

FARM NOTES.

It is better to have the rye craked—not ground. We need to pay more attention to the fertilizing of our land.

Give the stables a good coat of white-wash. Pat a cupful of strong coffee in the calf's skin milk; it will cure scours.

Breeding ewes will need some grain now, if best results are expected. Feed some bran as lambing time approaches.

Above all, keep the outbuildings nice and clean, with plenty of air, and you will not be troubled with all kinds of diseases.

Rye may be fed advantageously to horses. Two quarts of oats with one of rye are about equivalent to four quarts of oats.

Always put a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda in the milk for the calf or pigs. It is good for them, even though the milk be fresh from the separator.

Keep the pigpen clean. Give the pigs pusley weed, as they are very fond of it, and it will do them good. Also sweet apples, but not sour ones. You will find plenty to keep the pigs without any feed.

Pastures and meadows require as much attention as cultivated fields to keep them from running out. Yearly reseeding of the bare places is necessary. Use the clover and timothy will give way to less desirable grasses.

An old harness can be kept looking like new by using a dressing made from three ounces turpentine and two ounces white wax dissolved and mixed over a slow fire. Then add one ounce ivory black well pulverized. Wash the leather clean and when dry apply the dressing.

There is a fungus which sometimes attacks carrots and turnips, causing decay at the roots, or a misshapen growth, or a withering of the leaves. This may be prevented by a liberal sowing of air-laked lime upon the soil, 30 or 40 bushels per acre, and harrowing it in before the seed is sown, as the fungus lives in the soil. But it is usually better and cheaper to put the root crops on new land where this fungus has never appeared.

Poor pastures do not pay, for the reason that it is to the interest of the farmer that his cows secure an abundance of food at the least cost. The animals should be compelled to work for their food on the pasture by tramping the ground in the search for grass. As soon as a pasture does not supply an abundance the cattle should be taken off and fed on green food at the barn, as they will fall off in milk if the supply of food on the pasture fails.

The hog that is grown between "two winters" will cost less and be more profitable than one kept from the fall till the spring of next year. The spring pig should be of just the right weight to bring the highest price by November or Christmas, and it will require less attention than one kept through the winter. It is not now necessary to have pigs excessively fat, though weight is an important factor. Quality is sought now, and hence fixes the price.

Do not use pots that are too large for the wintering flowering plants. It is better to give larger pots when the necessity for such arises. Be careful in watering, for the tendency is to give too much water. An excellent fertilizer for winter plants is to dissolve a teaspoonful of nitrate of soda, phosphate of lime and phosphate of potash in three pints of water, which may be applied in the same way as water—three times a week. The materials are free from odor and may be procured at any drug store.

The first pound, or 100 pounds, of mutton, beef or pork is where the profit is made, as the young animals grow and gain rapidly. The greater the weight an animal can be made to attain in the shortest period of time, the smaller the cost per pound proportionately. It requires no more labor to feed and care for a steer weighing 1000 pounds than for one weighing much less. The cost of production does not depend solely upon the amount of food consumed, but upon that combined with the expense of shelter and labor.

The draining of large areas of land calls for expert advice and superintendence. The man who owns a small piece of land and has an outlet for his surplus water will find little trouble perhaps in getting a drainage system to work; but it is far otherwise with a large area, whether that area consist of a level plain or of hills. It is very easy to construct a drainage system that will not work well on the hills and that will not work at all on the level land. Expert advice and superintendence cost money, but they are worth money.

To give a horse a drench, place a stout rope in his mouth and around upper jaw. Back him up in a stall or corner. Throw loose end of rope over beam overhead and let another man hold it taut or loose as required. Stand on a box and lift horse's head up. Take in slack of the rope and hold head in position. The mouth of a long-necked bottle, containing the drench, should be loosely placed in the horse's nostril, and contents allowed to run out. Not a drop will be spilled, if properly managed, as the animal is obliged to swallow on once.

The fatter a breeding sow is kept the more liable she is to destroy her pigs by laying upon them or eating them. Sows left to run wild usually make good mothers, and will generally select a warm, dry place to farrow. It is for this reason that there is much advantage in using full-blooded bears of improved breeds on large, coarse-blooded, native sows. The progeny secures the good quality of the sire, with a better constitution and more hardiness than it could get from a full-blooded pedigree, going back through generations which have always had ample feed and little exercise.

To a hard-working horse repose is as much a necessity as good food, but tired though he may be, he is often too shy to lie down, even when a good, clean bed is provided for him. Unless a horse lies down regularly his rest is never complete, and his joints and sinews will stiffen. While it is true that some horses that sleep in a standing position continue to work for many years, it is equally true that they would wear much better if they rested naturally. Young, nervous horses not infrequently refuse to lie down when first led to the stall, and when introduced into a town stable the habit may be confirmed, unless inducements are offered to overcome the disinclination.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

Nothing is impossible to industry.—Periander of Corinth.

The world is given as a prize to a man in earnest.—Robertson.

Choosing the Easter hat is by no means the joke the comic papers would have us believe.

In fact, to the majority of womankind it is the most important question of the Spring wardrobe, for, as every one knows, the hat either makes or mars the entire toilet.

We may plan beforehand that the hat shall be pretty, of course, but practical and sensible as well.

So armed with perfect confidence in our powers to resist sartorial temptations, we rally forth to buy, but almost such resolutions are apt to gradually but surely melt away once we enter the portals of the seductive shops and find ourselves in the hands of the subtle saleswoman.

Every year resolves are made and as regularly broken, often to our lasting sorrow, for to many of us a second Easter hat is but a dream of the question, and so the disappointment simply has to be borne literally and mentally.

If the past years have required sober judgment and strong resolutions, this season makes double demands, for never before were the models so eccentric, or so generally unbecoming as they are for this Spring.

Take the very tiny turban. Worn by a girlish little figure with a slender face and delicate features, the hair fluffed youthfully, the effect is as winsome as possible, but how seldom she can be brought to look so demurely, as a rule, are for the enormous all black hat, in which she looks half buried, and which actually deprives her of her much needed height.

The same perverse fate fills the woman with a figure like a barrel and a face like a pudding, with an insatiable desire to don a decorated pill box. It must be so, or why do we see such exhibitions every day of our lives.

The mushroom hats are going to be very trying, for the wearer will be apt to look either very smart or equally dowdy (depending not so much upon her type as upon the way she carries herself), for there is actually no between. A tall figure will become this drooping style, but her shorter sister, unless possessed of chic or style will do well to avoid it.

The envelope style is fashionable and may be chosen by the woman of full face, while if she is short as well the brimless effect in the front with high trimmings there will apparently add inches to her height.

After shape comes color, though this, of course, should be determined by the tone of the gowns to be worn with the hat, either harmonizing or contrasting.

While it is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rules in regard to selecting a hat, a few general ones may be observed. A tall woman may wear a large all black hat whether she be stout or thin; a short woman under the same conditions should avoid such a selection.

The slender woman of medium height will need no special guide, but a stout woman of the same number of inches should choose her hat of medium proportions, neither too large nor too small, and preferably trimmed high.

A slender face will become a small hat always unless the former is too long, but in choosing for a fat face the main point to remember is to take care that the sides of the hat extend beyond the cheeks—the front and back effects are of less importance, because, if the hat is narrower than the face the cheeks will look larger than they really are.

As a rule the saleswoman may be safely trusted as far as a becoming style is concerned, but of course, she cannot be expected to know the condition of the pocket-book, or even any details as to the rest of the toilet to be worn with the hat in question, and so to help those who lack confidence in their own taste or for any other reason I offer the benefit of my own experience in such matters.

One of the very best annuals to be grown in the housewife's flower garden is the aster.

The wide range of size, color and season of blooming makes it an ideal flower for the small garden.

In the past few years there has been a great improvement in this flower, and now many plants will produce flowers which compare favorably with some of the better sorts of chrysanthemums. In the aster are found many delicate shades of blue, which make it a desirable flower in many instances.

For July and August bloom the seed of this plant should be sown in the latter half of March, if possible. If not then, by all means during the first two weeks of April. The seed may be sown in a cold frame or in boxes in the living room if the weather is not favorable.

After all danger of frost is past, they may be transplanted to the desired location. If the weather is reasonably settled, as it usually is about the first of April, the China aster and a number of other varieties may be planted in the open.

The soil should be reasonably rich. If not very rich, it should receive a liberal application of well-rotted manure with which might be mixed a little hard wood ashes.

Spade up the ground to a depth of six or eight inches and thoroughly rake it till it is well pulverized. Make the drills about a half inch deep.

Many times excellent results are obtained by whitening the drills with air-slaked lime. Then plant the seeds and cover them with a layer of fine dirt about one fourth inch thick. The dirt should be applied by sifting it through a sieve. Fresh manure should never be applied to the bed.

Two or three lumps of sugar added to boiled starch will make the clothes stiffer and more glossy.

A teaspoonful of turpentine added to every quart of starch, either hot or cold, will give a brilliantly polished surface and prevent the iron sticking.

In the absence of turpentine kerosene will do nearly as good work.

The Duke of Rutland's eldest daughter, Lady Marjorie Manners, has a very striking profile portrait of Margaretta Drexel, Mrs. Anthony J. Drexel's beautiful daughter, in the amateur art exhibition at Lady Naylor Leyland's London house.

Light of the Stars.

Various attempts have been made to estimate the light of stars. In the northern hemisphere Argelander has registered 324,000 stars down to the nine and one-half magnitude, with the aid of the best photometric data.

Agnes M. Clerk's "System of the Stars" gives the sum of the light of these northern stars as equivalent to 1,440 of full moonlight, and the total light of all stars similarly enumerated in both hemispheres to the number of about 900,000 is roughly placed at 1,180 of the lunar brightness.

The scattered light of still fainter celestial bodies is difficult to evaluate. By a photographic method Sir William Abney in 1896 rated the total starlight of both hemispheres as 1,100 of full moonlight, and Professor Newcomb in 1901 from visual observations of diffused sky radiance fixed the light power of all stars at just 728 times that of Capella, or 1.89 of the light of the full moon.

It is not certain, however, that the sky would be totally dark if all stars were blotted out. Certain processes make the upper atmosphere strongly luminous at times, and one never can be sure that this light is absent.

Dog That Climbed a Tree.

Can a dog climb a tree? A correspondent writes: "While on a walk on snowshoes in New Hampshire we tracked a porcupine to a balsam fir, in which it had taken refuge. My Scottish terrier climbed the tree, pulling herself up from branch to branch to a height of about seven feet, where a space of bare trunk separated her from the porcupine, which had watched her progress with evident alarm. The terrier made several ineffectual attempts to scale the smooth bark and finally jumped down into the snow."

And of another curious trait the same writer continues: "This little dog and her mate, now dead, though enthusiastic fire worshippers at home, never sat near the bonfires built at luncheon or tea time on winter walks, but dug holes in the snow at a little distance, in which they curled themselves up after the manner of their primitive ancestors."—Chicago News.

Processes Which Defy Analysis.

I think that the more thoroughly and conscientiously we endeavor to study biological problems the more we are convinced that even those processes which we have already regarded as explicable both by chemical and physical laws are in reality infinitely more complex and at present defy any attempts at a mechanical explanation. Thus we have been satisfied to account for the absorption of food from the alimentary canal by the laws of diffusion and osmosis. But we now know that, as regards osmosis, the wall of the intestine does not behave like a dead membrane. We know that the intestinal wall is covered with epithelium and that every epithelial cell is in itself an organism, a living being with the most complex functions. We know that it takes up food by the active contractions of its protoplasm in the same way as observed in independent naked animal cells.—A. Bunge.

Her Valentine.

A young woman wrote about the year 1750: "The night before St. Valentine's day I got five bay leaves and pinned four of them to the four corners of my pillow and the fifth to the middle. And then if I dreamed of my sweetheart Betty said we would be married before the year was out. But to make more sure I boiled an egg hard and took out the yolk and filled it with salt and when I went to bed ate it, shell and all, without speaking or drinking after it. We also wrote our lovers' names upon bits of paper and rolled them up in clay and put them into water, and the first that rose up was to be our valentine. Mr. Blossom was my man. I lay abed and shut my eyes all the morning till he came to our house, for I would not have seen another man before him for all the world."

Beethoven's Oddities.

Beethoven used the snufflers for a toothpick. It was one of his peculiarities that he never allowed his servant to enter his study. He insisted that this room should remain exactly as he left it, no matter how deeply the dust lay on the precious musical manuscripts. He seldom looked in the glass when he tied his stock. Half the time he forgot to brush his hair. Every morning he carefully counted out seventeen beans from the coffee canister. These served for his breakfast. When he composed, he would pour cold water over his hands, and often people below him would complain of the water that soaked through his floor.

Suggestive.

"Miriam," said her mother, "have you ever given young Mr. Stapleford any reason to believe you cared for him enough to marry him?" "He seems to think so," answered the daughter, "because I told him the other evening that he was sending me

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too many costly flowers and ought to begin to save his money."—Chicago Tribune.

They Began Early. Gummy—Women's habit of going to their husbands for money is as old as the human race. Gargoyle—That can't be, for the human race had no such thing as money for many ages. Gummy—Nevertheless Eve got a "bone" from Adam.

Physical Culture. Police Surgeon (to would be cop)—How is it, my man, that your right arm is developed out of all proportion to the rest of you? Italian Applicant—Grinda da org', shina da fruit, roosta da peanut.—Puck.

The English billion is 1,000 times greater than the American.

Surf Riding is a Fine Sport. At Waikiki, near Honolulu, is a famous bathing beach. Here winter and summer the surf canoes or, better yet, the surf boards come dancing in on the long rollers, and men become amphibious. There is no sensation quite comparable to riding a surf board on a Pacific roller. It is tobogganing on a moving hillside of water, or, if you are clever enough to stand up on your board, it is taking this hillside on a single big skee. The beach runs far out before it shelves into deep water, and at high tide the breakers begin to mount almost half a mile from the shore line. You go out there with your surf board and wait for the wave. You learn to catch it at the right moment, throw your board inshore and climb upon it just as the crest of the roller mounts and catches you. Then on this crest you sail in toward the shore, to slide down at last when the wave breaks, down the foaming incline into shallow water and churning foam. It is royal sport.—Travel Magazine.

Strenuous Chivalry. It is complained that modern conditions are killing "the chivalry of the middle ages." But mediæval tales and romances show what that chivalry really was. Wife beating was a common incident on the part of those knights and gentlemen whose gallantry was a mere convention. The Chevalier de la Tour-Landry in his book of counsels to his daughters tells them the story of a woman who used to contradict her husband in public. One day, after expostulating in vain, he knocked her down, then kicked her face and broke her nose. "And so," comments the good chevalier, "she was disgraced for life, and thus, through her ill behavior and bad temper, she had her nose spoiled, which was a great misfortune to her." But not a word is said about the husband's brutality.

False Messiahs. The defense of different persons claiming to be the Messiah has cost the Jews a great expense, both in treasure and human life. One of these, Coziba, who lived in the second century of our era, put himself at the head of the Jewish nation as their Messiah, and many of that people adhered to and defended him. The Romans made war upon Coziba and his followers, and, according to admissions made by eminent Jewish authority, they lost somewhere between 500,000 and 600,000 men in his defense. The last of these impostors was Mordecai, a German, who first claimed to be of divine origin in the year 1682. When the authorities threatened to punish him as an impostor he fled, and his end is not known.

Rapid Growth. The most remarkable instance of rapid growth was recorded by the French academy in 1723. It was a boy six years of age five feet six inches in height. At the age of five his voice changed; at six his beard had grown and he appeared a man of thirty. He possessed great physical strength and could easily lift to his shoulders and carry bags of grain weighing 200 pounds. His decline was as rapid as his growth. At eight his hair and beard were gray, at ten he tottered in his walk, his teeth fell out and his hands became palsied; at twelve he died with every outward sign of extreme old age.

A Lasting Impression. "Well, Bertha, I hear you met Mr. Cooke yesterday. Did you like him?" "Do you know, dear, he made an impression upon me that nothing will obliterate."

"Really! How—what did he say?" "It wasn't what he said; it was what he did. He spilled a cup of tea over my new white silk dress."

Succeeded. "She married him to reform him." "Did she succeed?" "Sure! He used to be a spendthrift and now he has nothing to spend."—Houston Post.

Best Route to the Northwest.

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