

FARM NOTES.

A load of manure in the land is worth two in the stable. Give the calves especially good care during the cold weather. They will pay you well for this later. Many of the troubles that we see coming down the road toward our farm pass by without stopping. When hoops come off barrels, hoop them with wire. Cheaper than buying new barrels and anybody can do it. The man who puts a lot of cider in his cellar to get hard is laying up for his boys something that can not be kept in barrels. The windy days of spring are here. Rattle a log chain down the chimney and get the soot out before it burns out, and maybe burns the house, too. When baking cookies, or any small cakes, invert the pan and place them on the bottom. They are not so easily scorched and are more readily removed. I's'pose you might say, 'lookin' at it one way, that liquor's great stuff to sort of even up things. Of course it takes shingles off a man's barn, but then it puts patches on his pants. When pressing men's trousers, in order to take the bagginess out of the knees, press them first perfectly flat with the seams on the edges; then put the zans together and iron the crease down the front. Ask the good man of the house to look at the supports of your swinging shelves in the cellar, before they come down under the load of canned things. Such a smash would be grievous indeed. Don't risk it. Small fruits are generally a success every year. Grow a variety of them and have all the fruit you need whether or not the large fruit yields a crop. Small fruits are gaining in popular favor every year, hence you can always dispose of the surplus crop at good figures. This month is a good time to start the incubator. Light the lamp and test the machine for three or four days before the eggs are placed in it. Do not be afraid to use high-priced eggs for incubation, for the extra early chicks will more than pay the difference. When you attend public sales there are two things to remember, and they are these: Don't go without your arctic, and don't buy what you don't want because it is cheap. The observance of these two don'ts will go far toward keeping you healthy, or at least wise. Sick fowls, or those a little under the weather, should always be fed soft mash, preferably cooked, and in small amounts. The sick fowl is in a weak condition, hence it has a poor appetite and its digestive organs are weak. Whole grain should never be fed to sick fowls. According to estimates made by the Virginia Experiment Station, over 6 per cent of the lambs born in that State last year died because their mothers did not have sufficient milk to support them. Investigation shows that the cause of this lack of milk was due to unwise feeding before and after lambing. It is surprising how much longer a pitch-fork handle will last if it is always kept under cover when not in use. The fork always found sticking in the stack is also rough and weatherbeaten to the hands. The deterioration in farm machinery that stands always in the weather is proportionately great. Fertilizer tests with corn show clearly that plowing under green leguminous crops is a highly beneficial practice, and that where this is followed only moderate amounts of fertility will be necessary to give increased yields. When vegetable matter is lacking, however, heavy applications of fertilizers seem advisable. Here is wisdom from the Rural New Yorker: There are some men who find it hard to realize that it pays to make the house comfortable inside and the yard and surroundings neat. They are often well able to heat the house and put water inside, but have an idea that these conveniences are only for city people. Get the hens started to laying now by giving them a variety of feeds with plenty of warm water, shells and grit. Feed whole corn only at nights. On cold days give all the protection possible, but on mild days in winter when the fowls are inclined to move out, throw open the poultry house doors and windows for purifying the quarters. Good fresh hen manure contains nearly two per cent of nitrogen, two per cent of phosphoric acid, and one per cent of potash. No other farm manure contains so high a percentage of these essential fertilizing materials. It, however, quickly loses its nitrogen by fermentation and is reduced in value if not immediately mixed with good absorbents. It is claimed that fresh sawdust contains an acid which, when used heavily, may injure soils which are deficient in lime. The liquids of manure are alkaline and will neutralize the sawdust if well soaked into it. The chemical action in the manure pile is also alkaline, so that sawdust used for bedding and well mixed with the manure is safe to use on the soil. A new disease among pears has been noted in Belgium. The diseased fruit shows round brown spots, which increase in size until the greater part of the fruit is affected after which it falls. In one instance the loss due to this fungus was great, fully one-half of the fruit being destroyed. Where the pears have been bagged they did not suffer from the fungus. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture, it is believed, will prevent the disease. The quality of Maine seed potatoes is discussed by Director C. D. Wood, of the Maine Experiment Station. He shows as a result of tests made at the station that the appearance of blight does not depend upon the weather at the time when blight is liable to occur. Seed from a field where blight prevailed the year before does not necessarily produce blight; and on the other hand, seed from localities where there was no blight does not guarantee any freedom from blight in the succeeding crop.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT. Be useful where thou livest, that they may Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still: Kindness, good parts, great places are the way To compass this. All worldly joys go less To the one joy of doing kindness. —George Herbert. The 13 errors of life have been enumerated as follows: To attempt to set up our own standard of right and wrong and expect everybody to conform to it. To try to measure the enjoyment of others by our own. To expect uniformity of opinion in this world. To look for judgment and experience in youth. To endeavor to mold all dispositions alike. Not to yield to unimportant trifles. To look for perfection in our own actions. To worry ourselves and others about what cannot be remedied. Not to alleviate if we can all that needs alleviation. Not to make allowances for the weakness of others. To consider anything impossible that we cannot ourselves perform. To believe only what our finite minds can grasp. To estimate people for some outside quality, for it is that within which makes the man. One heroic cure for dyspepsia is to eat only when really hungry. As an experienced doctor says: "No man ever died of starvation without being hungry. If the appetite does not return stimulate it by active exercise. Babies sometimes suffer from too much attention, too much dressing, too much feeding and sometimes too much medicine. Vinegar Candy.—Allow to six pounds of white sugar (granulated), one cupful each vinegar and water. Boil without stirring for about half an hour; then add one teaspoonful of butter, one teaspoonful soda dissolved in one tablespoonful of hot water and one teaspoonful of vanilla. As soon as it crisps when dropped in cold water pour into buttered pans. When cool enough to handle pull until white and cut into sticks. For Hard Knocks.—Small folks who play hard will fall down, and get hit and bumped. To relieve the effects of a blow, rub the injured part immediately with a little butter or olive oil. It should be applied every half hour for an hour or two. It is curious how many people acquire black eyes by walking carelessly around in the dark. Since bruised eyes may cause serious trouble, some precaution such as the following would be quite worth while: When walking in the dark in unaccustomed places always raise the arm to about the level of the nose and keep it bent there, to protect the face and chest. Shrimp Fritters.—To three well-beaten eggs add a pinch of salt, a quarter cupful milk, a tablespoonful melted butter, a can of chopped shrimps and bread crumbs to make a stiff batter. Drop the mixture by the spoonful into boiling fat and fry to a light brown. Drain on paper and serve hot with any good fish sauce poured over them. Culinary Helps.—Two heaping teaspoonfuls of sugar, one heaping tablespoonful. One heaping tablespoonful, one ounce. Two level coffee cupfuls powdered sugar, one pound. Two level coffee cupfuls granulated sugar, one pound. One pint coffee, 12 ounces. Two heaping cupfuls, one pound. One quart granulated, 14 ounces. One quart broken loaf, one pound. One quart of either, four cupfuls. One quart powdered, one pound seven ounces. Two saltspoonfuls of spice, one coffee spoonful. Two coffee spoonfuls, one tablespoonful. A dash of pepper, one-fourth saltspoonful. Two cupfuls unsifted flour, one pound. Three and one-half cupfuls cornmeal, one pound. One quart sifted flour, one pound. One tablespoonful soft butter, one ounce. One cupful solid butter, one-half pound. Keeping the Hair Clean.—Do not wash it too often. This dries up the natural oil in the hair. Once a month, for most people, and never oftener than two weeks, is the proper limit of time. To keep it clean in the meanwhile, brush it well each day and wipe thoroughly with a clean towel. When very oily, rub pure alcohol or bay rum into the scalp, or a good tonic, then rub dry with a towel. This removes oil and dust, leaving the hair and scalp comparatively clean. Another Revived Fashion.—Accordeon plaited skirts will be worn again. In fact, entire dresses are seen among the new frocks for house wear. One model, a separate skirt, has the plaits stitched down below the line of hips where the fulness falls free. A girlish-looking frock on exhibit was made with a skirt plaited from three over-lapping accordeon formed ruffles and supported by a lace yoke. There was a belt of the same lace. In the same frock, the sleeves, three-quarter length, were plaited to fit the arm and held down at intervals with bands of lace, a suggestive treatment for other sleeves of this sort of frock. Dutch Neck for Evening.—On many of the handsomest dinner and evening gowns the décolletage is modified to something not far from a low Dutch neck, the low neck being now considered by some authorities as outside the mode. French Dressing.—Mix in a small bowl three-fourths of a teaspoonful salt, quarter of a teaspoonful pepper, two tablespoonfuls vinegar and four tablespoonfuls olive oil. Allow four eggs to each quart of milk in making cup custards.

CANDIED FRUITS.

When I started to practice medicine there was one admonition laid down by the gentleman who delivered the final address to our class when we were graduated that had greatly impressed me. It was this: "Remember that mind has a great effect over matter. Therefore try to detract so far as possible from the terror your patients naturally have for you as practitioners. Above all things, preserve a cheerful exterior. The more hopeless a case appears to the more hopeful appear to be, for by giving way to your anticipations you lessen the patient's chances for recovery, and you may be wrong in your prognosis. Do not force patients to take your remedies if it can possibly be avoided. Rather persuade them or banter them. Remedies taken against a patient's will are apt not to act as remedies. Better a prescription of something to divert the attention from the disease than fix it on that disease by unwelcome doses." It seemed to me that there was a lot of common sense in this advice, and I cut it out of the printed address and pasted it within my writing desk in order that whenever I opened the desk I saw the injunction staring me in the face, so that it was impossible for me to forget it. I truly believe I would have built up a large practice by observing it had not that very observation of it on one occasion led to my leaving the profession. I had been practicing but a short time when, returning to my office one day, I found a note from a stranger stating that a member of his family needed treatment, but was much averse to receiving a visit from a physician or taking remedies. He suggested that I call without the patient's knowing that I was a physician and studying the case without asking for symptoms after the stereotyped medical fashion. This, owing to the rule I had laid down, was very easy for me. I went to the house, rang the bell and was admitted to the drawing room, where I was received by a very thin woman who did not appear to know my errand, so I told her of the note that had been left at my office. She seemed to be slow in understanding me—at any rate, for some reason, did not respond very freely, making vague remarks such as "Just so," "A doctor?" "I'll see," indicating that she had not been admitted to the confidence of the person who had asked me to call. The lady went out of the room and, presently returning, asked me to walk upstairs. I did so and was ushered into a boudoir where sat a girl who but for a slight paleness did not appear in bad health. She was not even in disabillie; but, the older woman having left me with her, it was evident that she was the patient. I went in armed with my cheeriest smile, took the girl's hand as a matter of civility, thereby getting her pulse—it beat a trifle quicker than normal—sat down by her, said something to make her laugh and saw that her tongue was slightly coated. In this fashion I rattled on, telling her stories and interesting her until I had secured her confidence and a predisposition in my favor. Then I said abruptly: "But you're not looking very well today." Then she told me that her back was troubling her and she slept badly and mentioned symptoms that indicated to me a condition very common and for which there were a number of simple remedies. When I went away I told her that I would send her a box of candied fruit, a few of which I thought she would like every day. Then I left her to have some medicine I intended for her divided between half a dozen real candied fruits and sent them to her with my compliments. I called again soon and asked the

lady who had received me how she had managed to impose upon the young lady that I was not a doctor; that it was important that I should know what story she had told in order that what I should say would tally with it. She told me not to worry about that; she had given a good reason for my calls. I asked her if I was to see the person who had left word at my office for me to treat the young lady, and she said he was away and would be away several weeks. By the time he returned I had made love to my patient, and she had responded favorably. Indeed, she sent me to him—a mere form, she said—being her uncle, to ask for her hand. I did so, announcing myself as the physician he had asked to treat a member of his family. "Well," he asked, "did you pull the wool over the old girl's eyes?" I didn't understand what he meant by the "old" girl, but I replied that I had succeeded admirably. I went on, but when I said something about the young lady he interrupted me. "Young lady be hanged! She's fifty-five." It came out that the elderly woman was my intended patient. I had given myself away to her at my entrance, and she had taken me to see the young lady, asking her to act in her stead. The girl from pure mischief

consented to do so, but there were two of us hoist by our own petard. The two older ones were brother and sister; the girl was their niece, an orphan and possessing a fortune. I married her, and she preferred that I devote myself to taking care of her property rather than sending patients candied fruits.

Beastly Business. Plainfield Commuter—That's a beastly business. Shortly has gone in for Somerville Commuter—What's he doing? Plainfield Commuter—Raising bull terriers.—Suburbanite.

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