

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., December 15, 1911.

## FARM NOTES.

—Corn in the crib is just the right spot, but is the spot right? Or will the rats get more than their share?

—Oats, wheat, bran, and a little corn or linseed-meal is a grain ration that will keep the lambs growing and in good flesh by winter.

—The egg-producing qualities of the hen, like the butter-making qualities of the cow, will determine the hen's value at the end of the year.

—If care is taken to keep the surface of the silage level, two and one-half inches removed daily will be sufficient to keep the silage from decaying.

—Most horses can hear well, and yet you would think from the sound of some men's voices when at work that the animals were deaf as posts.

—A horse with blunders on the public road is about as comfortable as a woman wearing a poke bonnet walking through a field where a vicious bull is kept.

—Stable manure comprises valuable humus for the soil, as it adds not only to its porosity and friability, but also contains valuable chemical constituents that are natural plant food.

—A good liniment for all kinds of swellings on dairy cows, as well as on all other farm animals, is made by mixing equal parts of turpentine, sweet oil and spirits of camphor. Apply liberally and frequently to the swollen parts.

—Careful attention should be given to the oiling of harness. When properly cared for harness will be used to last twice as long. Rain and mud drying on the leather will cause it to crack. There is no better time to oil the harness than on a rainy day.

—Don't forget to save out corn for seed while you are husking it. Just because an ear of corn is large does not necessarily make it the best for seed. See that the rows are straight from tip to butt, and that the kernels are all well formed and plump.

—Perhaps some of your crops have disappointed you this year, but if you sowed a few seeds of kindness, as we advised last spring, that crop did not disappoint you. Another thing: If you didn't plant them too late—this is one of the best "catch" crops known. Try it.

—According to some experiments noted by the Department of Agriculture it was found that where cows were milked three times a day—morning, noon and evening—the milk was richest at noon and poorest in the morning; and when milked morning and evening the milk was slightly richer in the evening.

—There are often a few sheep in the flock that bloat with, seemingly little cause, and one does not feel as though he wanted to lose them, and has to resort to vigorous means for relief at once. A tablespoonful of spirits of ammonia put in a pint of water, slightly warmed, and poured down the sheep will usually relieve in the first stages.

—Arrange to haul all cornstalks, manure and other stable and barnyard refuse to the fields as fast as they accumulate during the fall and winter. Their richness will get into the soil where needed if they are in the field, but will lose their richness and become a nuisance if allowed to remain in and about the barn and stables. It is an easy thing to haul them out a load at a time, but a long and wearisome task to remove a half-year's accumulation when the warm spring days come.

—From a market standpoint a mature hog is one that has either temporarily or permanently ceased growing, and taken on the form and finish required by the meat trade. The time at which a pig comes to maturity may be determined very largely by the character of the feed and the manner of feeding. Pigs have been brought to maturity at will anywhere between the ages of 6 and 9 months. Early maturity is brought about by feeding an excess of non-nitrogenous feeds or by sudden changes from nitrogenous to non-nitrogenous feeds. By feeding an excess of such a fat-forming feed as cornmeal the pig does not have a sufficient amount of protein nutrients to continue its growth, and so begins to lay on fat.

—In selecting a ram two classes of breeding should be avoided—the common scrub, that has no good characteristics to fix, and the "pure bred scrub," without individuality, whose purity of breeding only gives him greater power to work ruin in the flock.

Good individuality, backed by several generations of good ancestry, will insure prepotency with almost unerring certainty where the ewes are suitable and the management correct. Great attention should be paid to the ram's general contour. His structure should be firm and massive, a broad, capacious breast, no disproportionate length of legs and well-formed and fully-developed quarters, especially the hind quarters.

His loin should be stout and well knit, his features bold, and a muscular neck is desirable. A bold and courageous eye carriage are indicative of spirit and vigor. His head should be long, but rather small and well molded.

—Preventing Horse Colic.—A common cause of colic is allowing the horse to partake of large drafts of water immediately after finishing a feed of oats. The reason being that when a large quantity of water is thus drunk it has the effect of carrying with it out of the stomach and into the intestines some of the freshly eaten oats. Being still in a raw and undigested condition, this grain is apt to cause irritation and inflammation of the intestines, which is the immediate cause of colic. It is the best plan to always water horses before a meal, or some time after.

In the case of colic, the following treatment is recommended by a veterinary surgeon: Administer a dose consisting of one ounce of laudanum and two ounces of sweet spirits of nitre, along with half a pint of whiskey in some hot water. Very often simple cases of colic yield to the administration of a couple of ounces of cooking soda, diluted with water, and given as soon as the first symptoms of the attacks are noticed. Should the administration of this cooking soda fail to give the desired relief no time should be lost in following it up with the laudanum and spirits of nitre already suggested.

## KING OF THE ASPES.

This Reptile, the Most Venomous of Snakes, is Death Itself.

The most venomous of snakes is said to be the Echis carinata of India. It is about eighteen inches long and of a gray color. The creature is death itself and carries in its head the secret of destroying life with the concentration of agony of all the poisons.

The Echis carinata is tolerably common in India, being found in nearly every part of the peninsula.

Fortunately, however, for man, it is not like the cobra, a house frequenting snake, for its aggressive habits would make it infinitely more fatal to life than its dreaded relative.

This king of the asps does not turn to escape from man, as the cobra will, or flash into concealment, like the kobra, but keeps the path against its human assailant and, pitting its own eighteen inches of length against its enemy's bulk, challenges and provokes conflict.

A stroke with a whip will cut it in two or a clod of earth disable it. But such is its malignity that it will invite attack by every device at its command, staking its own life on the mere chance of its adversary coming within the little circle of its power. At most the radius of this circle is twelve inches. Within it at any point lies certain death, and on the bare hope of hand or foot trespassing within its reach the Echis carinata throws its body into a figure of eight coil. Then it attracts attention by rubbing its loops together, which, from the roughness of the scales, make a rattling, hissing sound, erects its head in the center and awaits attack.

It is said that no one, having once encountered this terrible reptile, can ever forget its horrifying aspect when thus aroused, its eagerly aggressive air, its restless coils, which, in constant motion one over the other and rustling ominously all the while, stealthily but surely bring it nearer and nearer to the object of its fury.—Harper's.

## TWO NEW HATS.

The Scheme That Won Them and the Way It Was Worked.

A man who used to be in politics and was a constant borrower found himself in need of a new hat, but he couldn't find anybody who would lend him a cent.

Finally he went to an acquaintance and said: "I want to borrow \$50 for five minutes."

"You can have it if you will put up a couple of fingers for security."

"Nix. Now, I've got a scheme. You lend me the fifty and you needn't let me get out of your sight. If you do I'll stake you to a new hat."

Mystified, but curious, the acquaintance agreed to this, and the two repaired to a prominent hat store.

"Wait a minute," said the adventurer and left his backer doing sentry duty on the sidewalk.

Picking out the most important looking personage in the store, the politician went up to him and said: "I am so-and-so of the — district. I have come to pay for two hats for which I have given orders on you to two of my constituents."

With that he flashed a fifty dollar bill.

There was a scurrying around, a search of books and a reply that no such orders had been presented.

"Just look out for them, will you?" said the district leader, waving the big bill, which was hypnotic in its way, for the clerk bowed low and said: "Yes."

Half an hour later two orders were presented and two hats left the store.—Chicago Post.

## The History of "Stepmother."

"Stepmother" is a word with a commonly unsuspected history. Probably most people if called upon to explain it would say that it meant a woman who had stepped into the place of the true mother. Dr. Johnson, at any rate, believed that this was the suggestion of the word to most minds. Really, "step" is the Anglo-Saxon "steop," the original meaning of which appears to have been "orphaned." Stepchild, step-brother, stepson and stepdaughter came first, and then by gradual fading of the etymological meaning of "step" stepfather and stepmother came into being.—London Chronicle.

## Japanese Landowners.

A landowner in Japan owns the surface and products of the land only. All minerals under the surface appertain not to him, but to the Japanese government. Moreover, should the government or its nominee wish to extract the minerals lying under a landowner's property, the latter, though he would, of course, receive compensation for loss, cannot object on legal ground to the development of these minerals.—British Consular Report.

## His Motion.

"De meetin' had to disband very sudden." "Did you make the motion to adjourn?" "I did." "How did you do it?" "I made a motion like I was reaching for a razor."—Pittsburgh Press.

## Properly Placed.

"Join," exclaimed the inebriated printer's wife, "when you come home in that condition at this unseemly hour I hardly know what to call you!" "At's awright, m'dear," cooed the printer. "Jus' put me in the 'too late to classify' department."—Judge's Library.

## BULLETS IN BATTLE

They Play Queer Pranks at Times on Their Mission of Death.

At the battle of Peach Orchard, when McClellan was making his change of base, a Michigan infantryman fell to the ground as if shot dead and was left lying in a heap as the regiment changed position. The bullet that had hit him first struck the barrel of his gun, then glanced and struck off a button of his coat, tore the watch out of his vest pocket and struck the man just over the heart, where it was stopped by a song book in his shirt pocket. He was unconscious for three-quarters of an hour, and it was a full month before the black and blue spot disappeared.

At Pittsburg Landing a member of the Twelfth Michigan infantry stooped to give a wounded man a drink from his canteen. While in this act a bullet aimed at his breast struck the canteen and buried itself in the leg of a horse. The canteen was split open and dropped to the ground in halves.

At the second battle of Bull Run a New York infantryman was passing tobacco to a comrade when a bullet struck the plug, glanced off and buried itself in a knapsack. The tobacco was rolled up like a ball of shavings and carried a hundred feet away. Directly in the line of the bullet was the head of a lieutenant, and had not the bullet been deflected he would certainly have been wounded or killed thereby. As it was, he had both eyes filled with tobacco dust and had to be led to the rear.

At Brandy Station one of Custer's troopers had his left stirrup strap cut away by a grapeshot, which passed between his leg and the horse, blistering the skin as if a red hot iron had been used. He was dismounted to ascertain the extent of his injuries, and as he bent over a bullet knocked his hat off and killed his horse.

In the same fight a trooper had suffered several days with a toothache. In a hand to hand conflict he received a pistol ball in the right cheek. It knocked out his aching tooth and passed out through the left corner of his mouth, taking along a part of an upper tooth. The joy of getting rid of the toothache was so great that the trooper could not be made to go to the rear to have his wound dressed.—Exchange.

## Tasted the Same.

Five-year-old Gracie had been given a lecture by her father, who warned her not to take gum that another had been chewing. She had been to the store that morning and had bought some gum. Her five-year-old playmate, Oscar, asked her for some while she was chewing it. She said, "No, my papa said that it is not right to take anything that has been in the mouth of another person." An hour later Oscar was given a penny by his mother. He bought some candy. While eating it Gracie sidled up to him and, being very fond of candy, asked in a playful tone, "Oscar, how does your candy taste?" Like a flash Oscar replied in a victorious tone, "The same as your gum did."—Boston Record.

## Mother-in-law in Dickens' Time.

Nowadays it is regarded as utterly incorrect to speak of a stepmother as a "mother-in-law." But anybody who does can plead plenty of literary authority. "Mother-in-law" was good English in this sense as well as the other in 1516, and both Fielding and Thackeray have it. "Father-in-law" is used by Shakespeare both for a wife's father and for a stepfather, and in this sense it can be quoted from Dickens and George Eliot. But the general agreement in modern times to stick to "stepmother" is a wise avoidance of confusion.

## The American Accent.

There was an American once who had been so long in England that he imagined he had not only got quit of the "American manner," but had shed the transatlantic accent. He delected many and was happy until the day of his return. "First class to Liverpool, how much?" said he to the booking clerk at Euston. "Five dollars and a half, London Tatter."

## Smashing a Proverb.

"I can never marry you," said the beautiful actress. "But," pleaded the wealthy old man, "won't you make my life happy for the short years I will be here? I am troubled with a weak and faint heart." "In that case I accept you." And yet they say faint heart never won fair lady.

## Remarkable Work.

"What do you regard as the most remarkable work in the English language?" "Well," replied Miss Cayenne, "the most remarkable work in the English language that I know of is the way some Englishmen pronounce it."—Washington Star.

## Drilling Him.

"Johnny, were you beating that little boy next door?" "Certainly not, pa. I was just going through some maneuvers." "Who could chastise the kid after such a statesmanlike answer as that?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## Changed His Mind.

Naggsby—I thought you were never going to work for those people again. Wagsby—I did say so, but since that time they have decided that I might come back.—Baltimore American.

Try to have kindly thoughts of people and the kind words will take care of themselves.

—And after that eloquent appeal of the missionary to arrest the heathen on the downward path, all you put in the box was a cent."

"Well, I thought if they wanted to arrest the heathen, the best thing to send in that direction was a 'copper.'"

## Medical.

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