

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., December 13, 1907.

FARM NOTES.

In selecting such a horse, choose one about fifteen hands and one or two inches high, weighing about 950 to 1,000 pounds.

The first agricultural society in America was established in Philadelphia in 1785. The first horticultural society was established in that city in 1828.

For a good hedge and wind break plant the seeds of the honey locust. Use the seed freely as it is quicker to than to grow. This plant is free from insect pests.

For good results in farm dairying and butter-making in winter, keep the milk at an even temperature. Keep the cream sweet until the day before churning, and stir the cream well.

In 1854 tomatoes first came into general use in this country. In 1848 they were first packed in tin and glass by Harrison W. Crosby, at Lafayette College, Pa., and sold at 50 cents a can.

As a producer of human food a good dairy cow is about equal to two beefsteers, and the cow has to give only ten quarts of milk per day to the work. And, besides the cow is left, while the steer is not.

If your horse is out of condition, do you know why? If the feed and care are what they should be, then look at his teeth. See that the grinders come together evenly and smooth off the sharp points.

Sometimes the weather and the crop conditions are such that the poultry need extra feed, extra dust, extra shade, or protection from the wind and the rain, just as people do. The wise poultryman watches for these things, and meets them.

Did you ever watch beans grow? They come up out of the ground as if they had carried the seed on top of the stalk, as if they were afraid that folks wouldn't know that they immediately told them.

The Pennsylvania State College offers 31 correspondence courses. Nine lessons have been prepared for the course in vegetable gardening. This course is absolutely free. This is a chance for the Pennsylvania farm boys who want to learn the art of gardening.

There are some crops that will not follow each other, nor will they follow certain other crops, while, on the other hand there are some that will grow year after year on the same land and also follow any other crop. This must be studied carefully while making out the plans for the following season.

Sleighting is productive of more colds and pneumonia among horses than anything else. Unless your horse is hardened up for it be careful about driving too fast. A speed clip against a cold wind is dangerous. It is better to let the other fellow beat you to town a few minutes than to hurt your horse trying to outdrive him.

A speaker at the New York Farmers' Institute said: "Yarded fowls are the modern improved egg machines. Fowls let run and given free range cannot produce as great a number of eggs for the reason that they divert a part of their capacity for forming the eggs. In my own case, I increased my egg yield 18,730 eggs last year by yarding my fowls."

The chief reasons for pruning trees are to modify the vigor of the tree; to produce larger and better fruit; to keep the tree within manageable shape and limits; to change the habit of the tree from fruit to wood production, or vice versa; to remove surplus or injured parts; to facilitate harvesting and spraying; to facilitate tillage, and to train to some desired form.

To measure an acre, tie a ring at each end of a rope, the distance being just 66 feet between them; tie a piece of colored cloth exactly in the middle of this. One acre of ground will be four times the length and two and a half times the width or the equal of 16 rods one way and 10 rods the other, making the full acre 160 square rods. Keep the rope dry so it will not stretch. A rod is 16 1/2 lineal feet. An acre is 4840 square yards, or 43,560 square feet.

If ashes and hen manure are mixed together before being applied to the soil there will be a loss of ammonia from the poultry droppings, which will greatly lessen the value. The ashes should be put on after the manure has been mixed with the soil. In this way the ammonia will be absorbed by it and remain for the use of the crop. Wood ashes make a valuable application to soils deficient in potash, and hasten the decomposition of coarse manures.

It is important that breeding animals have laxative feed when they are put up on dry feeds after being taken from the pasture. Such articles as oil meal, flaxseed meal, etc., should enter largely into the ration. When animals are changed from pasture to dry feeding there is a tendency to constipation and this must be taken to have the bowels move freely, or there is danger of serious trouble. In case the above articles do not have the desired effect, Epsom salts or raw linseed oil must be used.

Winter is a good season for farmers to count up the losses they have sustained and find out how they may be avoided in the future. A little studious reflection will convince many a farmer that there are many continuous and unnecessary leaks on his farm, which might be stopped. Little wastes are often a great source of loss. Feeding fodder in the barnyard, manure leaching under the eaves of the barn, cold stables that make it necessary to provide extra rations to counteract the rigors of winter, not having a place for everything in the barn, so when wanted no unnecessary time is lost in hunting for things, and many other little things that in the long run become really expensive obstacles.

Sheep as scavengers.—A writer in the American Sheep Breeder says: "We are wintering 37 ewes on clover hay, corn stalks and clean, bright oats straw. Last summer I turned my sheep in a stubble field where there was a patch of Canada thistles that had been out before harvest to prevent them from going to seed. The second growth was about six inches high and very brushy. The sheep browsed every one close to the ground. Soon after I plowed the field, but whenever the sheep crossed it they would go to the thistle patch and eat all the roots they could find. The flock was not starved down to thistles, but were in such shape that four of them took second prize at the county fair under strong competition. No doubt sheep are scavengers."

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance, self control, diligence, strength of will, content, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.—Charles Kingsley.

There are many attractive novelties to be made for Xmas gifts, and at a small expense. Handsome articles are always appreciated and useful; practical ones are very acceptable.

"Corner" Cushions. This does not mean "room corners" but the many angles which develop in one's anatomy when one has to stay in bed during sickness or when one's hair begins to turn gray and one has "a bone in my leg." Then it is that half a dozen tiny cushions, in neat white muslin pillow cases, are a great comfort to stick into the corners that will not fit the mattress. These little pillows can be made of feathers or hair or even of a roll of cotton batting, and for each pillow given two cases should be prepared, so that it can have a clean case every week. These pillows are more "comfy" than the expensive air pillows so often used in sickness.

Old Favorites. There are a few favorite gifts that are always welcome and will retain their popularity for generations to come. Among them may be mentioned the bag with six pockets which one hangs in a closet door to hold shoes. The big flat bag for wrapping papers, with its pointed top, shaped altogether like an open envelope, and with a pocket attached in front—a patch pocket to hold the string. The string bag with a ball in each end, one of string and the other of stout cord. Then there are button bags, stocking bags, laundry bags, cloth-pin bags, marble bags—any amount of bags. Needle books, pin-cushions (in which one can easily stick pins), spool cases well stocked—all these are good to give and to receive.

What Little Girls Can Make. Besides the various bags just mentioned, small maidens can make pin-cushions, hem dusters and dish towels for mother, make iron-holders, hem washcloths, make bookmarks (by perforating cardboard and working the name or motto), or they can make little sachets of ribbon odds and ends. Little pin-cushions two inches wide can be made exactly like the bottom of the fancy bag described in this article, and father and brother will be glad of one to slip in a vest pocket. When you make the ironholders for mother hang each from a piece of tape fastened to a safety pin. Then mother can pin the taps to her waist, and when she drops her holders she will not have to look for them for they will hang onto her and be all ready for her when she starts to lift the next hot dish or pot in getting dinner.

But whatever one gives, please remember this: It is better to send some simple thing easily made than to work one's fingers to the bone and fray one's nerves to the breaking point just to make an elaborate showing by which to give to one's friends and relatives a token of your love and good wishes. A simple gift will do as well; and after all is done and said, everything can be summed up in the dear, old, time-honored greeting given with your gift, "Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

A bride whist pad also makes an attractive little gift, made of green or tan linen, tinted. It should measure about four by nine inches when finished. A design of hearts, connected by scroll lines, with the words Bridge Whist in the center, forms the design. The hearts are tinted with red and outlined with black silk, which is also used for the connecting lines. The lettering is outlined with red and black. The linen is folded and made into a removable cover the size for the score pad. The front cover is stiffened with cardboard and the cardboard of the pad is used to stiffen the back cover. The inside pockets, for holding the score cards, may be finished with a row of feather stitching. Ribbon is added for the ties.

Laundry bags are unusually attractive this year in their numerous humorous and artistic designs. They are all made so that they may be sent to the tub frequently, and if decorated with embroidery the design is so simple that it will easily launder.

Children's clothes racks are among the dainty novelties shown. They are stamped on tinted linens in the most delightful groups of Greenway and Mother Goose figures, and are mounted on boards, through which brass hooks are run. They are embroidered in the outline stitch and are suspended by ribbon hangers.

Opera and work bags are easily made, and are acceptable gifts to nearly every one. They are made of silk and linen, and usually decorated in the pastel shades of embroidery cottons or silks. They come ready for work in scores of styles. They are very reasonable as to price.

The lingerie of today is so elaborately trimmed with ribbon that it is a necessity that every woman should possess a lingerie ribbon kit. The outfit usually consists of the latest and most practical bodkins, ribbon holders, fancy bags and tiny little scissors.

Flat silver bodkins in sets of four can be bought on fancy silk-covered cards, and in the jewelry shop they are sold in leather cases. Some of them have the dearest little scissors to match. The bodkins range in size from the round ones, designed to go through the eye lets at the top of the chemise or night-gown, to the broad, flat ones, an inch across at the openings.

For the wider ribbons, such as are used in petticoat ruffle headings, a special bodkin has been made. If this is not desired, the ribbon is folded and run through a smaller bodkin.

It is much better to have the bodkin eye the exact size of the ribbon, however, so that the ribbon will not become twisted and mangled. This is why the set of four bodkins is so desirable.

"Pierrot" boss in black and white net are revived.

THE VARSITY LETTER.

To the College Man It is as a Flag to a Nation.

What a flag is to a nation a varsity letter is to a college man. Like a banner, a varsity letter is clustered around with comedies and tragedies, with yearnings and heartburnings. The "H" of Harvard, the "Y" of Yale, the "P" of Princeton and the varsity letters of the various other colleges and universities have meanings to college men which never occur to others. And here are strict rules and conditions surrounding the letters.

Every Harvard athlete who wins an "H" sweater must obey the unwritten rule of that university—the rule which says succinctly that an "H" sweater must not be displayed save on the field of action. Even in such appropriate places it ought not to make its appearance with excessive frequency. On ordinary occasions good taste at Harvard inspires a varsity athlete to wear a class or prep school sweater. At Yale a "Y" man, if he be a modest fellow generally, may appear even in Chapel street in his "Y" sweater, but that sort of thing at Cambridge is absolutely prohibited.

It is generally thought that the man who would display his "H" in the streets or in the "yard" is the sort of man who wishes people to know that he has done something. Therefore, the argument runs, he is the sort of man who should feel the force of the general contempt.

There are four kinds of "H" sweaters which may be worn on the field of action. In baseball and track athletics a solid crimson sweater is the reward of superior excellence—a black "H" for the baseball and a white "H" for the track. The varsity football sweater at Cambridge is black, with a small crimson "H." The crew sweater is solid white, with a crimson "H."

Of late years the custom has grown up of giving some sort of "H" recognition to the varsity men in the minor sports.

In basket ball the athletic powers that be confer a crimson sweater, with a white "H" which contains between its uprights two small "B's."

The varsity tennis men get a white sweater with a red "H." In the lines of which are small "T's."

The hockey men, who are strongly in touch with the football team, earn an "H. T." black sweater.

The day has gone by when a superb athlete can reap a collection of all the "H's" for the faculty now restricts an athlete's participation to two major sports. In the nineties it was possible for a man to earn an "H" in football, rowing, baseball and track.—Boston Herald.

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Medical.

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