

**FARM NOTES.**

—More attention should be paid to methods of caring for farm manures. The matter of so handling the manure as to reduce the loss of plant food from fermentation and leaching to a minimum is of vital importance.

At the Ohio Experiment Station, where crop rotation and manuring tests have been carried on for 20 years, the value of carefully saving the manure has been established in a very striking manner. To illustrate we quote from a statement made by that institution:

Tests in a three-year rotation of corn, wheat and clover where eight tons of stable manure was applied in the rotation, show a return of \$57 from the effects of the manure, or a crop return of approximately \$7 for every ton used. At present prices of crops the \$10 mark would be reached.

Where ordinary barnyard manure was used \$46 was returned, or \$11 less as compared with stable manure. This means a return of \$1.25 more for every ton of manure saved and handled to prevent leaching from rains.

When the same amount of manure were used in connection with 320 pounds of acid phosphate to the acre in the rotation, an increase of \$90 was recorded with the combination. With the barnyard manure, however, only a \$70 increase was secured, showing again that stable manure will return approximately \$1.25 a ton more than barnyard manure. In both cases an increase of \$32 worth of crops was returned for the application of 320 pounds of acid phosphate, over and above the increase from manure alone—a return of \$7 for every dollar invested in acid phosphate.

—An increased crop return of \$7 per ton of manure applied under ordinary conditions, which would be fully equal to \$10 per acre at present prices, is a return worthy of careful consideration by every farmer. Note that manure that had been protected against leaching had a value of \$1.25 more per ton than that which had been left unprotected in the yard. For a man who accumulates 100 tons of manure a year, the manure due to careful protection of manure would amount to \$125. But this is really not all. Manure that has been exposed to the weather in the barnyard for several months not only loses plant food, but also becomes lighter in weight. In other words, while 50 tons of manure thrown out of the stable into the barnyard, perhaps not more than 45 tons could be hauled out, and that, as seen above, would be of much poorer quality than the original manure. So, let us add manure conservation to our present grain and other crop conservation efforts.

—On the average farm the manure that goes to waste each year can be made to add more fertility to the soil than a ton of ordinary commercial fertilizer. More than this the manure will benefit the soil in several ways other than by merely adding certain fertilizing elements. Farmers have gotten a little way into using the by-products of the farm, but not far enough. They keep hogs, chickens and perhaps a few dairy cows or one or two brood mares for consuming the surplus hays and pasture of the farm. They turn this stuff into money that could otherwise be disposed of. But if the manure that the live stock makes is not used, the farmer fails in just that much of making the full use of his unmarketable hays, etc. Live stock returns in manure from 50 to 90 per cent. of the fertilizing constituents of the feeds they eat.

—As often as there is a wagonload the manure should be hauled out on the fields and spread, and turned under as soon as possible. Manure handled in this way is several times more valuable to the soil than that which has lain in the lot for months. When the manure is hauled out once a week, once a fortnight, or once a month, according to circumstances, it reaches the soil with all its fertilizing elements available as soon as it has undergone a rotting stage. When it is turned under at once so as to rot in the soil instead of in the lots and stables, it brings about in the soil, by the aid of certain bacteria in it, a change that is highly beneficial. It helps the soil to hold its own nitrogen instead of allowing it to leach away. The humus value of manure handled in this way is lasting and of great benefit to the soil.

If it is not possible to haul manure frequently it should be held until such a time when it can be turned under right after hauling it, and meantime it should be thrown into a pile under a shed. The fertilizing value of manure has been estimated to be between \$2 and \$3 a ton, but when handled in the right way not only the fertilizing value is gotten out of it, but there is a lasting help to the mechanical condition of the soil which is worth perhaps more than this in the years that follow the application of manure to the soil. Applying manure to the same piece of soil year after year is better, of course, but manure will show its effects on crops for years after its application to any given piece of soil.

—Hundreds of thousands of bee colonies, representing about one-third of the number kept in the United States, are housed in log "guns" and in box hives, and produce for their owners an insignificant amount of honey compared with what they might do if they were transferred to movable-frame hives and handled by improved methods. If all the beekeepers now using box hives would adopt the modern type of movable frame hive they would not only secure more profit from their bees for themselves, but would add many millions of pounds of money to the nation's supply, according to Farmers' Bulletin, 961. "Transferring Bees to Modern Hives," published by the United States Department of Agriculture. The bulletin describes a number of the best methods of transferring from old to new hives. Much of the honey produced by colonies in box hives is wasted by crude methods of securing the crop, the bulletin states, and these colonies are reduced in earning value by uncontrolled swarming, and by the annual loss of bees which die in winter because of lack of protection and sufficient food stores.

**FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.**

**DAILY THOUGHT**

Today is not yesterday; we ourselves change; how can our works and thoughts, if they are always to be the fittest, continue always the same? Change, indeed, is painful; yet ever needful, and if memory have its force and worth, so also has hope.—Carlyle.

Round wash cloths are quite new. I glimpsed one of them which, together with two Turkish towels, was boxed as a Christmas gift in one of the shops. Both towels and cloth were edged in a narrow blue crocheted and the effect was very pretty.

Never was there such an array of knitted hats nor were they ever quite so smart. The newest hats of this variety follow quite along most fashionable millinery lines. Spider web hats are particularly good. Special frames come for these in the art needle work departments. The wool or chenille is wound round and round and in and out just as the spider himself builds his house. When finished the hats are very good looking. It is possible to make them in a variety of becoming shapes.

Have you seen the sweaters with trench pockets? They are really quite stunning. There are two breast pockets, each having a little pointed flap with a button and buttonhole. The art of sweater-making is becoming a fine one indeed. More and more is this garment following the lines of tailored garments, until it is no longer simply a comfortable necessity, but often has actual chic.

Those bag-top workbaskets are nice. They haven't that bad habit of the open-top variety of spilling spoils, buttons and what not over the floor at crucial moments. Even though the baskets are piled high, the bag top can be drawn together so snugly that nary a needle escapes. Added to usefulness is attractiveness; that is why I suggest them for Christmas. One can pick up a little basket (those in red Japanese willow are pretty) cheap and then take a bit of silk that one has on hand perhaps, shirr it about the top of the basket, make a casing at the top edge of the silk, insert draw ribbons and the gift is complete. Larger baskets can be made to hold stockings. In this event little pockets of the silk should be made inside the bag top, for holding needles and various small articles.

Do you know that an extra shelf will sometimes save you much time and work?

So much trotting about in the kitchen and walking from one room to another is often due simply to the lack of one or more convenient shelves. We have the habit too often of accepting the inconvenience of most household arrangements simply because they happen to have been built that way.

For example, in many of the city apartments there is plenty of shelf room in the kitchen, but it is built in the shape of a large closet, extending upward to the ceiling, far beyond the reach. Shelves that have to be climbed to are not convenient or really useful shelves. They are suitable only for storage purposes.

The real function of a shelf is to keep the things we need regularly in a convenient form, easily accessible and within good reach.

Here is the test of whether your shelves are giving you the help you need.

Do you have to walk from your working surface, like the kitchen table, to a shelf where your tools are? Can you reach comfortably to your shelves, or do you have to stand on a ladder of some sort?

Almost anyone can install one or two shelves with the aid of some simple carpentry tools and ready-made equipment.

Here are the kind of shelves which you will find to be really labor-savers:

1—Over your kitchen table or cupboard or whatever you use for mixing food there should be shelves containing standard ingredients—flour, sugar, spices, etc.

2—Attached to your kitchen table there should be a shelf with hooks on which you can suspend tools such as the egg beater, mixing fork and spoons, measuring spoons and cups, and on which your other needed articles can be placed.

Two or three shelves of this kind will make it unnecessary to travel to various parts of the kitchen and search the shelves for needed tools and ingredients.

When you build shelves do not make the mistake of having broad shelves on which you can stack two or three rows of articles. You will find this a great inconvenience, for it will mean that when you need an article and it happens to be in the back row you will have to remove the two or three articles in the row or rows in front.

To Clean White Feathers.—Wash them well in soft water with white soap and blue; rub them through very clear white paper; beat them on the paper; shake them before the fire; dry them in the air and afterward curl them with the back of a knife applied to the feathers. They will be found to curl quickly and well.

Military Cup.—Grate the rind from an orange into a large pitcher, add four tablespoonfuls of sugar, or to taste. Make one quart of strong tea with freshly boiling water and pour it into the pitcher. Strain the orange rind. Add the strained juice of two lemons and leave all to get quite cold. Slice the orange thin, taking care that all the white part of the skin is removed, and put the slices into a glass pitcher. Pour the liquid, well strained, over them, and serve very cold.

Boston Brown Bread.—One and one-half cups cornmeal, one and one-half cups barley flour, two teaspoons baking powder, one-fourth teaspoon salt, one-fourth teaspoon ginger, one teaspoon soda, two cups sour milk, three-fourths cup molasses.

Sift cornmeal, barley flour, baking powder, salt and ginger. Dissolve soda in a little cold water, add the sour milk with the dry ingredients, beat well and steam in well-greased brown bread tin or baking powder cans from five to six hours.

Many English women have taken up the veterinary profession.

**"Most Beautiful Burial Ground" is Where First Americans Fell.**

In a communication to the National Geographic society, Mrs. Harriet Chalmers Adams, the distinguished traveler, gives a graphic picture of French Lorraine, that part of France where the first American soldiers, under General Pershing, fell. A part of the communication, has been issued as a war geography bulletin, as follows:

"I entered the French military zone as a war correspondent, and went to Nancy, in northwestern France, the most beautiful town in the Republic, capital of historic Lorraine.

"A famous Frenchman has called Lorraine 'the most beautiful burial ground in the world.' Flanders is a mud hole, and Champagne is all chalk, but Lorraine is an enchanting land, with harmonious hills and noble trees and fern-bordered streams rushing to the Rhine. The quaint villages which escaped the German onslaught perch on the hillsides like Christmas toys and the humblest vegetable patch is a garden.

"But there are tombs in every flower-strewn field, for no region on earth has suffered more from fire and sword. All the races of Europe have coveted Lorraine since the days of the Romans. When the Kaiser waited in the forest with his 10,000 cavaliers for word from his victorious army that he might cross the frontier and make a triumphant entry into Nancy, he was but following in the footsteps of earlier barbarians who swept across the Rhine.

Nancy is a little over five miles from the front, and is bombarded by the Boches' most powerful guns, the 380 millimeter, which have a 20-mile range. The shells come mainly at night, when there can be no warning. In daylight French aeroplanes guard the city to watch for the distant white cloud which heralds the oncoming shell. The tocsin sounds the alarms and the 100,000 inhabitants scurry to the cellars. On every house with a cellar a great cross is painted, the double cross of ancient Lorraine.

"Few people have left town. Trains are running, shops are open. Nancy has had work to do and keeps at it doggedly. Also she houses and feeds 3,000 refugees, mostly old women and little children, who have crept over the fields in terror from their cannonaded homes still nearer the German line. The number increases.

"From a plateau beyond Nancy one can see on the far horizon the cathedral spires of Metz, capital of lost

Lorraine. In plain view are the German villages near the frontier—the frontier since 1876. 'The Boche,' said our host, 'is only a few minutes away by aeroplane.'

In plain view from this plateau are the trenches in the vicinity of the Rhine-Marne canal, where in the early morning of November 3, the Germans raided a salient held by American soldiers, and our first blood was shed in France.—Ex.

**Where People Live Like Ants.**

France, in Europe, is a small country. Yet, in other quarters, it covers a large part of the globe. If you will glance at a map of Africa, you will find that nearly half of that continent is of French ownership.

The bulk of tropical Africa is French, including the great Sahara desert. Morocco belongs to France; so likewise does Tunisia—though warlike border tribes perpetually threaten to indulge in hostilities.

Tunisia is one of the least known regions of the world to the every-day traveler. It is also one of the hottest, so that the inhabitants largely dwell in caves dug underground, or in houses built especially to be heat-proof, or even in hillside caverns.

In southern Tunisia is a mountain of considerable size called Douirat, which once upon a time was an active volcano. Bubbles of volcanic gases made it a veritable honeycomb of caves, which in these days are inhabited. In fact, the whole mountain is a city—a human anthill, densely populated.

**A Barometric Violin.**

Abram Moses, a violinist of this city, is the possessor of what might be called a barometric violin. Some time after Mr. Moses bought it he noticed that at certain times it exhaled a strange and subtle fragrance, like an aroma of Oriental incense. Later, he observed that this fragrance was noticeable only when the weather was about to become damp. He obtained the violin in Paris some years ago when he was studying there.—Baltimore Sun.

"What is your reason for saying you won't enlist unless you're sent to the Seventy-third Infantry?" questioned the recruiting officer.

"Bee'ase I want to be near me brother that's in th' Seventy-fourth," returned Dennis O'Rourke.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

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NEVER have we seen such attractive effects as in these new Suits and Overcoats for Fall and Winter. Seems as though simplifying men's styles to save wool has put the tailors on their mettle to achieve smartness of line and elegance of contour, in spite of unusual handicaps.



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**Low Meat Prices vs. High Cattle Prices**

If the farmer cannot get enough for his live stock, he raises less, and the packer gets less raw material.

If the consumer has to pay too much for his meat, he eats less of it, and the packer finds his market decreased.

The packer wants the producer to get enough to make live-stock raising profitable, and he wants the price of meat so low that everyone will eat it.

But all he can do, and what he would have to do in any case to stay in business, is to keep down the cost of processing the farmer's stock into meat so that the consumer pays for the meat and by-products only a little more than the farmer gets for his animals.

For example, last year Swift & Company paid for its cattle about 90 per cent of what it got for meat and by-products (such as hides, tallow, oils, etc.)

If cattle from the farm were turned miraculously into meat in the hands of retailers (without going through the expense of dressing, shipping and marketing), the farmer would get only about 1 1/8 cents per pound more for his cattle, or consumers would pay only about 2 1/4 cents per pound less for their beef!

Out of this cent or two per pound, Swift & Company pays for the operation of extensive plants, pays freight on meats, operates refrigerator cars, maintains branch houses, and in most cases, delivers to retailers all over the United States. The profit amounts to only a fraction of a cent, and a part of this profit goes to build more plants, to give better service, and to increase the company's usefulness to the country.

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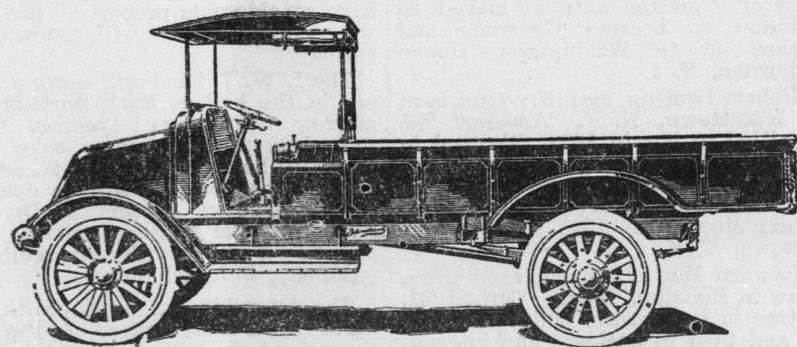
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