

FARM NOTES.

—Nothing will increase egg production quicker than green bone freshly out.

—When a fowl has difficulty in breathing look out for pneumonia.

—When new fowls are bought quarantine them until sure they have no disease.

—Select eggs of uniform size for hatching, especially if you use hens for that purpose.

—When the crop is hard and unyielding there is danger of the bird becoming crop-bound.

—In three years the progeny of a pair of rats, under favorable conditions, will number 1,000.

—Charcoal is good for hens. An ear of corn charred in the oven supplies it in convenient form.

—When the hen seems giddy and turns round and round, she is probably suffering from apoplexy.

—When the joints are hot and swollen and the fowl is disinclined to stand, rheumatism has taken hold.

—Sunflower seed produces oil of an excellent quality, and is said to be good feed for both poultry and sheep.

—Old hens, as a rule, take on fat more readily than the young ones. As the fat increases the eggs decrease.

—When the bird has leg weakness, with no disorder of the liver, feed lighter and give plenty of bone-forming material.

—Milk is a very palatable and highly profitable pig feed, but will yield better financial results when fed to poultry.

—For those chicks showing signs of bowel trouble scalded milk for drink instead of water will be found beneficial.

—All experienced poultry raisers agree that wet, sloppy feed is not fit for young chicks. Most of the bowel troubles of young chicks is due to such feed.

—Lime is the cheapest and one of the best disinfectants around the poultry yard—it destroys germs, neutralizes odors and purifies the premises, if used liberally.

—When the nostrils are clogged with dirt and the eyes water, ward off a possible case of roup by timely treatment. If the case is bad apply the batchet and bury the carcass.

—When a hen seems to droop down behind and goes repeatedly to the nest without laying, she is usually suffering from a disorder of the oviduct, and might as well be killed and eaten.

—When the bird seems lame and has a small swelling on its foot, remove to a house with no perches and oblige it to roost on a bed of straw. Bumble-foot is easily cured in the early stages if the cause is at once removed.

—When a fowl is dangerously sick with an organic disease it is worse than useless as a breeder. It is usually safer to kill bad case of illness than to try to cure it. —*Farmer's Gazette, Canada.*

—It may not pay to pasture cattle on small farms that are highly cultivated, as the land may be too valuable, but on many small farms there will be nearly always something that cannot be marketed, but which will contribute to the support of a cow or a few pigs.

—Boiled potatoes with a little bran over them, a head of cabbage placed within reach of the flock, or a liver cooked and rubbed up fine, or put through a sausage mill and then mixed with mill feed, are all good to keep chickens in good health and make the hens lay at this season of the year.

—Portsmouth, England, has passed an ordinance for the suppression of cock crowing. The chicken fanciers say it can not be suppressed, but the London News says that a partial remedy consists in placing the perch where the cock roosts so high that when he stands up to crow he knocks his head against the roof and desists. A swinging board hung over his head answers the same purpose, it says.

—It is only among mouglers that you need to greatly fear inbreeding. For at least three years, with pure bred and by judicious selection of best fowls on each side, we can breed our own fowls among ourselves. The reason so many fear the effects of inbreeding is from their experience running along the lines of out. They kill and sell the best always, leaving anything for breeding purposes. No wonder the fowls get smaller and scrubber each year. When you build up a good strain you must always make choice of your best among your own, irrespective of relationship, and one can to some extent follow this out among our general utility flocks.

—In a recent number of this paper a correspondent tells how he manages setting hens and advises others to follow his methods. He has three nests on a row and looks the hens in them with their eggs. Every 24 hours he lets them off to feed and then fastens them in again.

I have tried this plan, or one practically the same, and have discarded it as requiring too much time, as well as for other reasons. The farm poultryman must economize in the matter of labor in every way possible.

In the first place, I do away with all the fixed nesting boxes, either singly or in rows, and make movable boxes just large enough for the hen to sit in nicely, and hung by cleats projecting above the box, on two nails. These nests should be put up wherever the hens lay and should be taken down occasionally to be painted with a mixture of one part crude carbolic acid and two parts kerosene for disinfecting and ridding of lice. Then they should receive new filling.

When a hen wants to set, give her the eggs and let the box remain where it is for a day or two. Then at night carry it, hen and all, to an apartment in the brooder house or to any other room where the hens will not be molested. They never object to being thus transferred and there is no trouble, as there frequently is when a hen is locked on a nest where she did not get broody. Then too several hens may be put in one apartment and all the attention they need is to throw them some feed every other day and give fresh water. They can get off and on when they feel like it, have plenty of room and the eggs keep cleaner and hatch better than when a hen is locked on a nest.

Another plan for managing setters I once read of and saw pictured out in a paper, was to have a row of nests built on the ground and have an alleyway 1 foot by 6 feet in front of each nest. That seemed quite plausible, but experience has shown that it is not practicable.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.  
A Daily Thought.

Learning is pleasurable, but doing is the height of enjoyment.—Novalls.

Hundreds of ways of accomplishing these tiny yokes which are so definite a part of the new blouse and shirt waist styles are being on blouses and blouse-patters already embroidered for Christmas gifts. And there's surely no gift that the average girl, with her perfectly natural love of pretty clothes, will enjoy more than a blouse—but that's a digression!

The design of the blouse is the first step. (Ninety-nine out of every hundred are embroidered, and probably fifteen out of that ninety-nine are tucked. But tucks, while they are high in favor, are not necessary to the make-up of every blouse as they were some little time ago.

Perhaps, though, that yoke is made by simply running dozens of fine tucks as close together as they will crowd all the way across from shoulder to shoulder, letting them run a couple of inches deeper directly in front, or, perhaps, letting the tucks follow, in a measure, the top outlines of the embroidery.

That's for your simplest waists, though, unless you use so elaborately embroidered a pattern for the rest of your blouse that it is an effective trimming in itself.

Irish crochet and baby Irish lace make the richest yokes; but a bit of lace large enough to fashion one of, to say nothing of those already shaped, is pretty costly.

One blouse had for its main idea a curious scroll pattern of conventional flowers and leaves, done in a combination of blind and eyelet work.

The yoke was a departure from tradition. Instead of tucks or lace or any intricate trimming, there was a square exquisitely done drawn-work, outlined by a couple of rows of simple hemstitching, which were separated—and set off—by rows of briar-stitching, so perfectly executed as to seem like delicately engraved lines.

Blind embroidery, eyelet work and drawn-work are flung together apparently at haphazard, with here and there a tiny Japanese dragon laid on by way of adding another bizarre, but stunning, touch.

Sometimes the yoke is of delicate blind embroidery—the sort of work that is done with the aid of a magnifying glass, and, perhaps, that is outlined by the tiniest scalloping, with the blouse proper divided into strips by the narrowest of baby Irish insertion, or even by narrow Cluny.

Valenciennes lace makes some of the lighter yokes, and is treated in almost as many ways as there are blouses—from the square or round inset yokes of all-over lace to intricate arrangements of narrow lace used as insertion. When valenciennes is used, it is the German variety, which, in spite of its popularity all summer, still holds its own.

But Irish lace is having a furore just now.

As to the tiny yokes of criss-cross tucks, they are legion, as are those of groups of three or four wee tucks.

Fillet lace, which was just applied tentatively to lingerie blouses in Paris about a year ago, has established itself as a success. Sometimes a single square medallion, with its heraldic design or conventional flower designs darned in, is enough for a yoke. And when you can get big and little ones to match, use a big one as a tiny yoke, chemisette style, just in front of the collar, and the little ones to trim blouse and sleeves, using embroidery linen in the spaces around and between the medallions.

Russian blouse suits for small boys and girls are always in most excellent taste. They are simple and rich in design. Some of them have the hand embroidery in a mild form; tastefully put on, it is very effective.

For children from 4 to 10 the red chin-chilla box coats are very popular. Fur cloths also are in evidence everywhere.

The newest thing in fancywork, like most new things, is a revival of something old. This time it is a return of Louis XIV decoration. With the same enthusiastic appreciation which the new republic maintains for the beauties of old France, French women have taken to copying those exquisite "bibelots" that suggest in every glittering turn the early heedless days of Marie Antoinette. Like most things French, this work requires a deft touch, but beyond that it is simple enough; and it has its economic side. You can transform into the most charming little Christmas gifts many a bit that seemed only good enough to furnish the piece drawer. Old lace, embroidery, handkerchiefs, fichus and, best of all, old brocade (or its counterfeit) are invaluable.

Exquisite lamp shades, pillows, picture frames, bags, pin cushions, screens may be evolved with the addition of a little antique braid, spangles, ribbon or quaintly tinted transparent prints.

Gauzy gold braid—dulled as it by age—is drawn into graceful bow knots. Tiny chiffon roses, in soft pastel shades, form festooned borders; or a well selected bit of paillette passementerie is arranged to garish the brocade which is used as foundation. Everything, except, of course, spangles, should be dull or soft in tone. These must be nothing garish—a purely antique effect will mean your artistic success.

Tiny roses, poked from a couple of shades of chiffon, with leaves fashioned in the same way from narrow green ribbon, all bound by green sewing silk to the finest of wrapped wire, are the most difficult part of the work, and the most characteristic. They are everywhere, in combination with bow knots—framing the printed pictures, or outlining a brocade design.

Be careful to tack or sew lightly, avoiding a tight look as strenuously as you do a bright color. In selecting the thin silk which is gathered on your wire lampshade, for instance, get palest, softest pink or yellow. Use a dull gold thread to knit the light mesh forming your pin cushion top. And, above all, select for covering only shapes of the period.

BEAUTY AND ATTRACTION.

Attraction and beauty are two very different things. Who has not seen the merely pretty woman come off a very poor second best to the plain, fascinating one. Of course, magnetism and the mental qualities that fall under the heads of tact, vivacity and wit have much to do with the final fact of fascination, but it has also many other minor ingredients, powerful among them being femininity, which is in itself a complexity—a subtle perfume, a delicacy of dress, hands and complexion, a careful coiffure and a hundred and one other things going to make up its alluring charm and refinement.

**HICKS FOR DECEMBER.**—The second storm period is central on the 11th. By the 9th the barometer will be falling decidedly in western parts, the temperature will rise, cloudiness will increase, and marked storms of winter rain and wind will appear in eastward directions. As these storms advance eastward they will turn to general snow storms and blizzards in all northerly directions. Watch the culmination from about 11th to the 13th. The last stages of these storms will be attended and followed by a very high barometer and a severe cold wave.

The third storm period is central on the 15th, 16th, 17th. Sudden changes to quite warm often followed by winter lightning and thunder, are natural results at these storm periods. Hence the present period, as well as other December periods, is apt to commence with decidedly rising temperature and falling barometer. Rains will quickly follow and these in turn will end in snow and a severe and sudden revulsion to high barometer, high northerly gales and the cold wave.

The fourth storm period is central on the 22nd, extending from the 20th to the 25th. Beyond reasonable doubt, this will prove one of, if not the most general and severe storm periods of the month. It will come in during a time of unsettled and threatening weather, but greatly increased storm conditions will appear about the 21st. The barometer will be unsettled and falling all over the western section. A warm spell for December will follow the low barometer resulting in general rains from Friday the 22nd to Monday the 25th. Not far from Christmas day the storms will culminate in heavy rain and wind with thunder storms in the southern States, turning to snow and blizzards immediately behind the storm of rain, winding up with a very high barometer, fierce northerly gales, and a sweeping cold wave. This cold wave will be felt in greater or less severity to the Gulf of Mexico. Should a very low barometer exist over the extreme southern States over the progress of these storms, at their conclusion frosts and freezing will reach the Gulf.

The fifth storm period is central on the 27th, 28th, and 29th. The indications are that generally unsettled weather, with desultory storms and storminess, will follow the regular period, through this reactionary period, and that cold, clearing weather will prevail as the month and year goes out.

**IMPORTANT MINE DECISION.**  
Part of Certificate Act Declared Unconstitutional.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 12.—The decision in the Shalen case, handed down by the superior court, while it sustains the mine certificate act, declares unconstitutional that portion of it which requires that an applicant for a certificate must have had two years' experience in the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania. The attorneys here for the operators claim that this is all that they really contended for, and that the decision is a complete victory for them.

Practically it means that a coal miner from any state who can pass the examination is entitled to a certificate.

**New Trial For Twining.**  
Philadelphia, Dec. 12.—The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a new trial for Albert C. Twining, convicted of making false entries in the reports and in the books of the First National bank of Asbury Park, of which he was a director. Twining is now under sentence of six years in New Jersey. When tried in the U. S. district court at Trenton Twining was charged with having, as a director, over-stated the amount that was due the bank from loans and discounts, including in his schedule a promissory note said to have been worthless.

**Gov. Warfield's Wife in Runaway.**  
Annapolis, Md., Dec. 12.—The wives of Governor Warfield and Secretary of State Tilghman, of Maryland, had a narrow escape from death in a runaway accident. The horses could not be stopped, and the negro coachman took the chance of driving them into a telegraph pole. All escaped without serious injury, though the carriage was broken to pieces.

**Big Pension Her Christmas Gift.**  
Marshallton, Del., Dec. 11.—Mrs. Aramina Vaughan, an aged colored woman, is overjoyed at receiving word from Washington that she is to receive a Christmas present in the shape of \$1000 back pay and \$8 a month pension because of the services of her husband as a Civil War veteran.

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