

FARM NOTES.

—Keep in mind the old axiom, "a merciful man is merciful to his dumb beast."

—Make the cows fresh in the fall. The fall cow makes the most money for her owner.

—A food that is good to make milk or eggs is equally good to make muscle and growth.

—Now is the time of year to begin throwing some fodder corn over the fence to the cows.

—No man can make a success building up a dairy herd who does not take good care of the calves.

—Stand by your home creamery and help to build up a business in which you can have an interest.

—Plan on rearranging the barn or shed this fall if necessary in order to keep the cows warm next winter.

—If butter is worked too much, it will show an oily or greasy look, and it is then that the grain is injured.

The dairy house should be so arranged that the temperature is directly under the control of the dairyman.

—Feed only clean, wholesome food, and never feed strong flavored foods, such as cabbage, turnips, potatoes, etc.

—It is not too early to map out next year's garden. Write for a new seed catalog and early make up your mind what your order shall be.

—Don't milk the cow right up to the time of calving just because she shows a willingness. She needs a couple of months' rest.

—Cleanliness in milking is one of the most essential acts in the care of milk. The cow's udder should always be wiped clean with a clean, damp cloth.

A veteran farmer says that oats should be soaked sufficiently to swell them before they are fed to stock. When soaked the husk is partly forced aside, thus helping in the digestion of the grain.

—Farmers frequently inquire, what is the cause of clover dying out about the second year after it is sown. It is evident that the farmer does not understand the biology of the clover plant.

—A pint of kerosene mixed with a gallon of buttermilk, and stirred rapidly until well mixed is recommended as a good wash to kill lice on small pigs or shoats. Apply once a week for a month or so.

—Many of the pasture fields are grazed too near the ground. When a herd of cows has free access to a pasture they cut the grass down many times, and much closer than is usually done with a mower.

—The calf should have new milk exclusively the first 14 to 30 days. It should have the milk in small portions, and as often as the cows are milked, as only then we get the full benefit of the milk.

—To delay milking at the proper time will do more to cause a cow to grow dry before her period than anything else. She should also be milked to the last drop, if possible, for the last portion of the milk is the richest.

—Red clover is a biennial plant. That is, it requires two years as a rule before it blossoms preparatory to bearing seed. When it has produced seed like plants of limited life, it proceeds to die. It has fulfilled its mission.

—Arrange the stable with a view to the comfort of the animals and so as to facilitate the work of cleaning, milking, etc. Have the floor smooth and incapable of absorbing liquids, and enough sloping to cause good drainage.

—The milking must be done in a quick, quiet manner and the milk removed to a clean, cool place as soon as possible after milking. It should then be thoroughly strained into crocks or immediately run through a separator and the skim milk fed to the calves, pigs or poultry.

—Farmers who sowed crimson clover this fall will have an excellent fertilizing material for plowing under. No nitrogenous fertilizers will be required where crimson clover has grown, applications of phosphates and potash will be beneficial. They cost but a small sum, however, compared with the substances containing nitrogen.

—The original Seckel pear tree, it is said, is still standing on the Neck, not far from the League Island Navy Yard, in Philadelphia. The tree is too old to bear fruit. The Seckel pear was perfected years ago by Adam Seckel, an old resident of that district, whose daughter, Mary Seckel, married George Pepper, of the well-known Philadelphia family of that name.

—The following wash is claimed to be excellent to prevent rabbits gnawing apple or other orchard trees. Take one-half gallon carbolic acid, four pounds of sulphur, two gallons soft soap and thirty-two pounds of lime. Mix the soap with enough water to slack the lime, then while hot mix in the sulphur and acid. It will also act as a sure preventive of borers if applied the first of April.

—I have two log houses, each 16x32 feet on the ground. These are used for both summer and winter protection. One has a board floor and one a cement floor. The cement floor is laid level, and I find that this is a mistake, as it should be laid sloping to the gutters, to give it good drainage. One of these houses faces the south. The other house does not. I think log houses should be built to admit the sunlight possible, especially in the winter, and for raising early pigs.—J. G. Hines.

—If the hen is the victim of frozen comb, the duck seems to have its troubles in its feet. While the duck is at home on the water, even in cold weather, if the pond is not covered with ice, yet it cannot endure cold feet without liability of injury. Damp locations at night also affect the legs of ducks. When ducks are laying they can consume large quantities of food, but as soon as they cease laying they can thrive on a small supply, and should be turned out on grass and compelled to forage for insects, seeds, and bulky foods. Ducks should begin to lay in January, and finish by the time green food becomes plentiful. Instead of reducing the food after the ducks have ceased to lay regularly, some persons do not make a distinction in the matter, and feed the ducks liberally, the result being that they become too fat, their legs will not support them, and they at once become subject to heart disease, rheumatism, indigestion, etc.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN. DAILY THOUGHT.

Hast thou plenty? Then rejoice, Rejoice and freely share. Hast thou scanty store? 'Een then A little thou canst spare. And hast thou only bit or crumb, Adonor yet thou may'st become. Since morsel from thy less or least For bird or insect makes a feast, Be the portion small or great, Thy loving, generous heart Will always find it large enough To give away a part.

A Santa Claus Party.—This very charming and delightful party was given by young grandparents, who had a lovely home with large rooms, and they invited the grown-up folk, too.

The host and hostess were assisted in receiving their guests by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and Miss Santa Claus. After the greetings, they were ushered into a large room, a portion of which had been converted into a typical winter forest, in the corner of which was a lovely Christmas tree all aglow with lights.

Before the gifts were distributed by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, Miss Santa Claus told the old, old story of the Christ-child, emphasizing the fact that Christmas is a time for gifts because Jesus was a gift of love to the world, how he "went about doing good," "pleased not himself,"—teaching and living a life of goodness and love. That is why Christmas, his birthday, is the gladdest of birthdays in all the years, she told them.

Miss Santa Claus directed and led all the games, and whenever there came a pause, she told each delightful story. There were selections from Dickens, and "Uncle Remus," and many other lovely stories.

The entertainment closed with a lovely luncheon, which was served in the large dining room. At the windows were holly wreaths tied with a large bow of red ribbon, the mantel was banked with greens and thickly studded with red candles, different lengths. In the bay window were festoons of running cedar, with a fluffy red bell suspended by a bit of the cedar from the highest point of the arch, with smaller bells on either side.

The long table had for a centerpiece an oval mirror, surrounded by a miniature forest, which had been converted into a typical winter scene by a glass-blower. Gliding across the frozen pond was a sleigh drawn by four deer, in which Santa Claus was seated, with a pack of toys on his back, and toys all about him. At the farther end of the pond was a tiny house nestling among the evergreen trees. The children were seated at this table with the host and hostess.

There were four round tables at either corner of the long table, at which the older people sat. The centerpiece of each was a round plateau of mistletoe, in the middle of which gleamed a flaming star of red. A five-pointed star was cut from cardboard, then tacked to a thin board. The star was outlined with red candles, with a cluster of five candles elevated in the very center of the star.—The Pilgrim.

No decorations are prettier to be used for a tea given this month than holly and mistletoe, with just enough of the latter to emphasize the holiday season. It is not effective in itself, is very expensive and not worth the cost after a sprig or two have been put in a conspicuous place. But holly is enormously decorative, and four dollars' worth will trim two large rooms so that they are a delight to the eye. Moreover, it is comparatively easy to handle, and will last for several days, carrying one over Christmas day itself.

Christmas-present hunts are delightful. It is an especially happy suggestion if one or two out of a family are to be left alone at home while the rest go away for the Christmas festivities.

The presents for those left behind, suggests Harper's Bazar, should be concealed in different remote places all over the house and to each present a jingle should be attached, giving directions more or less definite or vague as to where the next present is to be found. The opening jingles giving directions for the start of the hunt are left in an envelope for the lonely ones, and they have no idea until this is opened on Christmas morning what is ahead of them.

This same plan can be carried out when the whole family is assembled also. A bright red cambric bag and an opening jingle can be given to each one, and the fun begins.

An interesting way not requiring quite so much rhyme-writing is simply to scatter labeled presents around the house in places where people will come upon them unexpectedly. The one danger is that, without any indication as to whether there are more or not, some may be missed. This danger can be avoided by numbering them or telling each one how many he may find.

In the last few years there has developed the most sensible and economical fad ever started and that is the fad of giving a single spoon, knife, fork or piece of china to the same person Christmas after Christmas until the recipient can count a dozen of each.

This by no means takes 12 years, as often there are several persons who agree to give duplicate pieces, and if there are three such in one's family, or among relatives and friends, then the dozen is completed in four years—or in three years if four persons give duplicates. Or oftener, if birthdays count.

One young woman of 25 whose family has followed out this idea, now has enough silver and china of her very own to set a luncheon table beautifully, and the same plan resulted in a charmingly attractive cups and saucers, the "green India" afternoon tea table, the "green India" cups and saucers, intermediate plates and tiny bread and butter plates having been given her singly. These tiny slab-sided plates she also uses for handing sandwiches at afternoon tea.

There are lots of homes where a set of pearl-handled knives are greatly desired, but it never seems exactly convenient to spend \$15 for them the luncheon or dessert size—but if six members of a family connection give the head of the home one each, at \$1.25, it would not come hard on any and the first year, even, she would have enough to use in entertaining several friends, while the second season would complete the set.

Many persons are adopting this plan in giving christening gifts as well, for instead of the temporary silver rattle they give the first of a series of spoons which may be used in the child's family till she is old enough to appropriate them herself.

This "one piece" fad also solves the "what to give" question, and soon ones down one's Christmas shopping list; for when a person knows that a friend or relative is making a one piece collection she no longer has to rack her brain thinking up what would be acceptable to her—she only has to go out and get the piece of ware and send it, suitably inscribed.

THE ACTOR'S CHRISTMAS.

Life on the Boards Is Not All a Happy Holiday.

"I like Christmas," said an actor. "No two are ever alike in my business. Last year, for instance, the company I was with was four weeks behind in salaries, and we were simply hanging on with the hope of the big houses Christmas day pulling us out a little. We were playing one night stands and left some little town in New York state for Wheeling, W. Va., right after the performance. It was a trip that called for three changes of cars, and there were no sleepers in any of them.

"Every car on every train was loaded with holiday excursionists, and every male excursionist was loaded with rye and brimstone. There were fights fresh every half hour, and constables met us with open arms and clubs at every station. No eating stations were honored by us, and we arrived at Wheeling too late to give a matinee performance, our manager had two black eyes and a broken wrist, and our star had lost a new set of teeth, without which he refused to play at night.

"The report had it that we were all in jail, and there would have been no house anyway. We had to get up three benefit performances before we could get money enough to buy tickets to New York, but we got there. However, as I said before, Christmas days are not all alike."—Buffalo News.

338 BODIES RECOVERED

Fire Again Breaks Out in Wrecked Miner at Monongah, W. Va.

Monongah, W. Va., Dec. 13.—The search in mines Nos. 6 and 8, of the Fairmont Coal company for victims of last week's explosion was suspended, partly because fire had broken out again in mine No. 8 and partly because practically every section of the two mines had been explored and it was not believed that further search along the same lines would result in the finding of more bodies.

Three hundred and thirty-eight bodies have been removed.

The condition of the bodies thus far recovered is horrible. Many are dismembered, some are fearfully crushed and the rest are blackened and burned beyond recognition. The body of J. M. McGraw, pit boss, and one of the best known mining men in West Virginia, was recovered in mine No. 8. It was headless and otherwise disfigured, identification having been made by the clothing and the shoes he wore.

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