

FARM NOTES.

The Poultry Yard.—Get all the leaves you can for the scratching pens.

We need new breeds when they are better than the breeds we have.

How hens do like sweet apples! Good for them, too. Share them between the hens and the pigs.

The April-hatched pullets should now be laying. They certainly are, if they have been given the proper feed and care.

If you have any little potatoes, the hens can make good use of them. Boil them up soft, and feed a ration now and then.

Let's not begin to coddle our hens with the first whiff of winter. That softens them and makes them tender for the real cold that is coming.

Corn-meal mixed with skim-milk, and fed three times a day, all the fowls will eat, is the best fattening diet I have ever tried. Feed warm in cold weather.

Some farmers allow the young stock to roost outdoors during the summer, and it is important that such birds be at once placed in their winter quarters.

Do not allow inferior cabbage, potatoes and beets to freeze; store them for the hens. The time is near when they will need such feeds as add succulence to the ration.

Meat scraps put up especially for the hens may be had in almost any market, and it is a very necessary egg-producing feed at this time. Crushed oyster-shells are needed, also.

Hens will do well on almost any kind of feed if they have enough of it; but they certainly can not make eggs unless they are supplied with certain necessary elements for egg-making.

Nothing ever happens without a cause. One of the things that will surely cause sickness among chickens is crowding 150 fowls into a house large enough for only fifty or at most seventy-five.

There should now be an extra allowance of corn given at night. Corn furnishes heat to the body, as it is slow to digest. For comfort during winter, the crop should remain practically filled the entire night.

An essential to the hen's comfort in cold weather is a floor where no drafts are felt. While you are repairing the chicken house, bank it up well on the outside, and if the floor is of earth, make sure to have it higher inside than the ground without.—From November Farm Journal.

—There is much to be said in favor of tree planting in the fall. In the first place there is a larger stock from which to select the trees. In the second place there is usually more time in the fall than in the hurry of spring work. Besides this, the rains of the winter settle the soil firmly around the roots of the trees, so that they are ready to begin growth in spring at the earliest opportunity.

Spring planting does well when well done. But many who earnestly intend to plant in spring find when spring comes that the crowd of other work rules the planting out. And this occurs year after year in many cases.

Fall planting should not be begun too early. The leaves should be off. True, they can be stripped by hand, and this in not a few cases is done too soon, in crowding times. The leaves should be left until by their beginning to fall it is seen that their important and life-giving work is over. Their beginning to fall shows this, and any leaves that remain can then be taken off—will come off easily—and the trees can be dug. This is usually about the beginning of November. And the planting may continue as long as the ground is not frozen.

As to the care of the trees, that is the same as in spring planting. The roots are to be exposed to the air as little as possible, and on being brought home should be well covered in a trench in the garden or other well-protected place until planted. The covering of the roots in the trench should be with the stems of the trees inclining at an angle of about 45 degrees toward the surface of the ground. In some cases it may be necessary to leave the trees in the trench until spring, and this will be successful if the work is well done. The trench should be at least eighteen inches deep and the soil well worked in among the roots; and after a good rain or two more soil should be thrown on, making the earth above the roots rounding and a foot or so above the surface of the ground.

Perfect planting, other things being equal, consists in placing the tree as nearly as possible in the same condition as that in which it was before removed. A good sized hole is to be dug, not less than three feet in diameter, and deep enough so the tree when planted shall stand about two inches deeper than in the nursery. And while one person makes the best soil perfectly mellow and shows it in gradually, another holds the tree in place and works this fine soil in among all the roots with the hands; finally tramping the soil firmly above the roots, but leaving the surface mellow.

Mounding up the tree should never be omitted in fall planting. A small mound of earth—earth, without grass or weeds—about a foot high and eighteen inches in diameter, is raised around each tree. This is a complete protection to the tree in the winter storms—no need of a stake—and in addition keeps the ground mice from gnawing the bark of the tree, injuring it and sometimes killing it. In spring the mound is to be leveled down and the trees mulched with straw; the mulching always to be done in spring; the mounding up in the fall.

It need hardly be added that the orchard should be well fenced, to keep out all kinds of stock. That the soil should be rich goes without saying. If not already rich it should be manured, and nothing is better for the purpose than stable manure well mixed with the soil; which is best done before planting.

Now and then we hear about "luck in planting." It is about like "luck" in most other things, and means care and skill and honest work.

Do not prune until spring; then cut back to the top severely. This restores the balance between the top and the roots, making up for the loss of roots during the winter.

As to the selection of the varieties; such kinds should be chosen as are known to be successful in the vicinity in which the orchard is planted.

The Torture That Ensues Before Death Brings Relief.

When a single dose of arsenic in sufficient quantity to be felt has been taken colicky pains, bowel disorder and perhaps nausea result. In the course of an hour after a poisonous dose has been taken an intense burning pain is felt in the esophagus and stomach. This spreads to the entire anterior portion of the lower part of the trunk. A sense of constriction at the throat and an acrid, metallic taste accompany the pain. Then vomiting and relaxation of the bowels begin. As the case progresses the symptoms increase in intensity. Then comes a thirst that water will not allay, although it apparently increases the stomach disturbance. The victim groans and writhes.

Now he implores the doctor to save him. Then he begs to be killed and put out of pain. The extremities become icy. The pulse is small, feeble and frequent, and the breathing is labored, embarrassed and painful because of abdominal tenderness. The surface of the body becomes dark and of that bluish color that medical men call cyanosed. Violent cramps add their torture, exhaustion becomes collapse, convulsions or coma ensues, and death ends the agony. The torture lasts sometimes from five to twenty hours.

In some cases these symptoms occur, but in a modified form, and the doctor will apparently get the better of the disease. The remission will be but for a day or two. Then the abdomen will swell, and icy coldness will pervade the frame. Shivering will become pronounced trembling, then cramps, convulsions and death.

A Habit That Is Unnecessary and at Times May Be Harmful.

"Pillows are little more than a fad and a rather harmful one at that," said a Germantown doctor. "They should, indeed, only be used by those who sleep on their sides, as they are really injurious to others. When you sleep on your side your shoulder prevents your head from lying level on the bed, and pillows are useful to raise the head to this level.

"The natural and most healthful position for the ordinary person in sleeping is for one's head to be kept perfectly even, just as it would be standing up. Now, for the one who lies on his back while sleeping no pillow is needed to keep the head in this position, and yet 99 per cent of the persons who sleep on their backs use pillows, while those who sleep on their sides use far more pillow than is necessary.

"People get used to having their heads and shoulders propped high up and imagine they could not sleep any other way; but, as a matter of fact, if they would try sleeping with little or no pillow they would not only find that they would feel better in the morning, but also would actually be more comfortable in bed and sleep much sounder throughout the night."—Philadelphia Record.

At the Head.

It is stated in Mr. and Mrs. Pennell's "Life of James MacNeill Whistler" in that part which relates to his brief West Point career that the great American painter was not "soldierly in appearance, bearing or habit." Whistler's horsemanship is said to have been hardly better than his scholarship. According to General Webb, it was not wholly unusual for him at cavalry drill to go sliding over his horse's head. On such occasions Major Sackett, then in command, would call out:

"Mr. Whistler, aren't you a little ahead of the squad?"

According to Whistler's version to the Pennells, Major Sackett's remark was:

"Mr. Whistler, I am pleased to see you for once at the head of your class."

She Almost Remembered.

Little Josephine, aged four, was intently studying the pictures in a book and seemed very much interested in a picture of Charles Dickens.

Taking the book to her mother, she inquired who it was.

"That is Dickens, dear," said her mother.

The picture was wonderfully fascinating to the little girl, and when her big sister came from college in the evening she ran and got the book, turned to the picture and said:

"Sister, see! This is a picture of Mr. Darn."

Her sister replied, "No, dear, that is Mr. Dickens."

"Well," said Josephine, "I knew it was some kind of a swear word."—De-lin-eator.

Concrete Church.

"Colonel, we want a contribution from you to help build a mission church."

"Judge, you know well enough that, while I am in sympathy with morality and religion, I don't believe in churches in the abstract, and—"

"Neither do I, colonel. We're going to build this one of concrete."—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Changed Her Mind.

Nearsighted Lady—The boy who is trying to tie that tin can to that poor dog's tail ought to be thrashed within an inch of his life—the horrid little brute! Maid—It's your boy, mum.

Nearsighted Lady—My boy? Maid—Yes, mum. Nearsighted Lady—Tell him if he'll stop I'll give him some cake.—Christian Advocate.

A Frank Confession.

Watchmaker—Your watch seems to be erratic. Have you had it near a powerful magnet? Customer (confused)—Why, I was carriage riding last evening with Miss Bright.—Jewelers' Circular.

An English View of the Common People in This Country.

In all I spent four months traveling and lecturing in the eastern cities of the United States and met many men of varied classes. In my wildest dreams of the race I had never foreseen such wealth, such freedom, such equality. America is the land of the common people, as England is the land of the classes. If I were a young workman I would go to the States as soon as I could earn a passage, because once on her soil I should cease to be a laborer and become a man, which is a very different thing.

Better than the boundless wealth of America, better than any material benefit she can bestow, is this sense of manhood and equality that is as all pervading as the air. Worse than the earthen floor of our peasant's hovel, still found in England's southern counties, and the starvation wages on which he lives is the slavish spirit that drags the cap from his head before the squire or crowds him into the ditch as the carriage passes by. He is not a man, only a laborer, one step above the serf.—Joseph Burt of London in Leslie's.

Trapping Muskrats.

Numbers of mechanical traps to catch muskrats have been invented and tried, but none gives more satisfaction than the old floating barrel trap that has been in use for many years. Both ends are left closed, and a hole about eight by twelve inches square is sawed in the side. A strong cleat is nailed across each end, the cleats projecting six or eight inches beyond the barrel, and upon the cleats are nailed two boards, one on each side of the barrel and several inches longer. Water then is placed in the barrel so that it will float with the board platforms about on a level with the surface of the pond or stream. About one-third of the barrel remains above water. Apples, carrots and other delicacies that the muskrat likes are placed in the barrel. In their attempts to get the bait the animals fall into the barrel and are unable to get out.—Exchange.

Proving His Authority.

There was an Irish foreman of a gang of laborers who went to any lengths to show his men that he was the real boss. One morning this foreman found that his gang had put a handcar on the track without his orders.

"Who put that hand-car-r-r on the track?" he asked.

"We did, sor," one of the men answered respectfully.

"Well," he said shortly, "take it off ag'in."

The laborers did so with some difficulty.

"Now," said the foreman, "put it on ag'in."

Great Scheme.

"What do you do," asked the one who had been married only a few months, "when your husband comes home late at night?"

"I pretend not to notice that it's late, and pretty soon he asks me if I wouldn't like to go to the theater or somewhere tomorrow afternoon."

Medical.

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