

FARM NOTES.

A pound of nitrate of soda is sufficient to cover from 80 to 100 square feet. Ovensour cream gives a sour and, of course, an abnormal taste to the butter. A really good dairy cow will certainly not gain in flesh when in full flow of milk. The use of quicklime on soils helps to eat loose the mineral plant food locked up in the soil. When grass seed is sown see that you have a rich, well-pulverized seed bed, and sow liberally. A black soil is not necessarily a rich soil. It may be almost devoid of nitrogen, and so stand in need of some fertilizer. While cow-peas are best adapted to light, warm soils, any good corn land will grow the crop in the latitude where the peas will mature. Ground phosphate rock is a good material to add to barnyard manure, as the manure helps to make the phosphorus in the rock available for plants. A Spanish professor, according to German newspapers, has made the discovery that the sunflower yields a splendid fibrous tissue that can be used as a substitute for quinine. Diseased wood on a tree can never be made new again. Cut it off and allow another shoot to grow. Every day that such wood remains on a tree adds to the liability of losing it. It was stated that the English sparrow eats the caterpillar of the brown tail moth with avidity. It would seem to have met this moth in England and to have acquired an appetite for it. Lime is very beneficial to many soils. The fact that lime is exceedingly abundant makes it impossible for it ever to be high in price. It is one thing that nature supplies us in superabundance. Early in the spring a shovelful of ashes should be scattered around each currant bush, and a handful thrown on the crown. They serve two purposes—fertilizing and preventing insects and diseases. A first class quality of red clover seed should be of fair size, purple and yellow colors predominant, and always with a lustre. If it is small, with many shriveled brown seed in it, it should be rejected. Alfalfa seed has a light olive-green color and is about the same size as red clover seed. The dead and worthless seed are the brown-colored ones. Brown seed indicate old seed, and is not apt to give results. It is easy to keep the farm in good order if you keep it so every day, what makes it hard is when you let things slip by day after day, thinking that there will be a stormy day some time when you can do all the odd jobs. For brittle hoofs in a horse—even when so brittle that they will not hold a shoe—the following is reported as an excellent remedy: Two parts of oil of tar with every other night, mixed and applied one part balsam of fir, the extreme top of hoof. One who has tried it says that in six weeks he cured completely a case as above. A colt or horse will live and develop on good hay alone. He will thrive better upon a two third ration of hay and the rest straw. If given a ration of oats with these he will do still better. If his grain ration will be changed occasionally to corn and bran, ground barley, etc., the advantages of a mixed ration will be strongly in evidence. Gourds are susceptible of being transformed into beautiful house ornaments of real usefulness. Cut off carefully with a saw, after thoroughly drying, they may be varnished, stained or painted, and made into vases for cut or dried bouquets, or into receptacles or pots for growing plants. The fact they hold water makes them all the more valuable. Saltpeter and nitrate of potash are the same. It is found in dry, hot countries in a natural product. Nitrate of soda is commonly called Chile saltpeter and is found in large deposits in that country. It contains the same percentage of nitrogen and oxygen as nitrate of potash, only it is united with sodium instead of potassium, as is the case of nitrate of potash. The loss of a pint of milk in one day from each animal in a herd amounts to many quarts, and may represent \$1 or \$2, or more. This will occur when the stalls are not clean, and insufficient bedding is provided. A crack in the wall when the wind is damp and cold may cause distress to all of the animals, yet the cost of repairing such may be but a small sum. A successful horse raiser says: I count the swallows my horses take while drinking a painful. Some take larger swallows than others, but I know them all. If I am out on the road and come to a trough, I get out and count while my horse drinks, so that he will not take too much at once. I give water often, and so keep my horse free from bowel trouble caused by over-drinking. In purchasing nitrate of soda, the most quickly available source of nitrogen for plants, buyers should steer clear of low grade nitrate. The more usual adulterants are common salt, and salt cake from the manufacture of acids, both worthless as fertilizers and containing no plant food. Nitrate of soda now comes in original bags, which now contain about 200 pounds. The old 310 pound bag was very clumsy. Should excessive winds blow the top of a tree out of shape, which often occurs, cut it out, leaving a nearly erect southwest branch to become the new central stem. Shallow, loosely-planted trees sometimes blow over. They may be put back by excavating on the opposite side and pushing the tree back, tramping the earth as firmly as possible on the side toward which it leaned. Care should be taken not to wrench the roots loose in this operation. The statistician in the Department of Agriculture of the United States estimates that in 1901 the population of this country will be 130,000,000. To supply the requirements of this number of people will necessitate the production of 700,000,000 bushels of wheat, 1,250,000,000 bushels of oats, 3,450,000,000 bushels of corn, 100,000,000 tons of hay; and cotton, tobacco, fruits and vegetables in proportion. This will necessitate bringing under cultivation an additional 150,000,000 acres of land, and it is estimated that we have only 108,000,000 acres available for cultivation.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

A child will judge the heart; a woman reads The eyes and lips; a man requires deeds.

The striped linen collars in white and color, with embroidered scalloped edges and embroidered dots of the same color, accompanied by little bows of the same linen embroidered to match the collar, are a case in point, and are particularly nice, though not extremely high in price. Some of these striped collars are elaborated by the introduction of little motifs, in real Irish lace, but, on the whole, the collar and tie of this type are smarter in the simpler form. Irish lace plays a considerable part in many of the more expensive collars and bows or rabats, and there is a decided liking for collars whose turnover part is composed wholly of real Irish lace or baby Irish net with small motifs of heavier design. With these collars is worn either a knot or soft colored silk or a small bow of lace corresponding with the lace of the collar. Some women draw a sheer silk scarf or tie around the neck so that the delicate color shows through the lace, and tie this scarf in a little knot at the front, but while many sorts of silk cravats and bows are shown in the shops and adopted for practical reasons there is a decided preference for the bow of lingerie and lace. Some new models of embroidered linen set with tiny medallions of Irish lace fasten in the back instead of the front, but a little rabat matching the collar and made in one with it finishes the front. Parisians wear many of these high linen collars made with soft turn-down parts and fastening in the back, and do not consider it necessary to cover the buttons at the back, but leave little jeweled buttons in evidence or use jeweled pins in place of buttons. Some sort of lingerie or lace bow is set at the bottom of the collar in front, or possibly one of the narrower embroidered lingerie ties is drawn around the collar and knotted in front. American women, however, have shown a preference for collars opening in front, and when a collar fastening in the back is worn it is almost invariably encircled by a tie of some sort. Recently some of the shops noted for their specialties in imported neck wear have been showing a good many straight, high collars, without turnovers, of embroidered linen or of tacked linen or lingerie, fastening in the back, finished with a very narrow frill of Valenciennes at the top and at the bottom, with an extremely narrow tie of taffeta passing around the throat and tied in a tiny square bow in front. Collars in colored linen, embroidered in white and perhaps inset with lace, are worn with white lace or lingerie bows to match, and white collars with just a touch of color in the embroidery, but the all-white collar and tie is the uniform wear, and the amount of originality achieved within these prescribed limitations is truly surprising.

The plaited skirt is always worn. It writes the ordinary figure better than the plain skirts, but the latter of circular cut are infinitely smarter, more graceful, are light in weight and easier to manage in walking. The light circular skirt, without a plait to relieve it about the hips is suited to the truly feminine figure only. In Paris the clinging skirts are so much and so wholly the vogue that they are certain to be more worn here. Of course, the extremely clinging skirts are the long ones suited to indoor and evening wear. The white Teddy bear that looks so woefully dirty after a week of hard usage, as well as baby's angora muff and tippet, mamma's ermine set and sister's white felt hat, can be cleaned with wheat flour. Rub the flour in carefully and thoroughly, using clean flour as fast as the handfull first used becomes gray. Shake out and brush thoroughly. To be a well-groomed girl you must never have a missing button. Gloves must be unripped and immaculately clean. Shoes must be polished and never run down at the heels. Clothes must be brushed when taken off; then there is no temptation to wear them unbrushed the next time because of hurry. Ribbons, laces, ruchings must always look as if new. If they are not, they are made to appear so by careful renovating. Her clothes must never miss connection. Belts must be fastened securely in place, books and eyes must not gap, collars must not be planned away or with pins that do not match. Her underclothing must be suitable for the occasion on which it is to be worn. She must never be guilty of wearing a bedraggled petticoat under a cloth suit. Ragged finery must be an utter impossibility to the well-groomed girl; in fact, finery at all, except in its appropriate place in the house or at more or less formal entertainments, must be avoided.

Brandy Snaps.—You mix well together equal parts of butter and brown sugar and flour. Add brandy enough to wet them well. Spread them into rounds with a knife on a buttered baking sheet, put them in the oven, and, when hot, roll them up with a knife and bake till crisp and golden-brown. Use a little more flour if it seems necessary. For very festive occasions, when one has had warning in time to prepare something unusually dainty, nothing can be better than almond tartlets, though be sure to serve them with plates and forks. Almond Tartlets.—You beat to a thick froth the yolks of 4 eggs and 1 cup powdered sugar. Add the stiffly beaten whites and 2 tablespoons grated chocolate, ½ cup blanched and chopped Jordan almonds, and 1 teaspoon baking powder mixed with a very scant cup of cracker dust. Bake in buttered muffin rings, filling them half full, and place on a baking sheet covered with buttered paper. When baking, allow them to cool, split them open, and spread whipped cream between and on top of each. A Drawing-Room Race.—This exciting diversion is made with strips of cheesecloth about one and a half inches wide and five yards long. Have a string drawn across one end of the room and tie the ends of the pieces of cheesecloth to the string two feet apart. Each contestant must choose the name of a racing horse. Armed with a pair of sharp scissors, at the word "Go!" the racers start to cut the cheesecloth through the middle, beginning at the loose end and cutting as fast as possible to the finishing point, where the cheesecloth is tied to the string. If any contestants, instead of cutting through the middle of the cheesecloth, cut a piece off he is out of the race. The one who reaches the goal first wins the prize.

Why Paper Decays.

The brownish spots which appear in old books are really due to the ravages of bacteria. The tiny destroyer is especially fond of starchy material and its propagation is promoted by damp. It has been well understood that damp produced discoloration and decay, but the share of the microbe in the operation has not hitherto been suspected. Tiny fungus or mold is responsible for gray and black marks upon old papers. In spotting the surface the fungus helps to break down the fabric and hasten the process of its destruction.

A simple leak has ever sated the stoutest ships that ever sailed. When a ship springs a leak, it is no good to crowd on more sail and hope to escape. The first thing to do is to find the leak, and then to stop it. It is the leakage of health which ruins many a splendid woman. It's no good in such a case to take tonics and stimulants. The first thing to do is to locate the leak, the next thing is to stop it. There is a constant leakage of health in every woman who suffers from disease or derangement of the delicate womanly organs, such as unhealthy drains, inflammation, ulceration and female weakness. This leakage can be stopped by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Over half a million women have testified to the wonderful curative power of this medicine. Sick women can consult Dr. Pierce free. All correspondence confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

"It seems to me that I have heard most of the ideas advanced in your speech before." "That," said Senator Sorghum, "merely goes to show that they are good ideas which will stand wear and a tear."

"You'll have a fit when I get through with you!" cried the first. "Just try it on!" promptly retorted the other. No, gentle reader, they were not quarreling. The first speaker was a dressmaker and the other her patron.

"Why don't you come right out and say you don't like that man who wants to marry your daughter?" "What for?" asked Mr. Comrox. "He's popular enough with mother and the girls now."

Helen—Freddy has a cold in his head. May—I've been wondering. Helen—Wondering what? May—What Freddy had in his head.

"Will you please tell me if this mammoth blanket ballot has any use?" "Oh, yes; to keep the voters warm."

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Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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