

Democrat and Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., January 13, 1911.

FARM NOTES.

The little sparrow-hawk is one of our best friends. The bird eats up lots of grasshoppers and other pests, and he is as fond of mice as kitty is.

Pumpkins make a desirable pig feed. The hog seems to relish them. When fed in connection with grain satisfactory gains are made. The meat produced is of very good quality.

Skim milk in moderate quantities has often been fed to young colts after weaning with good results. If the colt has been well cared for up to weaning time feeding milk is hardly necessary.

If the cow's teats are made sore from exposure to cold weather and wet in the late fall weather, an application of carbonized vaseline to each milking will remedy the trouble, if used when it first appears.

In limestone country there is more danger of pollution of springs and wells than where any other rock formation prevails. The reason is that the limestone is the most readily dissolved and open underground channels are formed which may carry contaminating material a long distance. If on the other hand polluted water percolates through gravel or sandstone for instance, it becomes purified in a comparatively short distance from the point of contamination.

Bulletin No. 11 of the Minnesota Farmers' Library, just issued by the Extension Division of the College of Agriculture, is devoted to "Dressing and Curing Meat for Farm Use." It contains very complete but simple directions for killing and cutting up of beefs, hogs, sheep and calves; also for curing and packing beef and pork, the smoking of hams and bacon, and the making of sausage; together with suggestions for the forming of cooperative meat clubs. A postal card, addressed to Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul, will secure the mailing of the bulletin to any one wanting it.

Consul General Peters, of Munich, says the German method of making sweet cider is most simple. The apples, as soon as picked, are forwarded to the factory, where they are washed absolutely clean. They are then torn into small particles and pressed. The juice is then placed in a large air-tight retort, where it is sterilized; it is then allowed to settle for some days and then filtered, so that the juice is absolutely transparent. The juice is then bottled, a slight amount of carbonic acid gas is added and a space of about an inch left in the bottle to allow for an expansion. The bottles are placed in a car, and this car with its load of bottles is pasteurized, the process taking about four hours, the water in the retort being heated to from 150 to 158 degrees, absolutely destroying all the germ life that may exist. The pure apple juice thus treated contains perhaps one-half per cent. of alcohol and is a most delicious drink, retaining all the flavor of the pure apple cider.

Domestic fowls are beneficial to farmers in devouring insects and besides furnishing eggs and choice table food, have a market value. The wild birds and game birds are the farmers' friends also, for the reason that they eat many insects that are injurious to crops and farm products. Upward of 1200 wireworms have been taken from the crop of one pheasant, says an authority. This number being consumed at a single meal, the total destroyed must be almost incredible. It is stated that from the crop of one pheasant 400 grubs of the crane-fly or daddy-long-legs were taken, these being destructive of the roots of grass, grains and vegetables. Independently of the unquestioned quality of the pheasant in destroying larvae and worms, caterpillars, scale insects and other like small but dreadfully-destructive pests, they are the inveterate foes of the common field mouse—those persistent destroyers of young nursery stock and gardeners of fruit trees—whose pernicious nibblings have brought ruin to many an orchardist, and serious loss to thousands of growers of alfalfa and clover, as well as the grower of grains.

Be kind but firm with the colts and tie them with strong halters. Irregularity in time of feeding and quantity will cause the indigestion. An ignorant, ill-tempered, loud-voiced man should never be tolerated in any stable.

A little shelled corn mixed in with the ground feed you give your horses will help to keep them from swallowing their food too fast.

The man who bores augers hollow in his stable floor to allow the liquid manure to escape, is the man who is always hard up and in "bad luck."

Do not neglect to keep the feet of the driving horses sharply corning and use bad wrenches and will greatly add to the comfort of the animals.

Do not put a handful of salt in the feed box. Put a brick or lump of rock salt in a convenient place where the horse may help himself to it when he wants it. Do not neglect to give each horse a chance to drink the last thing at night, even if the weather is cool.

A horse that is thirsty all night will lose in condition, as compared with one watered frequently, and the last thing at night.—*Farm Journal.*

Professor W. H. Tomhave, of University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota, says the pieces commonly used for corning are the cheaper cuts of meat, such as the plate, rump, cross ribs and brisket. The meat should be cut into medium sized pieces, so that it will pack well in a jar or barrel. It should be well cooled or corned before decay sets in, or it will spoil the brine. For each 100 pounds of meat weigh out eight pounds of salt and sprinkle a layer of about a quarter of an inch in depth over the bottom of the vessel, and then pack in a layer of meat five or six inches in thickness. On top of this put a layer of salt, followed by a layer of meat, until all the meat is packed in the vessel. Keep enough salt for a good layer over the top of the last layer of meat. After this has stood over night add, for every 100 pounds of meat, four pounds of sugar, two ounces of baking soda and four ounces of saltpeter, all dissolved in a gallon of warm water. When this is cool, pour it over the meat and add enough cold water to cover the meat. Weight it down with a loose board, held in place by a clean stone, to keep the meat under the brine. It should be left in the brine from twenty-five to forty days before it is ready for use.

MIGHTY ARCTURUS.

If This Star Were Our Sun It Would Instantly Consume the Earth.

The parallax of a star is its angular displacement as seen from two opposite points on the earth's orbit. The base line employed in this gigantic species of surveying is 186,400,000 miles in length, but the calculation is reduced to the semidiameter of the orbit. The results are at the same time amazing and instructive.

Let us take the famous star Arcturus, often called the "star of Job" because in the Old Testament the Almighty is represented as saying to the unfortunate patriarch, who maintains a certain dignity in spite of his helplessness and his sufferings, "Canst thou call forth Arcturus and his sons?"

Many conflicting measures of the parallax of Arcturus have been made, but the latest made at Yale seem more probably correct than their predecessors. They fix the parallax at 0.666 seconds—i. e., sixty-six one-thousandths of a second of an arc. From this it is easy to calculate the distance of the star. It comes out at nearly 290,000,000,000,000 miles (two hundred and ninety trillion miles). This is more than 2,000,000 times the distance of the earth from the sun.

Having this distance, we can calculate the actual amount of light shed by Arcturus, or, in other words, its actual brightness as compared with that of our sun, on the supposition that both were at the same distance from us. We find that Arcturus exceeds the sun as a light giver about 2,500 times! It is a sun 2,500 times brighter than ours.

Put the earth as near to Arcturus as it is to the sun and all life would disappear from its surface as if swept off by a blast of inconceivable heat. The summer temperature would rise to tens of thousands of degrees. The oceans would boil away. Vegetation would be burned up in a twinkling. The eyes of living beings would char in their sockets. The plains and mountains would burst into flame. Minerals would run in molten streams. There would be no comfort for a living world nearer to Arcturus than our sun. It has 4,000,000,000 miles. If he has planets he must keep them at a respectful distance. And yet nearly 300,000,000,000,000 miles from him we can look into his blazing eye and see only a bright star.

Still, Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace maintains that this little earth, this tiny attendant of a tiny sun, is the only seat of intelligent life—outside of the misty midregion of disembodied spirits—that the universe contains, and Dr. Wallace is a learned man. But his learning is not that which astronomy offers.—*Garrett P. Serviss in New York American.*

SHE SNUBBED MONROE.

Incident in the Later Life of Mrs. Alexander Hamilton.

A striking incident in the later life of Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, who survived her husband fifty years, is told in the words of an eyewitness in Allan McLane Hamilton's "Intimate Life of Alexander Hamilton."

Mrs. Hamilton could never forget the behavior of Monroe when he, with Muhlenberg and Venable, accused Hamilton of financial irregularities at the time of the Reynolds incident. Many years afterward when they were both aged people Monroe visited her, and an interview occurred which was witnessed by a nephew, who was then a lad of fifteen. "I had," he says, "been sent to call upon my Aunt Hamilton one afternoon. I found her in her garden and was there with her talking when a maid servant came from the house with a card. It was the card of James Monroe. She read the name and stood holding the card, much perturbed. Her voice sank, and she spoke very low as she always did when she was angry. 'What has that man come to see me for?' escaped from her. 'Why, Aunt Hamilton,' said I, 'don't you know it's Mr. Monroe, and he's been president, and he is visiting here now in the neighborhood and has been very much made of and invited everywhere, and so—I suppose he has come to call and pay his respects to you?' After a moment's hesitation 'I will see him,' she said.

"The maid went back to the house. My aunt followed, walking rapidly, I after her. As she entered the parlor Monroe rose. She stood in the middle of the room facing him. She did not ask him to sit down. He bowed and, addressing her formally, made her rather a set speech—that it was many years since they had met, that the lapse of time brought its softening influences, that they both were nearing the grave, when past differences could be forgiven and forgotten—in short, from his point of view a very nice, conciliatory, well turned little speech. She answered, still standing and looking at him: 'Mr. Monroe, if you have come to tell me that you repent, that you are sorry, very sorry, for the misrepresentations and the slanders and the stories you circulated against my dear husband—if you have come to say this, I understand it. But otherwise no lapse of time, no nearness to the grave, makes any difference.' She stopped speaking, Monroe turned, took up his hat and left the room."

In this connection it may be said that the oft repeated story of the meeting of Mrs. Hamilton and Aaron Burr many years later on an Albany steambot is a fiction, but it was probably suggested by the Monroe incident.

Some Famous Men of Old.
The "fine worthies" were Joshua, David, Judas Maccabees, Hector of Troy, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, King Arthur of Britain, Charlemagne of France and Godfrey of Bouillon. The list varies somewhat, but this is the most popular one. The "seven wise men of Greece" were Solon, Thales, Pittacus, Bias, Cleobolus, Myson and Chellon of Sparta. The supposition is, of course, that these were not the only wise men in Greece, but the wisest.—*New York American.*

To Make Him Sleep.
"Unfit for duty because of insomnia" was the record of a New York policeman for several weeks. Inspector Byrnes sent for the man and gave him a little bit of advice, thus: "Tonight, about midnight, put on your uniform, belt, hat, revolver, take night stick in hand and go to some corner house. Lean against it, and lean against it hard, as if you were really on duty. You'll go to sleep, all right."—*New York Tribune.*

Medical.

The Grip This Dreadful Disease Takes Upon Its Victims.

The course of the dreadful disease, sleeping sickness, is an extremely slow one. The first stage is said to last a year or more, and the cause of the disease may be in the blood long before any symptoms whatever present themselves. The patient has occasional fever; indeed, a disease hitherto called Gambia fever has recently been recognized as the first stage of sleeping sickness. It is said that the swelling of the lymphatic glands of the neck is a characteristic early symptom. This was known in 1803 to Dr. Winterbottom, who states that slave traders, recognizing the symptom of a fatal disease, would not buy slaves who had this glandular enlargement. The patient feels well and strong and is able to go about his usual occupations.

The second stage is indicated by a distinct change in the appearance of the patient. His expression grows heavy and dull; he becomes apathetic, lies around a great deal and cannot exert himself. With the progress of the disease these symptoms become more marked; walking and speech become difficult and finally impossible. During the last week the sufferer lies in a state of complete coma, from which the illness derives its name. Often during the second stage of the disease the brain becomes affected, and some of the patients try to run away into the forests or swamps, where they die of exposure or starvation. To prevent this the relatives of a sufferer frequently chain him down until the time comes when he can no longer move.—*McClure's Magazine.*

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