

FARM NOTES.

The carry-over is never more useful than in the winter. It is a pretty useful thing at any season.

In cold weather, when bees are quiet, is when they are doing best; do not disturb them.

Fresh air is needed in the poultry house every day. Leave the door or a window open for ventilation.

Feeding broken oil cakes to fowls twice a week will often promote laying when other foods fail to give good results.

Every bee-keeper ought to have a beehive and mouse-proof room to protect the innumerable things of an apiary from their depredations.

If an abundance of good sharp grit is kept constantly within range of the fowls many ailments that spring from indigestion may be avoided.

There is no animal that is more moldable by man than the domestic fowl, and this fact is being taken advantage of to improve our flocks.

A large rooster with small hens is a poor combination; a smaller rooster with large hens is a little better, and a good-sized rooster with good-sized hens is the best of all.

The Courts have decided that bees do not injure fruit, and that they are beneficial in distributing pollen. The question now being considered is that, if they distribute pollen, cannot diseases also be carried by the bees from one tree to the others, which is claimed by many to be a fact?

The granulating of honey in the comb makes it more unsalable than almost anything else that can happen to it which does not destroy the comb, says the Epitomist.

Owing to this, comb honey should always be kept in a warm, dry place during at least the fall and winter months, or whenever great changes of temperature are likely to occur. It may be stored through the winter in a dry basement room or cellar, provided no frost reaches those apartments; but if there is a sudden rise of temperature outside much above that inside, moisture is liable to gather and stand in drops on the combs, in which case the honey will rapidly deteriorate. The only sure way of preserving comb honey so that it will present a salable form, is to store it in rooms so constructed that the temperature there will remain between 70 and 80 degrees, and never go below 60 degrees.

The ewe must be in prime condition to bring forth a nice, strong lamb, which is necessary if we expect to receive the best prices. My lambs come about Feb. 1st, or earlier. When about two weeks old they will begin to eat a little grain. They should have a room or space all to themselves, shut off from the main building by a door that slides up and down. This door should have a space for a creep that can be opened and shut independent of the door. When all the lambs are in their room, shut the door and make them stay there until they have eaten all their feed. The creep can then be opened so that they can run in and out to nibble at the hay.

This method is much more effective in results obtained than by using the creep alone. With the latter many of the lambs, especially the younger ones, will spend the most of their time creeping in and out, while the others eat all the feed or muck what they do not eat. It is very easy to teach the lambs to go into their own room. At first you may have to catch a few, but they will soon learn to run in, one following the other. They should have fresh grain put into clean troughs three times a day. I find cracked corn and bran about the best feed. Sometimes they like an addition to this combination, of oats, barley or gluten meal. A variety will induce them to eat more, and the more they eat at this age, I have never known one to over eat. Let them have plenty of clover hay, but do not compel them to eat it up clean. It should be changed three times a day.

Lambs should be kept as quiet as possible and never allow to be frightened, for there is nothing worse for fattening lambs. With this feed and care for the lambs, and a mother with plenty of milk, you will have lambs that at 60 to 75 days of age will bring \$10 apiece. I find I cannot afford to raise late lambs, when I can get these prices. It is a great advantage to the ewe, and you will get rid of the lambs before time for the sheep to go to pasture.

Thousands of farmers have been deterred from an attempt to grow alfalfa by the discouraging reports of failures with this wonderfully productive plant. There is, no doubt, much yet to be learned about the nature and requirements of the plant to thoroughly understand why some men have failed and others have succeeded with apparently little difference in the conditions of soil and other influences that possibly have considerable to do in bringing success or failure.

Certain it is that the farmer who will succeed in growing alfalfa has achieved a triumph of which he should be proud.

There is much depending on the soil. In some soils alfalfa will not develop the nodules that are absolutely necessary to its profitable production. When the bacteria which live in the alfalfa nodules are artificially introduced into the soil, success has usually followed, if the soil is open and porous composing a deep stratum above the subsoil. But on land with a clay subsoil that will hold water, and only a few inches or a foot of surface soil above it, there is little hope for a well developed or permanent crop of alfalfa. Wet, sour acid soils it is useless to attempt alfalfa growing either with or without artificial inoculation of the soil. This kind of soil without under-drainage, fills with water from the solid clay subsoil upward to the surface and remains saturated until the water is removed by the slow process of evaporation, or passes away through minute channels to the depressions forming swales and swamps, that are never dry enough to grow any cultivated crop.

Where the subsoil and drainage conditions are favorable, a bacteria test may be easily made by filling a couple of small boxes with soil from the field to be tested, and placing the alfalfa seeds and places them in a window with any other house or garden plants, with the same temperature, moisture and care. In about six weeks the alfalfa nodules should appear on the roots of the plants if they are present in the soil.

If these nodules do not show in sufficient numbers to indicate the success desired, it will plainly demonstrate the necessity of soil inoculation from some old alfalfa field, from which about one hundred pounds of earth for each acre to be inoculated, should be taken and spread evenly over the prepared surface of the field.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A DAILY THOUGHT.

"Don't get discouraged. It is often the last key in the bunch that opens the lock."

Every day nearing spring sees more of the sort of dresses we women term "little," irrespective of size or style—those light-weight woolen gowns of voile, etamines, celonnes and the like.

For these stuffs have proved themselves so satisfactory that they're strong again for spring, and they've gotten themselves up in new little ways that are charming.

Odd checks, small dots, checks and dots together and small invisible plaids have come—the very prettiest sort of things for the walking suits and shirtwaist suits they are being made up in.

Most of them have skirts of the new length—just touching all around. And that length is the hardest of all to wear, for it seems too short to hold up, is actually harder to hold up than a trained skirt, yet aggravatingly "outs" out around the edge unless you do continually lift it.

Dame Fashion has promised us a change in skirts, but nothing radical seems to be forthcoming, just more and more astonishing ways of getting fullness in about the feet.

Short coats are more favored than long in these light materials for the suits to wear with blouses.

But everything is made of them; they're threatening to share honors with silk, which has had everything its own way, for the shirtwaist suits that everybody wears.

Blue and brown—especially blue—are "staple" and will be worn a great deal, but a dozen shades of violet are promised for the earliest spring days. Violet has been hinted at, pretty strongly, all winter.

It looks as though all the world were intending to wear flowered dresses, and were getting at it! The shops bloom with flower fabrics—organdies and their kin.

One of the loveliest of flowered stuffs is black net with great roses, in their true colors, almost touching each other. The delicacy of the black makes it like a shadow instead of a substance.

Batistes in pale shades are embroidered all over, and come in robe-patterns, with ruffles and insertions that match.

Odd sleeves are in evidence upon some of the new things—a flare that almost amounts to a ruffle ending the sleeves of one long, loose coat.

Blouse sleeves are full with a deep cuff—the fullness sometimes disposed in two puffs.

Paris, and the world with her, fell in love with English eyelet embroidery, and went to work to make new fashion-magic with it. She succeeded, made prime all-overs with only a round-eyed pattern repeated stiffly again and again; forgot eyelet work entirely and brought out the airiest of blind embroideries; then remembered again, and mixed the two so cleverly into the daintiest of designs that it's perhaps—but only perhaps—the prettiest of all.

The block work our grandmothers used to make has been—not revived, but taken as a model, and soft, sheer embroidery treated block fashion in stiff little designs that are, somewhat anything but severe, in spite of their straight lines.

Useful Hints.—Direct sunshine gives gloss to hair of any shade; but fair hair it renders like burnished gold.

Unrefreshing but sound sleep nearly always shows that the blood does not leave the brain by the veins at the normal rate. Soaking the feet in hot water, and using a high pillow will be beneficial. In many cases a daily saline draft or similar medicine will prove useful.

Cut flowers will last much longer if a little carbonate of soda be added to the water in which they are stood.

A growing plant should be kept in the room with a piano, says a piano-tuner. As long as the plant thrives the piano will.

Where Colors Come From.—Cochineal insects furnish many of our most gorgeous colors—carmine, scarlet, crimson and purple.

Cuttlefish gives us sepia, which is nothing more nor less than the inkly fluid which the fish discharges to render the water black when it is attacked.

Ivory chips produce the ivory black and bone black.

Prussian blue is made with impure potassium carbonate. This most useful discovery was accidental.

Blue black is the charcoal of the vine stalk.

Turkey red is the madder plant, which grows in Hindustan.

In The Sick Room.—Palpitation of the heart may be arrested, writes a well-known physician, by bending down so as to allow the blood to run to the heart.

Take the whites of two eggs and beat them, add two spoonfuls of white sugar, grate in a little nutmeg, then add a pint of lukewarm water; stir well and drink often. Repeat the preparations if necessary, and it will cure the most obstinate case of hoarseness in a very short time.

To make a linseed poultice, take of fine ground linseed meal four parts, and of boiling water ten parts. Mix the linseed meal with the water gradually, stirring constantly. The poultice should be an inch thick and very hot. A piece of thin flannel placed between it and the skin will enable the poultice to be borne much better than it otherwise would.

In illness, hot water is of inestimable value. For example, there is nothing that so quickly cuts short congestion of the lungs, a sore throat or rheumatism as hot water when applied promptly and thoroughly. Headache yields to the simultaneous application of hot water to the feet and back of the neck. A towel folded several times, dipped in hot water, quickly wrung out and applied over the forehead or nape of the neck will generally afford prompt relief. A strip of flannel or napkin, folded lengthwise and wrung out in hot water and then applied around the neck of a child that has a cold will sometimes bring relief in 10 minutes.

The mouth should receive careful attention. In illness where sores and mucus accumulate rapidly and where the tongue and lips are parched and stiff, attention is needed every hour; the mouth should be kept moist and the same treatment carried out through the night as during the day.

Great Thoughts.

The influence of the law of action and reaction can be traced more clearly in those everyday human affairs which come under our individual observation than in the greater movements of mankind which are often imperfectly recorded. We act and are acted upon. The people we meet make an impression on us; the impression may be for the moment or it may last through life. Bloom, fragrance, grace, harmony, beauty, majesty, affect us agreeably; deformity, imbecility, distress, cruelty, affect us unpleasantly. The plea of the unfortunate, the thought of our visit, the opinion in the newspaper, the issues of the time, impress us in accordance with our moods or natures. Certain words, tones, sights, awaken echoes within us of old happiness or pain.

There are words and tones which produce beautiful reactions—the lullabies of the mother, the endearments of the lover, the voice of sympathy, the enchantment of music, the messages of the poets, the trumpet calls to honor and duty. And there are words which produce misunderstanding, confusion, aversion, anger—the words of whining, complaining, fault finding, of envy, jealousy, slander, of malice, intolerance, brutality.

The response to the public speaker is reciprocal to his power. If he be dull, the hearers are weary; if he be convincing, courageous, forceful, the audience will be kindle, and he may rouse them to laughter or tears, to indignation or fury, to generosity or sacrifice. He may change the opinions and convictions of some and the course of the lives of others; he may even save a city from slaughter or make a state.

If his thought be really great, it may live through many ages, stirring generation after generation. The reaction of moral effort may be prolonged; it may even gain force with time, indicating its connection with some stupendous primal energy. The echo of a great physical convulsion dies quickly, but the echo of the words of Confucius and Buddha, of Plato, Seneca and Christ, still lives. The voice of Socrates before his judges kindles men whose ancestors were untamed savages when Socrates spoke. Buildings decay, monuments fall, rivers run dry, races decline, but a great thought suffers from no impairment or decrepitude; it has the gift of immortal youth and strength.—From "Balance: The Fundamental Verity," by Orlando J. Smith.

"Not Found."

A letter arrived at the New York postoffice the other day bearing the following address: "To Any Respectable Lawyer, New York City, N. Y." The carrier into whose hands it fell for delivery returned it marked in blue penell, "Not Found."—New York Press.

Maintaining His Record.

Amateur Sportsman—I say, did I hit anything that time? Gamekeeper—I think not, sir. There wasn't nothing in sight but the birds, sir.—Judge.

A brave man is sometimes a desperado, but a bully is always a coward.—Hallburton.

Reduced Rates to New Orleans, Mobile, and Pensacola.

On account of the Mardi Gras festivities at New Orleans, Mobile, and Pensacola, March 2nd to 7th, the Pennsylvania railroad company will sell round-trip tickets to either of these places from all stations on its lines, March 1st to 6th, at reduced rates. These tickets will be good for return passage until March 11th, inclusive, on date of validation by agent of terminal line at Mobile or Pensacola, or joint agent at New Orleans. If tickets are deposited with agent at either of the above points not later than March 11th, and fee of 50 cents is paid, an extension of return limit to March 25 may be obtained. For specific rates, routes, and stop-over privileges at southern winter resorts consult ticket agents.

Last of the Season.

The last Jacksonville tour of the season via the Pennsylvania railroad leaves New York, Philadelphia, and Washington by special train February 28th. Excursion tickets, including round-trip railway transportation and Pullman accommodations (one berth), and meals en route on the special train going, will be sold at the following rates: New York, \$50.00; Buffalo, \$54.25; Rochester, \$54.00; Elmira, \$51.45; Erie, \$54.85; Williamsport, \$50.00; Wilkesbarre, \$50.35; and at proportionate rates from other points. Tickets will be good returning on regular trains until May 31st. For tickets, itineraries, and full information apply to ticket agents, or address Geo. W. Boyd, general passenger agent, Broad street station, Philadelphia.

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On account of the inauguration of President Roosevelt on March 4th, the Pennsylvania railroad company will sell round-trip tickets to Washington, March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, good for return passage until March 9th, inclusive, from Harrisburg, Pittsburg, Oil City, Erie, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Williamsport, Wilkesbarre, Mt. Carmel, and intermediate stations, at rate of single fare, plus 25 cents for the round trip. Deposit of ticket with Joint Agent at Washington on or before March 8th and payment of fee of \$1.00 will secure extension of return limit to leave Washington on or before March 18th. For specific rates and full information apply to ticket agents. 50-7-3t.

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