

FARM NOTES.

Neglect and carelessness cause disease among chicks. Over-fat hens lay small eggs and but few of them. Feed regularly; give the hens good food and they will pay. White-washing the poultry house is reasonable at any time. The cheapest ration for a horse is 10 pounds hay, 1 pound cotton seed meal, 2 pounds bean, 8 pounds corn, which costs 17.4 per day. The feed bill and shoeing should cost for the average horse \$100 per year. The hog is not able to endure severely cold weather, yet it is kept in the most uncomfortable situation of any other animal. The pig pen should be well littered and dry. The pig shelter should contain no cracks or openings for draughts of air. Cowpeas are being generally recognized by fruit growers as the ideal orchard crop. It furnishes humus and traps nitrogen. In a young orchard the vines should be worked into the soil with a cut-away harrow in the spring. Strawberries will grow on almost any kind of soil, but they prefer a location on which the soil is a deep loam, with a compact subsoil. As weeds do great damage, especially during the second year of the crop, much time can be saved by selecting the location a year or two in advance, and cultivating such crops as corn and potatoes, which clean the land and leave fewer weeds when the ground is occupied by strawberry plants. Diseases of animals are more easily prevented than cured. Hog cholera prevails in all directions, but it is more frequently due to the condition of the herds and mismanagement in feeding than to any other cause. It is essential that hogs have green or bulky food; also salt and charcoal. These substances are not preventives of cholera, in a direct way, but they keep the animals in a more thrifty condition and render them less liable to disease. Straw is relished by stock at times, as may be noticed when cattle have access to a straw stack, even when they are well fed. Straw alone is not of value as a food to any great extent, but it becomes serviceable when it is made a portion of the ration. No kind of food is suitable when it is given every day with nothing else. Many foods consist largely of water, containing but little solid matter, but such foods become more valuable when given as a variety because they promote digestion and prevent waste. Disease in flocks is easily communicated. The disposition of some fowls to pick at anything on the ground renders it necessary that all sick birds be removed from the flock on the first appearance of illness, as the droppings, the drinking at the fountain and the contamination of the food may induce the spread of disease. In cases of roup the discharge from the nostrils, which is one of the indications of the disease, is sure to come in contact with the birds, either from the ground or the drinking water, no matter how clean the water may seem. The principle test of whether the sow is a good milker or not is the condition of her pigs and her condition while suckling them. If they do well, and she eats liberally, keeps up good health and digestion and at the same time gets a little thin while nursing them, it is pretty good evidence that she is a good milker and will do to keep as long as her usefulness lasts. But look out for the sow that fattens between farrowing and weaning time. Her pigs either die off or become runts, for she is not making the use of her feed that a good mother should. The farmer's living place should be a home to which he should plan and calculate that there he will become a citizen, a factor in his community, a part in the civic life of the State and nation. There he will rear his family; there he will plant and sow, and expect to harvest as he has sown; there he will do the full labor of his mature manhood; there he will enjoy the repose in his old age, when there repose in the blessings of a life well lived. There are many details for making the house of the home a livable place that will be studied and worked out by a home-loving husband and his home-making wife, but there are features that belong to the landscape that are too often overlooked. There should be trees and vines around the home, to contribute beauty and shade. There may be no money value, but there is a value none the less, in a shady place where the birds may build and the children play. Much of the life of the busy housewife on the farm is spent in her kitchen, and many a wife and mother has made such a kitchen a halcyon place—a place in which the children grown big have loved to remember and look back to as one of the sweet things of childhood. The outlook from this kitchen should not be to a pile of old lumber, a pig-pen or a waste place of weeds, but there should be a grape-vine here, a flowering shrub there, a stretch of good, wholesome green grass, a cherry tree, a plum-tree that will bloom early and an apple that will bloom later, and as the season advances will bring forth fruit that shall ripen, and suggests to the worker in the house that the time of the falling leaf is not wholly a time of sadness, but more gloriously a time of fruition. When these trees are to be planted, don't crowd them or plant them so they will crowd each other in a hundred years. Let the air and sunshine get in around them, and the eye see far beyond them to other trees in clumps in the pasture—see the growing, waving, ripening fields of grain, the marvel of the growing corn. Don't be stingy with the land when the trees that are to make the home beautiful are planted. Land is not so scarce as all that, and perhaps if one has less land he will find the greater profit in working it better. These trees and vines are for eye and soul rests for the busy, patient kitchen worker. She deserves the best the home can give her. Let her have it. There are other trees to be planted—for shade, for fruit, for profit. All the untillable places should have them in abundance—at the drinking-places, along the lanes, where the land washes, where the stream runs through the meadow, they all should have their trees. They should be for beauty, for fruit, for lumber, for renewing fences, for the winter fire, and for the beauty of the home and the farm, and for the enlargement of the life of the man who plants them.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

To-day the fashionable girl coils her hair low on her neck, and it is especially with this style of coiffure that she needs some dainty ornament as a finishing touch for the top of the coil. The very latest novelty of the moment is a graceful feathery spray in the form of an open pond lily and a bud. At one side of the coil of hair the lily and the bud are caught, while at the opposite side is a smaller bud and a leaf. Contentment is a valuable gift when there is really no reason why one should be discontented. But quite frequently contentment is merely a prettier name for laziness. Dyed lace is now a feature of many of the smartest gowns. Worth is using a good deal of silver with blond lace, and the heavier makes are dyed to match the new shades of royal blue, golden brown, etc. Fancy applications—squares, lozenges, rings and diamonds—are in great demand, and into these are introduced touches of turquoise, pale green, poppy red and silver. Shirred effects are becoming more and more popular and are adding to the fullness of the skirts. A woolen cloth wet with gasoline and rubbed on porcelain sinks, bath tubs and marble bowls will remove the dirt, leaving the surface clean and bright. If your little child is just recovering from some child's disease and does not grow strong rapidly give him a salt bath, recommends a Rural New Yorker correspondent. This may be prepared with the sea salt purchased from your druggist or from superior dairy salt. The water must be as warm as possible and a good sized handful of salt added. Rinse off in clear water and rub until the body is in a healthy glow. The bath should be taken immediately before retiring for the night. Much originality is possible in designing the table decorations for a Christmas dinner. The character of the trimmings will depend to a certain extent upon the nature of the hospitality itself. They will be different for a formal and an informal feast; for a large family reunion and a small guest affair. A generous bowl of shining apples is sometimes as beautiful as costly lace or satin and American Beauty roses at this season. Another effective table has for a centerpiece a Jerusalem cherry tree, with many berries, the earthen pot being concealed by tissues papers matching the red fruit, bound in place by a bit of green ribbon. This, in turn, is practically concealed by a mass of fruit, oranges, apples, grapes and raisins, with green leaves at intervals, all so arranged as to form a kind of pyramid toward the top of the plant. Another decoration, very suggestive for an evening dinner, is a tiny tree, whose many candles furnish the entire light for the table, and whose branches bear nuts, bunches of raisins and crystallized fruits, the whole made glittering by the use of a very little cotton sprinkled with diamond dust. At a more formal dinner a slender glass vase, whose base just fills the centre of a holly wreath, may stand upon a white damask cloth. The branches of specially chosen holly which fill it are so high that they do not interfere with the guests seeing one another. Four candles in glass candlesticks are shaded by green shades, to which tiny bunches of holly are fixed. In and out around the central vase and the four lights graceful curves are traced on the cloth in holly leaves, gathered at the corners in festoon fashion, with a stiff rosette of scarlet ribbon. The use of ribbon, not usually desirable at table, is in this case quite justified by the results, and the effect is further enhanced by the use of name cards to which sprigs of holly are attached by ribbon knots. An amusing feature of this dinner might be the serving of the Christmas goose, accompanied by an appropriate verse for each guest from the nursery Mother Goose book. A very artistic Christmas dinner table is one in which mistletoe is prominently used. The table linen is of corn tint, and the round table accentuated by dividing off its centre from the edge, where the utensils are set, by a wreath effect, executed in the wine-colored shades of galax leaves. These are sewed flat on a piece of tape and secured to the cloth by occasional pins. At four equally distant parts of this circle are placed cups, seemingly of mistletoe, but really of stiff paper, to which the mistletoe is sewed. In each of these is placed a candle of corn wax, unshaded, like those of our ancestors. A delicate line of mistletoe leads from these candles to the centre of the table, where is placed a flat bed of the same wax, like flowers, from which rises a highly polished brass loving cup. This, in turn, holds roses of deep cream color, the edges of the petals just touched with dark tints suggestive of the gale coloring, and so few in number that the beauty of each rose can be fully appreciated. While a little late to have pictures taken for Christmas, the suggestion of a well-known photographer in regard to the dress that should be worn in having a picture taken is well worth considering for future occasions. The most elaborate dress, he says, unless artistic—which the "stylish" dress never is—is bound to look queer and old-fashioned in the lapse of years. Study old pictures that are famous and have stood the test of time. In almost every case the hair dressing is simple and the dress such that "style" has no part in it. Avoid bows in the hair, exaggerated sleeves, tight, high collars, an overplus of jewelry. Try the effect of a shawl thrown over the head and shoulders, or an ordinary dress with the collar tucked in and a soft fichu hung loosely round the neck. The uses that a piece of soft muslin or woolen shawl may be put to in photography are infinite, and many up-to-date professionals now declare that these simple little properties often produce the most charming effects when photographs taken in elaborate dresses have been discarded. A charming candlestick for decorating the table for Yuletide festivities is in the shape of a rose, holly red in hue, made of some composition that is firm enough to hold a candle securely. This rose is set firmly on a rose stem wound about to make it stiff, and foliage naturally arranged. Half a dozen of these with red candles would make the prettiest possible decoration for the table at Christmas time. An appropriate and suggestive decoration is a tiny Christmas tree, made of a sprig of cedar planted in small pots of real earth, for each place. Cover the pots with red paper or with green, and a rope of holly. The name card can be stuck upright in the pot, just as you have noted the name of a plant on stiff paper.

The town of Karthaus is soon to have a large fire brick works the matter having been consummated whereby Lock Haven and Karthaus capitalists will go to work erecting same at once. The Clearfield "Spirit" says the moving spirits in the subject at Karthaus are S. J. Briel and Dan Reiter, who have purchased the site of the left bank of Mosquito creek at the upper end of town and within gun shot fire clay and coal have been purchased from S. J. Briel to operate same. Mr. Briel, however, reserved the potter's clay and other clay on this tract, the purpose being to erect a red brick works in the very near future.

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AUDITOR'S NOTICE.—In the Orphan's Court of Centre county. In the matter of the estate of Catherine Motts, late of Rush township, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned an auditor appointed by the Orphan's Court of Centre county to make distribution of the funds in the hands of the administrator in the above estate, to and among those legally entitled to receive the same, will meet the parties in interest at his office in Bellefonte, Pa., on Saturday the 16th day of January A. D. 1904, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when and where all parties may appear, or forever be barred from coming in on said fund. W. GROH RUNKLE, Auditor. 48-49-41

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