

FARM NOTES.

-If it was not for butter color, not a pound of oleomargarine or poor butter could ever have been sold as the genuine, clean product of the cow.

-If breeding signifies anything at all it means that the qualities of the cow for producing a large amount of milk are to be transmitted to her daughter.

-An odor will be observed in the milk if silage is fed to cows a short time before milking, but if given shortly after milking the silage smell cannot be detected.

-No matter how well our cattle are bred, or how intelligently they are fed if the environment does not correspond with their breeding and feeding our efforts are in vain.

-When the hens are shut in during bad weather keep them scratching in some dry straw or litter. Just a little grain thrown in the straw will make them work all day.

-Haul and spread manure. Do some pruning on milk days. In the North, gooseberries, currants, raspberries and blackberries are usually pruned late in February or very early in March.

-The periods of incubation recognized as approximately correct are as follows: Common hen, 21 days; pheasant, 25 days; duck, 28 days; pea-fowl, 28 days; Guinea, 25 days; goose, 30 days; turkey, 28 days.

-Complete fertilizer is a general name applied to all fertilizers which contain phosphoric acid, potash and nitrogen. This name does not in any way indicate how much of each element is found in the goods.

-If orchard grass is not sown thickly it will not be a success. Three bushels to the acre should be used. Orchard grass is more vigorous than timothy, with a stronger root system; but if a permanent meadow is expected it must be top-dressed freely.

-It is said that Greater New York consumes 7,764,930 gallons of milk, 361,600 gallons of cream, and 83,150 gallons of condensed milk in one month. The daily average is 242,490 gallons of milk; 10,340 gallons of cream and 1480 gallons of condensed milk.

-Consul Hanna, in Chile, sends word that the nitrate of soda combine is broken. The object of the association was to limit production and fix prices. Now there will be unlimited production and exportation, which will result in later lowering the cost of nitrate on the farm.

-A recent publication from Cornell University illustrates the importance of breeding from vigorous stock. Chicks hatched at the same time showed a great difference in vigor, hardiness and health, and the object lesson was one not to be overlooked. Breed from vigorous stock.

-Thawing a water-pipe: When it is not safe or convenient to apply heat from pipes to thaw them, spread a cloth thickly with unslaked lime, fasten it around the frozen pipe and throw water on it. The heat produced as the lime slakes is great enough to thaw the ice.

-At the Geneva (N. Y.) Experiment Station it was found that the Jersey cows drink the most, 5.25 pounds of water to one of milk produced; the Guernseys came next; the Shorthorns, Devons, Holsteins and Ayrshires after them in diminishing order. Milking cows will drink 50 percent more water than dry ones.

-It will mean a loss to the farmer to have the cow afraid of him. It is a loss every time she is frightened. To run a cow to pasture is like throwing money away. The cow that is worried will not do her best. The cow that is made a pet of will make money for its owner. The milk of a frightened or abused cow is poisonous.

-Probably the census to be taken this year will show about 200,000 more farmers than at the time of the census ten years ago, and the total should be about 6,000,000 farms and the corresponding number of people employed in agricultural pursuits. Any increase in number is owing, not only to new farms taken up, but to further division of farms in the clear sections.

-There is one thing the farmer cannot afford to overlook in sheep raising, and that is thrift. Thrift means health, gain in quality, quantity and productiveness, the elements out of which the profits are derived. It must be the first object of the owner to keep his sheep in thriving condition. The quality of the wool, as well as the quantity, and the general productiveness of the flock make this requirement imperative.

-There are several points in feeding sheep that must not be overlooked. The feed lot must be dry with plenty of clean, dry bedding; the animals must have plenty of clean, fresh water, and the feed troughs should be kept clean. These should be arranged so that the sheep cannot foul them with their feet. Another point is to keep them from becoming excited or frightened. To this end it is better that one person feed them all the time.

-Owing to its abundance, straw is added to barnyard manure, but it can be made more serviceable if made fine when the feed cutter before being used. While straw may soon rot after being mixed with manure, yet in a fine condition it is a much better absorbent and can be forked into the manure with advantage. When loading and spreading manure there is a saving of labor when handling that which is fine, and the manure will be more valuable because the loss of ammonia will be arrested by the use of suitable absorbent materials.

-A farmer in New York State brought suit to recover value of some of his fowls that had been run over and decapitated by a speeding automobile on a back country road. The court held that under the highway law in relation to stray fowls on the residence of the owner, these are not only unprotected from such an accident as being killed by a motor car, but may be taken and impounded the same as cattle, horses or sheep. Owners or drivers of automobiles are not liable for the value of poultry that may be run over and killed on a public highway, the owner must take the risk of accidental loss.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

I seek no smile from fortune,
Nor ask release from pain,
And yet I crave high portion
Of life's most golden grain.

This is the prayer that rudders
My ship in any sea:
Through shift of hopes and shudders,
God, let me sail on free!

—Leigh Mitchell Hodges, in Success Magazine.

Special care should be taken with one's underwear when thin blouses and gowns are worn. There is far too little attention paid to this point as one sees ugly misfits that are only too apparent through muslins and laces. It is a great mistake either to sew or pin shields directly in the waist, as they not only show but they eventually wear out the material. Put them into the corset cover or the top of a combination garment by means of a cap beneath held around the arm by an inch wide beading, threaded with ribbon, but without lace on the edge. Lace nicks out so soon in the laundry it is far better not to use it at all.

When wearing gowns that are somewhat transparent on the shoulders there is a charming bit of lingerie that is quite unnoticeable beneath. This is a chemise cut straight across the top, and finished with a two-inch band of fine torchon or cluny lace. Nothing goes over the shoulders but a band of very pale pink ribbon.

Choose for your underwear a material that is substantial enough not to show the corsets through. Nansook is too transparent unless a heavy quality is selected. Irish linen at from 30 to 40 cents the yard is excellent in weight, and will be found to give in the end far better wear than other fabrics.

Open work white stockings either in silk or cotton are not desirable except for wear in the evening. In the daytime with low shoes and ties choose a stocking with embroidered clocks or some floral or geometrical design.

Whatever other hats one may elect to have for spring and summer, the wise girl will surely have one simple model in black and white or natural and white combination. It is far the most useful of any, as it harmonizes with any gown, from a long frilly muslin to a shirt waist and skirt suit, and has nothing about it to fade.

The Oriental silks in white make lovely frocks and most useful ones, as the seashore dampness does not affect them. Russian blouse models in Rajah, India or Arab are very smart, with white silk braid, buttons of fancy ornaments as trimmings. Shirt waists also are most satisfactory in these materials.

A lovely scarf for white gowns is a length of fine net, two yards long, edged with fancy net lace two inches wide. There is nothing that gives better finish to a costume than a scarf gracefully draped on the shoulders.

Fitted bags to carry one's toilet articles are not considered complete unless covered with a black or tan mackintosh case, according to what leather is used. This proclaims it on sight as something different from an ordinary bag, and the leather will last a lifetime if thus protected.

White cotton crepe is such a useful material for Southern wear, as it has substance enough to look suitable on a cool day and yet is comfortable when the sun gets really hot. A skirt with three flounces is a pretty model for it, the blouse being made plain with deep cuffs and a wide flat collar of lace. A charming white serge suit has just been turned out for a woman going South. The skirt is tight fitting, without trimming and has a belt of the material. The coat is conventional semi-fit, but out of the ordinary in its braid ornamentation. Straight bands of braid are put around the edge of cuffs and collars which are inset with white bengaline silk. Under the revers, slanting down toward bust, and in the center three double rows of braid folded over in a point where they terminate. As much again is left to fall back loose, also in points, from under the revers. The cuff has one of these points of braid hanging on the outside.

A clever idea for women who have small children to be taken care of was suggested recently by a contributor to Harper's Bazar. There were six women in a suburban neighborhood, all of whom had one or more small tots, all under 8 years of age. Nursemaids were scarce and incompetent, and it occurred to one of the women that by combining their efforts they could arrive at a plan helpful to all. There were 15 small children in all to be amused and looked after and kept off the street. Each mother took one afternoon when she invited all the children to her house. They came at 2 and stayed until dark. In the middle of the afternoon they had a little luncheon, each child bringing the food it was to eat, so that the diet arrangements of the different families may not be interfered with. The hostesses to those tiny guests played with them, overlooked their play and took care of them generally, while the other mothers were left free to enjoy an afternoon shopping, or a needed rest, or a club meeting, or any other business or diversion which they might elect. These particular six mothers each took one afternoon in the week, but a league of a greater or less number of women could arrange the division of time to suit themselves.

When serving chocolate, if your cream will not whip, or in case you do not have any, if you will place a fresh marshmallow in each cup, then pour your chocolate onto it, you will be surprised to find that it will rise to the top, dissolve and take the place of cream very well.

Buy the marshmallows in tin boxes, as they will keep fresh longer than in bulk.

To make maple nut candy take two cupfuls of fresh maple sugar, chopped up; butter the size of a walnut and a cupful of milk, and boil together until the mixture hardens when dropped into water. Take from stove, stir in a scant half teaspoonful of soda and a large cupful of chopped English walnuts. Pour into buttered tins.

Colored embroidery enters into much of the new neckwear.

Cutting a Web Thread to Escape From an Intruder.

The instinct of the spider is always an interesting subject for study. Recently a naturalist placed a small spider in the center of a large spider's web some four feet above ground. The large spider soon rushed from its hiding place under a leaf to attack the intruder, which ran up one of the ascending lines by which the web was secured to the foliage.

The big insect gained rapidly upon the little one, but the fugitive was equal to the emergency, for when barely an inch ahead of the other it cut with one of its rear legs the line behind itself, thus securing its own escape, the ferocious pursuer falling to the ground.

The naturalist says: "It is not the habit of spiders to cut the slender thread below them when they are ascending to avoid some threatened danger unless there is a hole close at hand—and a hole that is known to be unoccupied." From this it would seem that the little creature's action was the result of some sort of reasoning. Instinct led it to run away, but it must have been something more than instinct that led it to sever the line and so cut off the pursuit.

The same naturalist says that spiders are cannibals and that they are naturally pugnacious. But they do not fight for the satisfaction of eating one another. "When two spiders fight there is generally a very good reason for the attack and the vigorous defense that follows.

"It is not generally known that after a certain time spiders become incapable of spinning a web from lack of material. The glutinous excretion from which the slender threads are spun is limited, therefore spiders cannot keep on constructing new snares when the old ones are destroyed. But they can avail themselves of their younger neighbors, and this they do without scruple. As soon as a spider's web constructing material has become exhausted and its last web destroyed it sets out in search of another home, and unless it should chance to find one that is tenantless a battle usually ensues, which ends only with the retreat or death of the invader or defender."

—New York World.

Amusing Incident of the Author's Second Visit to Boston.

During Thackeray's second visit to Boston Mr. James T. Fields, his host, was asked to invite Thackeray to attend an evening meeting of a scientific club, which was to be held at the house of a distinguished member.

I was, said Mr. Fields, very reluctant to ask him to be present, for I knew he was easily bored, and I was fearful that a prosy essay or geological paper might be presented and felt certain that should such be the case he would be exasperated with me, the innocent cause of his affliction.

My worst fears were realized. I dared not look at Thackeray. I felt that his eye was upon me. My distress may be imagined when I saw him rise quite deliberately and make his exit very noiselessly into a small anteroom adjoining. The apartment was dimly lighted, but he knew that I knew he was there.

Then began a series of pantomimic feats impossible to describe. He threw an imaginary person—myself, of course.

Medical.

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Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria.

Famous Men Who Remained Bachelors.

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Charitable.

It is said of the author of a volume of biography that his verdict on the great of his chosen period is much that of the New Hampshire parson at the highly approved funeral of a parish-loner: "Brethren, we must agree that our deceased friend was mean in some things, but let us in Christian charity allow that he was meaner in others."

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