

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., April 7, 1911.

FARM NOTES.

Who would think that the apple tree
So barren, awkward and bare,
Would ever don its living bloom,
And become most wondrous fair?
Who would think that birds could ever hide
Beneath its roosting of green and pink?
Yet it will not fail to be.

—A good pasture, well fenced, and good water in it, is a good place for growing stock. Growing stock soon run into money.

—Rubbish and brush in the orchard and yard? Gather and burn at once, and thus destroy harboring places of insect, fungi and other pests.

—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.

—Now mind this: Make two sowings of clover seed, one now and one early in April. Use half red, other half alsike. Do not miss the alsike.

—There is always a demand for good mules. They are good sale at any time after weaning. They are the hardest animals that can be raised.

—There is no better time than now to set geese eggs. Set them under a hen, allowing her five eggs, which are about all she can conveniently cover.

—The only successful way to fight fungous troubles in the orchard is to begin early, before the disease appears. Remember that fungicidal sprays are preventives, not cures.

—The more corn the more stock; the more stock the richer the land; the richer the land the more corn.—and there you have the secret of a rotation that is sure to bring success.

—Some folks are forever planning ahead and figuring how to make chickens pay, and while they are pottering along with their plans and figures, the hens and their broods are neglected.

—No fowl is so hard to doctor as a turkey. A secret of success with turkeys lies in avoiding inbreeding. A little turk debilitated at the start by inbreeding has a poor chance for its life.

—Too many trees of one variety alongside one another is not the best way to plant them. Mix them up, then they will pollinize one another better and give you choicer fruit and more of it.

—Pick off, and burn, all "mummied" fruits on peach, plum or other trees, thus destroying the spores of brown rot and other fungous diseases which winter over on these dried-up specimens.

—The baby chick trade has grown wonderfully. Twenty years ago poultrymen never dreamed of starting a business in that line, while now hundreds of thousands of these innocents are annually sent out.

—As the nights are still cold it is advisable to give the hens but eleven eggs at the time of setting them. This affords the hen a better chance to cover and warm the eggs properly, bringing forth better results.

—It's all right to have the brood coops wind-tight but not air-tight. It does not take much of a carpenter to put a pane of glass in a brood coop, and the chicks do better if they can have light when they must be shut up during cold, stormy weather.

—When hogs are kept in small numbers as on most eastern farms, the hog house is a rarity. It is quite different in the west, where from 50 to 100 head are kept in together, there being few, if any, herds that are not bothered more or less with parasites.

—When a spell of bad weather comes, look out for lice. They multiply fast when hens and chicks have to be confined to their coops much of the time. These pests will soon reduce the vitality of the liveliest chick ever hatched, so that it will be in good condition to take gapes or some other ailment.

—Some one has estimated from statistics that fruit trees and bushes will bear for the following periods: Apples, for 25 to 40 years; blackberry, from 6 to 14 years; currant, for 20 years; gooseberry, for 8 to 12 years; pear, for 50 to 75 years; plum, for 20 to 25 years, and raspberry, for 6 to 14 years.

—Here is the most approved method of treating seed potatoes to prevent a scabby crop: Soak the whole seed for two hours in a mixture of one-half pint of formalin (often called formalde) and fifteen gallons of cold water; dry the seed, cut, and plant in ground that has not recently been growing potatoes.

—Every drooping chicken should be examined at once for often a string wound about the neck or some trifling thing will cause the fowl to appear sick, and if past remedy it should be killed at once, but if it seems at all hopeful it should be quarantined. Then the premises should get a thorough going over for lice, dampness, filth or lack of fresh air so as to keep the disease from spreading. At the same time a good tonic will not come amiss with extra care in the feeding, and a clean run if possible. Very often the outbreak of disease is the best thing that can happen on a farm, as it calls attention to evils long neglected and paves the way for reform. On one farm when roup took nearly every chicken there was a general reformation, and conditions that never should have existed were banished and the fowls put on a paying basis.

A mash diet made up solely of corn meal mixed with warm milk was fed to a pen of layers, mostly Leghorns, with the following result: First, a remarkable increase in their egg yield; second, an increase in their weight; third, frequent and sudden deaths from apoplexy. These results were due to the high fattening food given and proved conclusively the grave danger encountered by adopting such a system of feeding.

A meal mash in the morning and whole or cracked corn at noon and night brought about the same results.

These experiments were tried during the spring months before the fowls had access to yards or free range.

Later in the season when on free range the same rations were fed with the same result, but attended with fewer deaths.

There is danger in feeding the flock too highly or, in other words, upon food too rich in blood and fat making ingredients.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

The only way to shine, even in this false world, is to be modest and unassuming. Falsehood may be a crust, but in the course of time truth will find a place to break through.—Ruskin.

Not every young mother knows how to wash her baby so that the least harm and the greatest benefit will result. Yet it is quite simple. After mastering the important points here set forth, the daily bathing becomes a pleasure to the child and certainly is not a task to the mother. The successful washing of a baby is largely a matter of practice, but there are a few hints which must be acted on if baby is to get real good from his bath and come to no harm.

In the first place, everything must be in readiness before the child is undressed. The room must be warm, so that a fire is necessary excepting in very hot weather.

A screen should be drawn around the fire to keep off draughts, and it is well also to lock the door to prevent intruders bringing a gust of cold wind with them.

The mother should wear an apron of flannel or flannelette, should roll the sleeves up above the elbows, so that they may not get wet and flap against the child's skin, and she should take particular care to see that she has neither needles nor pins sticking in her dress.

The bath should be shallow, the water soft and warm. Rain water is best, but very hard water can be softened by adding a little milk or toilet oatmeal.

The temperature of the water should be tested by the elbow, which is more sensitive to heat than is the hand. The soap should be of a mild variety, of any well-known make, and highly scented and brightly colored soaps should be avoided.

A small pie of flannel for the soaping, a small soft sponge for the rinsing and a very soft towel for the wiping are required. In addition to these a solution of boric acid (a teaspoonful of acid to half a pint of warm water) and some swabs of cotton wool (to be burned after use) are required for the proper cleansing of the mouth, ears, nose and eyes, which should be done when baby is dressed.

We shall find that our plump little baby is so full of creases that even a soft towel fails to dry the folds, and if they are left wet the poor baby will be very badly chafed. To prevent this we must dust the baby with a powder after he has been dried as well as the towel permits.

Violet powder is often adulterated with poisonous ingredients, and fuller's earth is too drying for the skin, besides giving rise occasionally to lockjaw. Pure starch powder from the druggist answers as well as anything, and particularly if it is mixed with an equal quantity of boric acid powder.

While towel and day garments are warming by the fire we can undress the baby. The body and limbs should be covered with a corner of the apron, while the face and head are washed with a little soap on the flannel, and then thoroughly rinsed.

When the face and head are dried the limbs should be rubbed over with the soaped flannel, and then baby is ready to go to the bath. The left hand should be held under the child's thighs and his back and head supported by the left arm, while the right hand is used for sponging, which must be quickly done.

As soon as taken from the bath the warm flannel apron should be wrapped around, and the body and limbs dried by installments. Then the powder must be dusted over, and a gentle rubbing with a smooth hand is of benefit to the health.

Dressing must be accomplished quickly, and then baby is ready for his meal, and after this double exertion will be quite ready for a sleep, which should be in a well-ventilated room, or even out of doors when the weather is bright and warm.

As the winter rolls away the spring silks are displayed with forceful attractiveness. In colors, designs and convenient widths foulards are probably accorded the most favor.

Indeed, they deserve our admiration. They appeal to our practical natures for several reasons. First, they are not expensive. Foulards nowadays are purchasable for money in the vicinity of the one-dollar mark. In the widths available ten or twelve yards are ample for a dress. The good quality of foulard is now waterproof. It sheds the dust, and can be used for petticoats or linings after having served as a costume.

Bordered foulards are evident in most of the silk showings. They are beautiful and have the added feature of requiring no trimming for the costume that they make.

Persian designs on the border, a queer lightning effect, all the oriental mixtures of colors and curious indistinct flower forms are seen to decorate the rich silks.

Foulards with coin spots, with stripes and in checked patterns are also here for the woman who prefers the allover designs.

These silks are just the thing for spring, cool summer days and for the fall. The triple use to which they can be put is rarely found in other materials, and from this very fact it would seem that every woman ought to have a silk dress in her outfit.

Baked Asparagus.—Boil asparagus until just tender, and then put in a baking dish, with one tablespoonful of grated Parmesan cheese between each layer. Melt one tablespoonful of butter in a frying pan, and when quite hot fry two tablespoonfuls of chopped onion till brown. Pour this over the asparagus, add another sprinkling of cheese, and lastly fine bread crumbs. Brown in a hot oven.

The Wizard.

"It's a remarkable thing," said old Brightboy at tea time, "but I can push my saucer through the handle of my cup."

The others glanced at the small handle and gave the speaker a withering look. "I can," persisted Brightboy. "Do it, then," they challenged. Calmly taking up his spoon, Brightboy passed it through the handle of the cup and then pushed the saucer with it.

Cold Comfort.
Modest Amateur showing his latest painting—I'm sure, Miss Ethel, you think I'm still some little way from being an artist. Fair Critic (anxious to say the polite thing)—Oh, no. Very, very far from it, I assure you.

Puffs.
"Miss Footlittle's reputation and her complexion are very much alike."
"Meaning that they are both brilliant, eh?"
"No; they are both made with a puff."—Boston Transcript.

Pope's Preference.
The Prince of Wales of Pope's time once said to the poet:
"Mr. Pope, do you not like kings?"
"Sir," replied the poet, "I prefer the lion before the claws are grown."

He Told Her.
"What is it, do you suppose, that keeps the moon in place and prevents it from falling?" asked Araminta.
"I think it must be the beams," replied Charlie softly.

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The nine-year-old boy of a Baltimore family who is compelled by his parents to practice daily upon the piano may not be a clever performer, but he has a pretty shrewd notion of the worth of an instrument, as well as a rather mature wit, as is evidenced by an incident in the household not long since.

His father upon returning home from a week's absence heard the lad plugging away at the piano. "When did you learn that new piece, son?" asked the parent. "It isn't a new piece, dad," answered the boy. "The piano has been tuned."—Lippincott's.

Just Rebuke.
Billy—What would you do if I should kiss you? Milly—I'd slap your face. Billy—Then I won't. Milly—You coward!—Philadelphia Record.

Misfortunes have their dignity and their redeeming power.—Hillard.

Kindness in us is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in another.—Landon.

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