to remember. The rough-winged is much the same as the bank-swallow, except that it has no dark band on the breast. The color is a sooty brown.

There is a steel lightning rod on the brown shingles of the old farm house; there is a steel-blue patch on the brown breast of the caves-swallow. The tail is almost as square as the end of the roof. The light spot on the rump you may also remember.

This swallow builds a queer gourd-shaped nest of mud hanging mouth downward under the eaves of the barn. This nest, made of pellets of mud, is very interesting, as it is nicely adapted to the slant of the eaves and to the boards or rafters on which it is fastened. It is also very interesting to watch these swallows on muddy shores rolling up pellets of mud.

Take up your note book and write in it a list of the principal manners of a few of these confusing families. Against the name of each bird in the list put the chief characteristic as stated in any good bird book. Four families at least should be treated in this way; the swallows, the sparrows, the vireos and the warblers.

Castoria.

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48-14-21m The Centaur Co., New York City.

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Operations are now under way tending to the beginning of a sawmill business by the Susquehanna Boom company, which in about a week will have a portable mill set up and ready to run on the south side of the river opposite Williamsport, says the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin. All the sunken logs that can be procured from Williamsport to Linden will be manufactured into lumber. Less than a week's work has resulted in getting 500 good sized logs.

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FOR

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