

FARM NOTES.

Pure bred hogs are sometimes made scrub hogs by reason of being badly fed.

It is not desirable to plant seeds of vegetables too early. If the ground is not warm the seed may rot before it germinates.

It is a fact that the farmer is prosperous when he combines with his farming the manufacture of pork and beef. The corn, grass, hay and fodder are his raw materials. The pork and beef and wool are his finished product.

Many good cows give but a small quantity of milk because they are not properly managed. Some persons allow a certain quantity of feed, from which no variation is made. A cow should be fed all she will eat, and if she improves in the quantity of her milk she should be induced to eat more.

Work in the garden is very pleasant in the spring, as the weather is then cool and the ground not very dry and hard. Ladies who make a specialty of flowers or early vegetables will find the out-of-door work very beneficial. The children should have a little plot for their own use as a means of enjoyment.

Get your hot-beds ready for the sweet potato plants and use only seed that is free from rot. It is best to procure seed from some section where the sweet potato is not affected by rot, if possible. There are several forms of rot, one of them being generated in the soil. For this reason it is well to set out the plants on a new location every year.

If you have a field of rye it will be a good plan to allow the cows upon it as soon as it has made sufficient growth. A sudden change to green food will cause "cours" and at first the animals should only be permitted to graze while the stalls are being cleaned. The length of time for grazing may be increased daily until they are no longer affected by the change.

Even hog cholera is productive of some good; it has led to better care and treatment of the swine. They are now fed exclusively on corn the entire year, while shelter is being provided for the hogs that formerly had the leaky sheds for a covering. Clean water is also given them, instead of filthy slop. The result is that the disease is gradually diminishing.

Unless there is a convenient market for the sale of vegetables the garden should be no larger than is necessary to afford a full variety, and in abundance, for the family, as the keeping down of the weeds and grass in the garden is a matter that may require attention just at the time when the farmer is busy with his spring ploughing; but every farmer should have a garden, even if but a few kinds of vegetables are grown.

One of the best disinfectants for the stable, drains, poultry yard or contaminated ground is to dissolve a pound of copperas and a pound of bluestone in four gallons of boiling water, adding four ounces of sulphuric acid. This mixture may have twice as much water if used once a day for a week, but it is better to use it somewhat strong for the first two or three applications. It will destroy the germs of all diseases existing in the poultry yards if sprinkled thereon.

Experiments made in the use of fresh stall manure from the stable and that allowed to remain in the heap or compost show that when both kinds are applied on the same kinds of crops and soils the fresh manure made a gain of one dollar per ton compared with the other. This demonstrates that on some soils the farmer will receive more benefit to his land by applying the manure to the fields when it is in a fresh condition than to retain it in the heap before applying, but much depends upon the kind of manure and the foods from which it is produced.

In setting a plum orchard give a northerly exposure, if possible, and one of considerable elevation. A windbreak on the east is very desirable. Plant close together in the rows, 10 to 20 feet, and twice the distance between rows, running the rows north and south. Mix the varieties in the row and keep the trees headed low. Cultivate to some hoed crop, or set small fruits between the rows, and keep well cultivated. When in bearing thin the fruit, and market in peck and half-bushel crates or baskets, handling carefully, and packing before the fruit is too ripe.

Grass is always an important crop, and also an evidence of good farming, as no soil will produce a large crop of grass every year unless the land is well manured or treated with fertilizer. To retain the foundation for all other crops, as it not only produces pasturage and hay, but furnishes soil for the assistance of crops that follow. When the land is in grass it is really mulched, and humus accumulates. The shading of the soil by the grass is beneficial, and the roots go down deep into the subsoil for plant food, which is brought to the surface, deposited in the plants, and thus rendered available for another season.

By contact with rocks and stones the noods of sheep are naturally cured. When sheep are kept on low, wet ground the hoods grow long, and, being not very sensitive, are easily softened until they begin to rot. There can be no doubt that this is caused by some germ, for anointing the hood with blue vitriol, which is one of the best germ killers, will destroy it. The germ seems to be indigenous to wet lands where sheep are kept, and it is one of the most serious infections with which sheep can be afflicted. When it once gets into a flock it can be carried to lands which are high and dry and will propagate there.

Economy in feeding is to sell all produce that brings a fair price in market and buy the cheaper by-products. Corn at 50 cents per bushel may be sold to advantage, if bran, middlings, linseed meal, cottonseed meal and gluten meal can be purchased at \$15 per ton, the corn will give a profit on such an exchange. A pound of linseed meal is worth more than two pounds of corn as food, as the linseed meal contains more protein and mineral matter. The same may be claimed for bran and middlings. They are more complete as foods than corn or oats, though corn and oats may also be added to the rations for some kinds of stock. Where the farmer makes a large gain by the exchange, however, is in the increased value of the manure. The by-products, being in a fine condition, require no grinding, and when fed in connection with hay, straw or corn fodder, cut fine, they effect a saving in food and give a greater variety to the animals. Such foods may be used every month in the year.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A DAILY THOUGHT. If you do each day what you should not you must bear what you would not.

An Old Color Revived.—Buff has been revived. Buff cloth is beautiful if the shade be delicate. It is exquisite, too, this quaint color, in taffetas souple, in mousseline, and in all the sheer fabrics. A lovely material in delicate buff is patterned in exquisite mauve blossoms.

Pale buff ostrich plumes are one of the smartest novelties to wear on a hat finishing such a costume.

Last year saw a development of silk shirtwaist suits into the prettiest of little dresses, with their only resemblance to shirtwaist suits the length of the skirts, which were invariably walking-length.

This spring will see still more of a development—with a host of the plainer shirtwaist suits made up of the fascinating new wools and claines, with their tiny checks and dots and invisible plaids; and, on the other hand, the little silk dress taking a still more important place among the indispensables in a woman's summer outfit.

Paris is preaching long skirts, but American women cling persistently to walking-length, giving in only so far as to bring out a new length that just touches all round. The simpler of the dresses, though, will cling to the present length—an inch and a half from the ground.

There will be less severity of treatment than last year's styles permitted—everything will be a softening of lines. Where the plainer shirtwaist suits boasted tall necks and pleats, this year will see shirtings substituted instead, and softer silks will be used to add grace to the soft folds the shirrings make.

Tucks will be used profusely, too, but combined with shirrings and lace—softened in every way.

Skirts will be fuller than ever about the feet—every conceivable trick that will get a few more inches into the width will be employed; but about the hips they will fit smoothly.

Everything points to the use of elbow sleeves for every sort of dress, and even of coats. In these shopping and street dresses deep lace collars will finish out the sleeves—one of the prettiest of them all being a deep mousseline cuff of Irish lace with a deep ruffle running from elbow to waist, set in the outer seam of the cuff.

Soft pongee, taffeta and louisine are the silks most often employed. A new pongee is of silk and linen, very rough as to weave, and in the natural color. Pongee suits with three-quarter coats will be very good.

Clear Starching.—In these days of elaborate and dainty lingerie it would seem that a fair living might be made by women doing what was once called clear starching, viz.: the careful laundering of fine muslins and laces. These delicate articles should never be rubbed on a board, but be allowed to soak in water containing a little borax or ammonia and a good washing soap for several hours. Gently rub the articles with the hands and never dry out of doors in freezing weather. After washing and drying, dip the ruffles and laces in a very thin starch, and roll the garments up smoothly, with the starched portions inside, and lay aside for an hour or so, when they may be ironed. If there is any gathering to be done, redampen the edges before passing through the rollers, after first ironing the garment. It is claimed that by ironing circular ruffles with the thread they will never lose their shape.

The Dandelion.—Cut it close to the root before it begins to flower. Reversing the poet's figure—

"But sweet may have a bitter taste, And bitter herbs are sweet to me." —But sweet will be the flower—

with flowering, bitterness begins in the case of our lowly herb. As soon as the plants are out throw them into very cold water.

Dandelions A La Creme.—Pick the leaves from the stems, and drop into iced water. Take them up by the handful, dripping wet, and put with no other water, into the inner vessel of a farina boiler. Fill the outer kettle with boiling water; cover the inner closely, and cook fast for half an hour. Rub the leaves through a vegetable press, or a colander into a saucepan; beat in a tablespoonful of butter, a teaspoonful of sugar, salt and pepper to taste, a teaspoonful of lemon juice, and, at last, three tablespoonfuls of hot cream to which has been added a pinch of soda. Stir until smoking hot over the fire, turn out into a heated dish, garnish with sippets of fried bread, and serve.

Plain Dandelion Greens.—Pick over, wash and boil in hot, salted water. Drain when tender, chop and season with salt, pepper, butter and a tablespoonful of vinegar or the juice of half a lemon. Serve hot.

Dandelion Salad.—Pick the young tender leaves of the dandelion, wash and lay in ice water for half an hour. Drain, shake dry and pat still drier between the folds of a napkin. Turn into a chilled bowl, cover with a French dressing, toss the greens over and over in this, and send at once to the table.

Russian Women.—It is difficult for an American to understand that freedom, as we know it, does not exist in Russia. There the legal position of woman is far from satisfactory. She hardly ever belongs to herself, but is always under the tutelage of some one, says Harper's Weekly.

As a daughter the Russia woman is under the entire control of her parents. Her coming of age does not alter her position. She simply changes the authority of her parents for the no less rigid authority of her husband. As the Russian states puts it: "One person cannot reasonably be expected to fully satisfy two such unlimited powers as that of husband and parent."

The unlimited power of the parent is withdrawn, and that of the husband substituted. She cannot leave her lord, even to visit a neighboring town, without a "pass" from him. He names the time she is permitted to stay, and at the end of that time she is bound to return or to get the pass renewed.

A husband may appear in a court of law as a witness against his wife, but a wife is not allowed to appear against her husband. A woman's evidence in Russia is always regarded as of less weight than that of a man.

A few drops of spirits of camphor taken on sugar every three or four hours will usually check a cold. A little camphorated oil rubbed well into the chest when a cough is painful will give great relief.

Revealed the Truth.

In his capacity as Judge Lord Brampton always insisted on the imperative demand that every case should be investigated in its minutest details. Upon small points the great issue of a case depends. As exemplifying this Lord Brampton cites a curious case that came before him on the western circuit:

"A solicitor was charged with forging the will of a lady, which devised to him a considerable amount of her property, but as the case proceeded it became clear to me that the will was signed after the lady's death and then with a dry pen held in the hand of the deceased by the accused himself while he guided it over a signature which he had craftily forged. A woman was present when this was done, and as she had attested the execution of the will she was a necessary witness for the prisoner, and in examination in chief she was very clear indeed that it was by the hand of the deceased that the will was signed and that she herself had seen the deceased sign it. Suspicion only existed as to what the real facts were until this woman went into the box, and then a scene highly dramatic occurred in her cross examination. After getting an admission that the will was signed in the bed, with the prisoner near by, the woman was asked:

"Did he put the pen into her hand?" "Yes." "And assist her while she signed the will?" "Yes." "How did he assist her?" "By raising her in the bed and supporting her when he had raised her." "Did he guide her hand?" "No." "Did he touch her hand at all?" "I think he did just touch her hand." "When he did touch her hand was she dead?" "At this last question the woman turned terribly pale, was seen to falter and fell in a swoon on the ground and so revealed the truth, which she had come to deny."—London Mail.

Chances the Woman Must Take. A man is like a piece of cloth warranted to wash, and matrimony is the laundry. It may improve him, give starch and freshen him up, or it may take all the color out of him.—New York Press.

Anxious Moments. Brother—You can't think how nervous I was when I proposed. Sister—You can't think how nervous she was until you did.—Town and Country.

The original sin to which all human beings are liable is the sin of idleness.—Rev. S. Pearson.

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A Pointed Reply. "You haven't got much of a head," said the needle to the pin. "No," replied the latter, "but at the same time we pins have our fine points."

Practical Sermon for Boys and Girls. If you read carefully, you will find many good things in the newspapers just as good for boys and girls as the sermons they hear at church (and often better) if the sermons happen to be "too deep." Recently we read the following, which is excellent for your boy or girl to read:

How many of the boys realize the value of an education in cold dollars and cents, to say nothing of the many advantages? Statistics show that the average salary of an educated man is \$1,000 per year. He works on an average of forty years and receives a total of \$40,000. The average wages of an uneducated man is \$1.50 per day and he works 300 days in a year, so in forty years he earns \$18,000 and the \$22,000 difference is the true value of the education. To acquire a good education takes about twelve years of the early life of a boy, and they are the happiest years of his life. In twelve years there are 2,190 school days, and these days bring to the boys who improve them \$22,000, or a little more than \$10 per day for each day spent in school. Now, boys, for every day you miss school, just charge yourself up \$10 lost.

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar.

Reduced Rates to Washington.

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 5th, 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 5th 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.

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Rice Table.

In Java, as in most really warm countries, it is customary to rise early and to take a cup of tea or coffee, together with a biscuit and some fruit, immediately on leaving one's bed. This is followed by a more substantial breakfast, but the first really serious meal is served at half past 12 o'clock and is the equivalent of the French "dejeuner a la fourchette" or the Anglo-Indian tiffin. This meal is called rice table—"rystafel"—from the principal dish, a very elaborate curry, in the preparation of which the Malay cooks are especially skillful.

The peculiarity of the rice table consists in the number and variety of dishes presented. From these dishes the guest has to select the material for the soup plate before him, are to constitute his curry. It is also as well to know beforehand that one is not required to lunch solely on curry, but that the rice table is succeeded by courses of ordinary luncheon dishes. It is a case, therefore, of "embarras de richesses."

The second danger is that of making up one's curry "not wisely, but too well," and leaving neither appetite nor capacity for the beefsteak or for any of the other solid dishes which subsequently appear and which under these circumstances only produce a feeling of mingled horror and consternation. It is then that one suddenly realizes that the rice table is merely a sort of tremendous "hors d'oeuvre."

There are two dangers to be avoided. In the first place, it is quite possible, in spite of the number of the dishes presented singly, to say nothing of an octagonal tray containing a separate chutney in each of its nine compartments, to get no lunch at all, for nothing is easier than after saying "nein" to a succession of frivolous compounds to dismiss the one solid and palatable dish.—Pearson's.

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