

FARM NOTES.

Fertilize the orchard; plow and spray. The flavor of butter is an element of value that should be carefully guarded. A good formula for making grafting wax is: Resin, 4 parts by weight; beeswax, 2 parts; tallow, 1 part. Fruit crops are often so large that the abundance of one year offsets the smallness of crops in other years. The driving horse is receiving more attention than ever before. The lack of a breed of American driving horses is being felt. A sheep is really in its prime at 5 years naturally, this being an average of two-thirds or half its useful possible life under good care. Evergreens are hardy, pretty and make excellent windbreaks. May is the proper month to plant them. Try some and beautify the dooryard. The onion's odor is caused by the sulphur which is contained in the bulb. It is the sulphur that makes it a germicide and renders it so useful as a medicine. Under average conditions a grade draft colt can be raised as cheap per pound after foaling as a steer, and will sell when 4 years old for at least three times as much. In some parts of the country the question of high yield of wool is taking the place of the question of the large yield of mutton. The high wool prices have brought the change. Unsound grain should never be fed to horses. The small amount of food required in proportion to the size of the body makes it necessary that the food be of the best quality. Keep the bark of your trees healthy by the application of a good wash. A healthy tree, like a healthy man will withstand the attacks of disease more easily than a weakly one. A case is related of a valuable cow being cured of a bad case of blood, produced from eating apples, by a dose of two table-spoonsful of sunpowder. The same remedy also cured a bad case caused by dry clover. The man who cheerfully sets the spade where his wife directs, and lends himself willingly to her desires in the flower garden, has in him the vital elements of good citizenship and is a safe man to trust. Cultivation is intended to destroy weeds, prevent the ground from drying out and to admit the air to the soil so as to keep the plant food soluble. Cultivation does not add any water to the soil, but prevents that already there from getting away. When comfortable quarters are provided for fowls, says Professor Watson, the nutritive ration of the fowl should be about 1.4; that is one part protein food and three parts of carbohydrates or heat and fat-producing compounds. When the corners of the mouth or nose of the sheep are drawn up, giving an appearance of great misery, that sheep is in a bad way and should be taken up without delay and duly cared for. Generally a dose of salts or oil, with tonic mixture after it, will right the trouble. A sheep should never be allowed to fall off in condition. Its constitution is weakened permanently. The clip of wool is seriously injured. No animal is so difficult to restore to good condition as the sheep, and there is none where a loss of flesh tells so quickly upon its outward covering. Don't feed heifers that are intended for the dairy large quantities of fat-producing foods, but abundance of good hay and a limited supply of oats and corn, for the habit of laying on flesh in calfhood is liable to follow her to motherhood, and lead her to placing the results of heavy feeding on her back instead of in the milk pail. Let the barnyard manure for the garden be well rotted if it is desired to cultivate it into the soil early in the spring; but if coarse green manure has to be used, scatter broadcast during the winter, and rake up or mow part of it before plants are set in spring. Of course, this applies to ground that has been plowed the past fall. Professor Bailey says a weed is nothing more or less than a plant that is not wanted. Corn is a weed in a potato field, and rye is a weed in a buckwheat field. Corn may be a weed in a cornfield when the corn is planted too thick. Dandelions are commonly regarded as weeds, and yet in many gardens they are grown for greens and are crops and not weeds. These figures are large, but interesting: There are 10,438,219 farmers in the United States, with 5,739,657 farms, worth \$20,514,001,839, the products of which are worth \$3,764,177,706, and who feed not only themselves and the rest of the eighty-four million Americans, but send 117,715,657 bushels of wheat, to say nothing of 13,919,048 barrels of flour, to foreigners. The foreigners pay \$62,061,856 for the corn and \$28,757,517 and \$59,106,869 for the wheat and flour. It costs on an average of about \$25.00 to keep a cow a year. The average good cow on the farm is capable of yielding her owner as high as \$40.00 a year, and the average poor cow \$10.00. Which are you keeping, Mr. Dairyman? The cow that yields you about \$15.00 profit or the one that costs you \$15.00 for the privilege of keeping and caring for her? It's a good thing to engage in dairying, if your bank account needs a "boost," but be careful to have the right kind of cow. Therein lies the secret of the whole thing in being a successful dairyman. Eggs preserved four years in water glass, were recently examined by an expert of the United States agricultural department and found to have an unpleasant taste or smell and the white coagulated in cooking. At this age there is a slight taste like soda, and the white is pink in color and very liquid. Eggs kept in water glass about six months tasted and smelled like well-kept eggs a few days old. Changes in preserved eggs take place gradually and at one year old are hardly noticeable. Out of 384 dozen eggs put up between April and June and sold between October and December, only five dozen or 1.3 per cent. were bad, and these were cracked and broken.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

It is a woman's duty to be socially attractive, not statistically correct.—Home Notes.

Boas big, round, fluffy, and from two to three yards long, have ousted the handsome flat scarfs of last season. They come tinted, shaded and in mixed feathers. They will figure largely at the theater, the opera, the dance.

Cook's feathers, with the tips of the fronts finished with a tuft of glossy ostrich feathers, clipped and straight ostrich feathers, with little bunches of cook's plumage among them, are the novelties. Besides these long boas there are necklets or collars of feathers which are finished with long ribbon ties or long many-stringed bead pendants varied in endless ways.

Colored nets will take the place to a considerable extent of chiffon for the construction of the separate waist.

They are more satisfactory than chiffon because the costume idea of making the waist of a different fabric, but of the same color as the skirt and coat, can thus be carried out at a price which will appeal to women of moderate means.

For Hats.—The backward trimming continues to flourish.

Handfuls of strange, soft-falling plumage is used in profusion in adorning the smartest models.

Flowers are a favorite trimming, and large buckles made of tinsel, galoon, drawn silk and velvet are some of the smartest touches.

Smooth and rough felt, long-haired beaver hats bid fair to establish themselves in favor for winter wear. Vying with them are large hats of velvet, the simpler ones trimmed with big bows of satin ribbon, the more decorative ones with handsome feathers.

The shady, downward turned brim still holds its own.

Prominent among the most elegant trimmings of the moment are ornaments and fringes.

They are found upon the choicest models of the most exclusive designers.

A sleeve is given grace by the weight of a row of heavy pendants like drops.

The bodies of simple gowns acquire character with a jaunty edge of little balls of fringe of the Spanish design.

Sometimes it is merely the fastening of a cloak, but invariably where there is trimming of any sort a motif of hand crochets is sure to be introduced.

As a rule it is not used in great quantities, and the making of a sufficient amount to trim one's own gown is thus rendered quite a possibility to those who are fond of such work.

For Fig Sandwiches.—Chop the figs and spread either between buttered bread or between slices of pound cake.

For Cream Cheese Sandwiches.—One cream cheese, one heaping tablespoonful of butter, salt and pepper to taste. Rub these all together and add one dozen chopped olives and a few sprigs of chopped water-cress. When they are mixed until creamy spread on the bread.

For Walnut Sandwiches.—Cream together one tablespoonful of butter, one-half cup of grated cheese and half a cup of finely chopped English walnuts. Season with celery salt before spreading.

For Chicken Sandwiches.—Prepare a mayonnaise as for veal and mix it with chopped chicken. Just before serving place a leaf of crisp lettuce from the heart of the head on the slice of buttered bread and spread the chicken thickly over it.

For Date and Almond Sandwiches.—One cup of dates and the same quantity of blanched almonds chopped and mixed to a paste. This filling can be used with bread, pound cake or plain vanilla wafer.

Brighten your carpets by wiping them over with a cloth wrung out of diluted ammonia. This has the most wonderful effect on the colors, and does not stain, as is often the case with tea leaves.

When boiling cabbage use an abundance of water, add a lump of sugar and a spoonful of salt. Leave the saucepan lid off and boil very quickly.

Your troubles seem lighter when your brother and sister patrons unfold theirs in Grange meetings.

To remove the odor of fish or onions from a frying-pan, put a little vinegar into the pan and heat it over the fire.

For a meat sandwich the veal will be found very appetizing. Get steaming veal and let it cook very slowly until tender and then chop fine. Make a mayonnaise of one-half teaspoonful of dry mustard, half a teaspoonful of salt, a sprinkling of celery salt and a dash of cayenne pepper. Mix together and add the yolk of an egg. After this is stirred smooth, drop in the olive oil, stirring constantly, and this with the juice of a lemon. Mix the mayonnaise with the veal. Have the bread spread with creamed butter and add a generous layer of the veal.

The making of a sandwich has come to be a fine art. The old-fashioned slabs of bread and meat are not only repulsive to behold, but are exceedingly hard form, and the hostess whose ambition is to serve dainty viands, will do well to give a great deal of attention to sandwiches, which, after all, are appropriate for all occasions, from the impromptu, informal gathering of friends, to the most pretentious function.

One important thing to know about sandwiches is that the butter should never be spread until it has been thoroughly creamed and beaten, so that it is light and puffy. Another item of importance is the bread, which must be of medium size, and not too fresh. The crust should be removed, and the bread cut in fancy shapes, either with a sharp knife or with the fancy cake-cutters that can be purchased for two or three cents apiece.

A Country Wedding in France.

Sometimes a country wedding passed, and that was always a pretty sight. A marriage is always an important affair in France in every class of life. There are long discussions with all the members of the two families. The priest, the notary, the employer (if the young man is a workman) are all consulted, and there are as many negotiations and agreements in the most humble families as in the great world of the Faubourg Saint Germain. Almost all French parents give a dowry of some kind to their children, and whatever the sum is, either five hundred francs or two thousand it is always scrupulously paid over to the notary.

The wedding-day is a long one. After the religious ceremony in the church, all the wedding party—members of the two families and a certain number of friends—adjourn to the hotel of the little town for a breakfast, which is long and most abundant. Then comes the crowning glory of the day—a country walk along the dusty high road to some wood or meadow where they can spend the whole afternoon. It is pretty to see the little procession trudging along—the bride in all her wedding garments, white dress, white shoes, wreath, and veil; the groom in a dress coat, top-hat, white cravat and waistcoat, with a white ribbon bow on his sleeve. Almost all the girls and young women are dressed in white or light colors; the mothers and grandmothers (the whole family turns out) in black, with flowers in their bonnets. There is usually a fiddler walking ahead making most remarkable sounds on his old cracked instrument, and the younger members of the party take an occasional gallop along the road. They are generally very gay; there is much laughing, and, from time to time, a burst of song. It is always a mystery to me how the bride keeps her dress and petticoat so clean, but she does, with that extraordinary knack all Frenchwomen seem to have of holding up their skirts. They passed often under the wall of the chateau, for a favorite resting-place was in our woods; the moss makes a beautiful soft carpet, and the big trees give perfect shade. We heard sounds of merriment one day when we were passing and we stopped to look on, from behind the bushes, where we couldn't be seen.—[Chateau and Country Life in France, by Madame Waddington, in October Scribner.

Medical.

WHEN HER BACK ACHES.

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