

Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., March 31, 1911.

FARM NOTES.

—An experienced horseman has found equal parts of corn and oats grown together to be one of the best grain rations.

—Don't be in too big a hurry. It's unwise to work soil when it is soggy and very wet. Wait until it dries into crumbly, workable condition.

—Do not feed pigs too much corn while they are young. Corn is a fat-producing food and does not accelerate growth. Feed shorts tankage, shorts and bran in sufficient quantity to cause rapid growth.

—Prof. W. K. Graham says of the Ontario Agricultural College: "This is purely an agricultural college, nothing is taught in the college but subjects pertaining to agriculture." This is the kind of agricultural college needed in the United States.

—Greiner says his preference is for stable manure on asparagus, and he believes one cannot injure an asparagus bed by putting it on freely or otherwise at any time of the year. Muriate of potash is also good. It should be applied in the fall. Lime is also useful.

—At a county fair in southern Virginia last fall a prize for the largest yield of corn per acre was awarded to a man who made 169 bushels. A 14-year-old boy raised 135 bushels of corn to the acre and won \$25 in gold offered by the Governor. These yields demonstrate the possibilities of good farming.

—The potato crop is a short one throughout the country and as a whole; yet the prices paid for potatoes in the potato-growing districts have been low and unsatisfactory to growers. The market papers predict that the price of potatoes will go higher before spring. Much depends, however, on the demand and also upon the early southern crop.

—Currants may be most relied on of any small fruit for a crop, if kept free from the currant worm. Early application of hellebore powder will destroy this pest, and a good crop is almost sure to follow. Remaining on the bushes from two to three weeks, they give better opportunity to mature than raspberries, and generally bring a good price.

—Soil moisture determinations were made on plowed and unplowed soil at the Delaware Experiment Station. On an average for the season the unplowed land contained 3.7 per cent. less moisture than the plowed soil. During the autumn and winter months the subsoil of the plowed portion contained on an average 3.7 per cent. more moisture than the unplowed portion.

—It is not advisable to put axle grease on fruit trees in order to prevent rabbits and rodents from gnawing them. A little grease might not do any damage, while too much might injure the trees. Where the climate permits some green crop, such as oats, rye or wheat, will tempt the rabbits. The trees can also be protected by wrapping them with old newspapers, thin boards or wire screen.

—During the last year the lime-sulphur wash, which for a number of years has been employed to prevent damage to trees by the San Jose scale, was tried with great success in several localities as a protection of orchard tree trunks against the attack of rabbits, says Secretary Wilson. The remedy is cheap, and as a rule a single treatment in the fall appears to protect trees for the entire winter.

—Owing to its abundance, straw is added to barnyard manure, but it may be made more serviceable if made fine with 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 may 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.

—Progressive New York farmers no longer limit the cultivation of their potatoes to one or two harrowings. They keep the cultivator running through their potatoes continually, thereby preserving a pine shallow dust mulch which breaks the attraction of water to the surface and keeps the soil moist, even through long periods of dry weather. This is one of the secrets of success in dry farming which is adaptable to eastern conditions. The other secret of profitable crop production is a deep soil well filled with decaying vegetable matter, spoken of so frequently by the agriculture professors as humus.

—Some horses have learned to balk by being overloaded and abused. Their courage has been overtaken and they rebel disheartened at the task they are called upon to perform. Other horses appear to balk from natural inclination and appear foaled full of innate stubbornness. Balking, like wind-sucking, cribbing, weaving and halter-pulling, is a vice developed by natural inheritance. In breaking young horses to harness too much caution cannot be observed in asking the youngster to pull light loads to begin with. The balky horse cannot be conquered by brutal treatment, but may be induced to pull by many devices intended to attract his attention from his resolution not to pull. To lift the forefoot and pound on the shoe, to put a handful of dirt or grass in his mouth, to give him a lump of sugar or an apple to eat have all proved successful in some instances in inducing a horse to pull.

—An exhaustive census investigation of farm interests throughout the United States showed that in the last ten years the total number of farms has increased 18 per cent. In the older States, from Ohio eastward, there has been going on for 20 years a tendency toward the amalgamation of farms distant from market into larger holdings. There are now almost three times as many as in 1870, and an unprecedented increase in the value of farm lands and live stock is the even more momentous fact revealed by this inquiry. The land in farms, with their buildings, improvements and live stock, is today almost \$30,000,000 a gain of 44 per cent. in ten years. Present values are two and one-half times the farm values of 30 years ago. In the North Central States the increase in the value of farms is 43 per cent.; in the South Central States, 58 per cent.; in the North Atlantic, 13 per cent.; and in the South Atlantic, 34 per cent.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

Pay as little attention to discouragements as possible. Plow ahead as a steamer does, rough or smooth—rain or shine. To carry your cargo, make your port, is the point.

For the first anniversary of a marriage fun can be made by having, as is proper, for that year, everything in paper, even the costumes of the guests. Every man could have vest, coat and sleeves of the title of some newspaper (the same paper, of course, for the same costume.) By choosing papers published in distant cities and of varied type and color, great variety can be secured. Then the men should act the policy of the paper represented. The women may take magazines for their impersonations, having the poster covers for aprons, and the general color of the publications the tint of their dresses, which should be made of tissue paper.

Recitations, orations and readings could be made from each periodical or paper, selecting ones also from which songs or instrumental music could be rendered. Of course the refreshments should be served on paper dishes, the decorations should be of paper and the food, as far as possible, be those things that are widely advertised.

Hostesses are even more delighted than children at the revival of Morris dances, on account of the spice and variety they give to an evening's entertainment. Many a dinner dance has been saved from utter dullness this winter by the introduction of some of these quaint old English figures which have attained popularity at home and seem to be on a fair way of doing so here.

The fold dance as it has been used in school work and play may be directly responsible for our prompt acceptance of the Morris dance. The school exhibitions have taught us how to appreciate the merry makings of our foreign ancestors. In some of the schools the Morris numbers are already being taught, but the fashion-able dancers receive their instruction from two young women who came from England for the express purpose of introducing New York to old English jigs and reels.

Since their arrival several society women have been persuaded to include one or two Morris numbers in their dinner dances and for even informal appearances those taking part have required professional coaching. Perhaps by another year ball-rooms will look like a pageant of peasants instead of an exhibition of fashionable gowns.

Morris dancing to be properly done, should be costumed in the Elizabethan period. Men dancers wear knee breeches of velvet or corduroy and soft white shirts in a blouse effect. As galluses were not in vogue during the reign of Elizabeth, art ribbons serve to hold up the trousers. And peasants, of course, love bright colors and fluttering streamers so the ribbon suspenders are adorned with bows and ends of different colored ribbons which fall almost to the wide silk sash.

White or light colored hose, low buckled shoes and an old style bowler or a soft hat brightened by more ribbons, complete the Morris costume for the man. The women appear in fetching little frocks suggesting shepherdesses or other simple rustic lasses of Elizabethan days.

At one smart entertainment given the other day the old English effect was further enhanced by the use of bagpipe and accordion instead of an orchestra. It is said that the Morris airs, like the dances, are so old that nobody seems to know much about them except that they were handed down from one generation to another, then almost lost sight of for a long period, until this modern revival.

The steps are not really difficult to do, but they differ radically from our familiar dancing ones.

It is to be hoped that the approaching fashion for short sleeves on every garment will not bring upon us the tide of elbow sleeves worn without any regard to hour or place which engulfed us two years ago. However, there is small use in hoping when every straw points that way.

The very small sleeve is decidedly in fashion, and as it is, there is no reason to believe it will be omitted from the wardrobe of the woman who wears it every day in summer.

It is quite true that there are elbow sleeves and elbow sleeves. When they are well made and hang well, and are always met by gloves when worn out of the house, they are an attractive and comfortable summer fashion. It is their abuse and not their use to which one strenuously objects.

The bare arm is more attractive than any glove can make it when it is worn indoors; and the European fashion that many Americans have adopted of not wearing gloves in the evening has a decided artistic merit; but there is no possible excuse for going without gloves on the street at any hour of the day or night.

No one is expected to wear them in the country or seashore on hot days, but the city streets have certain conventions which must be observed or cause one to take a lower standard than those who observe them.

A new step and time saver for the busy housewife is the baked finnan haddie that now comes ready to use for fish cakes, creaming or chowder. The fish is less smoky than when it comes whole. For the cakes mix the finnan haddie parboiled with an equal quantity of mashed potato, season with melted butter, salt and pepper, add a beaten egg and mold into cakes, then fry.

Cold Mint Sauce.—To make the cold mint sauce put three table spoonfuls of freshly chopped mint into a basin, add two table spoonfuls of sugar, then drop in one desert spoonful of olive oil; add one gill of vinegar. If too strong a little water may be added.

Apricot Fluff.—Mix one and one-half table spoonfuls of corn starch with quarter cup of cold milk; stir into this one cup of scalded milk; continue stirring until thick, then add quarter cup of sugar, a pinch of salt and three-quarters cup of cold, cooked apricots (which have been pressed through a fine sieve); cover and cook fifteen minutes; remove from stove and add gradually one well beaten egg white and stir. It will set instantly.

INSURANCE MAPS.

Handy Guides For Underwriters In Fixing Premium Rates.

Many persons must have noticed when making application for fire insurance that it is the practice of the underwriter to examine certain maps before he will fix the rate of premium or accept a risk on the property offered. His lithographic surveys marked off in diagrams of red and yellow and other colors are always in evidence, sometimes bound securely in dozens of large volumes, on other occasions laid conveniently in piles of loose sheets for handy reference.

Few persons realize, however, that these maps contain all the information which the underwriter desires to know about the building he is asked to insure and that in most instances more matters are explained to him by a single glance than the applicant could make even though he be the owner of the property.

As a matter of fact the details set forth are most explicit. The map-maker has managed by colors, characters and signs to give a full description of the construction, equipment and occupation of the building, everything which over fifty years of this sort of surveying has proved to be of any possible interest to the insurance man. It is so complete, for instance, that an agent in New York city can readily form a good idea of the character of a risk situated in some town in Missouri or California, or vice versa, agents in towns in these western states can likewise tell the character of a risk in New York city.—Cassler's Magazine.

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A Philadelphia clergyman tells of an incident in connection with his first visit to a town in Pennsylvania, where he expected to be called as pastor.

While tramping along a dusty road he was so fortunate as to encounter a man in a wagon who gave him a lift. During the conversation that ensued between the two the divine chance to ask:

"Do the folks hereabout enjoy religion?"

"I don't know exactly," replied his companion, "but I s'pose that them that has it enjoys it."

The old fable of the grasshopper who sang and danced through the summer and starved in the winter is only a parable of life. If we would have strength in old age we must store it in the summer of life. It is important that men in middle age should not allow the vital powers to run low. To prevent this requires something more than a stimulant. It requires a medicine which will increase the appetite, give the stomach power to convert the food eaten into nourishment, and increase the quantity and quality of the blood. Such a medicine is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It strengthens the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition, purifies the blood and increases the action of the blood-making glands. It is a strength-giving, body-building medicine without an equal.

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