AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Keep no more animals than can be comfortably accommodated; otherwise they prove an expense rather than profitable.

Boiled starch can be much improved by the addition of a little sperm or a little salt, or both, or a little dissolved gum arabic.

Ventilation is absolutely necessary and essential to health. Unless a poultry house be well and properly ventilated fowl cannot be kept healthy any length of time.

Occasionally bees gather honey from corn, especially the sweet varieties. In early morning bees may be seen sipping the juice from the stalk at the axis of the leaves.

A stick flattened at the end will be found a help in planting flower seeds.—Make a shallow hole with the flat end of the stick and scatter the seeds in it, covering lightly.

Holland dairymen have to pay $36 annual rent for land in which to keep cows, and make money at that. There a good cow is valued at one hundred and fifty dollars.

The trees can be protected from field mice by banking the tree up for a foot or so with soil, and borers and rabbits can be kept away by wrapping the trunk for a foot above this with tarred paper.

If you want eggs from your Brahmas don't feed them too strongly. They take on fat readily, and when fat do not lay. Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes need liberal feed when they are laying.

Ashes spread over strawberries at the rate of 100 bushels per acre will increase the quantity, improve the quality and intensify the color. They may be sown broadcast at any time but the earlier the better.

In the care of eggs while waiting for hatching, a place is preferred that is neither not hor cold, damp nor dry. If the eggs are to be kept up a while turning every day will answer, a box or basket being sufficient.

Early cut hay is the best. I do not mean cut when half grown, but just in its prime, before the seed has developed and the stalks become woody. Hay that stands until it goes to seed before cutting, is but little, if any, better than straw.

Keep a sharp lookout in the orchard for the nests of the tent cater-pillar.—Destroy them at once by cutting off the limb, or, if out of reach, by burning out the nests by means of a small bundle of rags tied upon the end of a long pole and saturated with kerosene oil.

Farmers should always endeaver to follow the best methods in the various branches of their work. Don't be afraid to leave the old ruts when you can find a better way—there are generally several methods of performing the same labor. Let every farmer find out the best one for him to follow.

When corn is but a few inches in height, before the roots have had time to spread, deep plowing with a shovel-plow may be beneficial; but after the roots have become far-reaching cultivation with a cultivator or harrow should be resorted to, to stir only the surface of the soil.

A plank floor is not good for hogs; they are liable to slip on it and injure themselves, so that they have to be killed. Hogs will not move about any more than they are obliged to on a plank floor, on account of slipping, and this want of exercise will help to bring on constipation.

The most successful farming the past few years seems to have been done by men who had little land, and were able themselves, with their families, to do the greater part of the work, with little expenses for the hired help.—To such farmers the growing of small fruits on a small scale generally pays well.

As the warm weather approaches, shade must be supplied for the fowls and chicks if they are expected to thrive. Fowls suffer greatly from cold in winter, but not so much as they do from heat in the summer if compelled to be under the sun's rays at all times. Farmers usually let their fowls run at large, and in that case they can always find plenty of shade.

Farmers should be very careful in selecting farm hands, and, if possible get only men of good moral character.—There is no class of "help" that is placed on so near an equality with the family as the farm laborer. Mingling as he does so intimately, with the family, his influence cannot help being felt to some extent, and it is of the utmost importance that it should be good instead of evil.

Americans probably invest more money in farming tools than any other people. By the census of 1880 the value of agricultural implements made the previous year was $8,000,000. Ten years is a long life to the average of farm tools, and many are worthless after three or four years' use or rust.—It is probable that the entire amount invested in farm tools now in use is nearly or quite $1,000,000,000.

To make an extract of lemon which will be strong and fragrant, and grow better by keeping, buy ten cents worth of alcohol in a wide-mouthed, well corked bottle. Then the next time you are going to use a fresh, clean-skinned lemon for some household purpose in which the rind is not needed, pare it off with a sharp knife in little thin slips, cutting between it and the white skin, and put the slips in the bottle. In a week or two the liquid will be of a bright yellow, and more lemon rind can be added as needed.

The first case under the law passed at the sessions of the Legislature abolishing toll and gates in this State, where it is shown that a majority of the persons who travelled over the road want such action taken, has just occurred in Luzerne county. A jury, of viewers appointed by the Court has condemned the Providence and Carbondale township road, which extends from Scranton to Jerman, about ten miles. The jury has assessed the damages at $9,000, which will be paid by the county. This turnpike, over which there was much travel, was a source of annoyance to those who use it, as there are five toll gates upon it.

Hot Water as a Medicine.

In drinking hot water it should be sipped, and not drunk so fast as to distend the stomach and make it feel uncomfortable. From fifteen to thirty minutes may be consumed in drinking the hot water. A period of six months is generally required to wash out the liver and intestines thoroughly. Not more than half a pint of hot water should be drunk with the meals. To make the beverage palatable, or to medicate it, aromantic spirits of ammonia, clover blossom, ginger, lemon juice, sage, salt or sulphate of magnesia are sometimes added. Where there is intense thirst or dryness a pinch of chloride of calcium or of nitrate of potash may be added to allay the thirst and leave a moistened filmover the parched and dry mucous surface. When there is diarrhœa, cinnamon, ginger and pepper may be boiled in the hot water, and the quantity of sulphate of magnesia, or half teaspoonful of taraxacum, may be used in hot water. Inebriety has a deadly foe in this use of hot water. All thirst and dry mucous membrane disappear in a few days and a moist condition of the mucous membrane and skin takes place. The relaxing influence of the heat inside the alimentary canal relieves spasms and colic of the bowels, just as heat outside the abdomen relieves. Hot water dilutes the ropy secretions of the whole body, and renders them less adhesive and tenacious. It dissolves the abnormal crystalline substances that may be in the blood and urine. It washes out the stomach and leaves it fresh and clean for eating.—It promotes elimination everywhere. As we are 75 per cent. water, to keep from stagnation we need continual renewal The universal use of hot beverages at meal time is based on a physiological necessity. If hot water in due quantities is taken between meals, there will be but little need of taking water at meals.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

He Didn't Bite.

There is a sharper's game which has been played for the last hundred years, and as the turning point is avarice the game works forty-nine times where it fails once. Two sharpers set out a few weeks ago to play in on a Wayne county farmer. One of them came along one day and wanted to buy the farm. As the farmer wanted to sell it was quite easy to strike a bargain. The price was to be $4,000 in cash, and the man handed over $250 to bind the bargain. Within two days a second stranger came along and wanted the farm. He wanted it so bad that he couldn't stand still. He found indications of coal, natural gas and coal oil, and he was willing to give $6,500 for the place. The idea was of course, that the farmer would be awful sick of his first sale and seek to buy the man off. It would pay him to offer the man $1,500 to release him.

The second stranger was only out of sight when the first one turned up again. His mouth watered over the prospect but not for long. The farmer explained that he had been offered $2,500 more and added:

'But I don't care for money. The $4,000 is enough for me and it's all the old farm is worth. When you are ready to pay the balance we'll make out the papers.'

The purchaser offered to release him for $1,000—$700—$500—$300, but the farmer didn't want to be released. He hung to the bargain money and he's got it yet, while the pair of sharpers rave and gnash their teeth every time they think of the thickness of his skull.

Man Pre-Eminently a Cooking Animal.

We are told that among the many epithets that have been bestowed upon man to distinguish him from all other animals, he has been pre-eminently a cooking animal—the only animal who cooks or prepares his food prior to using it (Lindsay). There are many savage races of men who use flesh and fruits in their raw state, sometimes even in a condition of disgusting putridity. Not only so, but they devour living animals, or flesh cut from living animals. Moreover, they tear flesh with their teeth, after the manner of carnivora (Lindsay). Until the arrival of the European the Australians knew nothing about cooking or boiling food (Buchner). The bushmen of South Africa live partly upon small birds, which they swallow unplucked. Lizards are eaten raw by the Digger Indians. The Veddas of Ceylon live on wild honey, lizards and the flesh of monkeys, deers and boars.—Wild men and wolf children of India tear and eat raw flesh, gather and gnaw bones like dogs, catch and swallow flies, bite the heads off live fowls, lap water with their tongues. Gerhardt says that they will pick up bones and sharpen their teeth on them. According to Col. Sleeman, a wolf child found in company with a wolf delighted in raw flesh and bones, putting them on the ground under her paws like a dog.—Sarah E. Titcomb.

Do Not Swear.

1. It is mean. A boy of high moral standing would almost as soon steal a sheep as swear.

2. It is vulgar—although too low for a decent boy.

3. It is cowardly—implying a fear of not being believed or obeyed.

4. It isungentlemanly. A gentleman according to Webster, is a genteel man—well-bred, refined. Such a one will no more swear than go into the street to throw mud with a chimney sweep.

5. It is indecent—offensive to delicacy, and extremely unfit for human ears.

6. It is foolish. "Want of decency is want of sense."

7. It is abusive—to the mind which conceives the oath, to the tongue which utters it and to the person at whom it is aimed.

8. It is venomous—showing a boy's heart to be a nest of vipers; and every time he swears one of them sticks out his head.

9. It is contemptible—forfeiting the respect of all the wise and good.

10. It is wicked—violating the divine law, and provoking the displeasure of Him who will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.—*United Presbyterian.*

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clears out rats, mice, roaches, flies, ants, bedbugs.

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Quick, complete cure, all kidney, bladder and urinary diseases, scalding, irritation, stone, gravel, catarrh of the bladder. $1. Druggists.

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"Wells' Health Renewer" restores health and vigor, cures dyspepsia, impotence, sexual debility. $1.

"Rough on Pain."

Cures cholera, colic, cramps, diarrhœa, aches, pains, sprains, headache, neuralgia, rheumatism. 20c. Rough on Pain Plasters, 15c.

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If you are failing, broken, worn out and nervous, use 'Well's Health Renewer.' $1. Druggists.

Life Preserver.

If you are losing your grip on life, try "Wells' Health Renewer." Goes direct to weak spots.

"Rough on Piles."

Cures piles or hemorrhoids, itching, protruding, bleeding, internal or other. Internal and external remedy in each package. Sure cure, 50c. Druggists.

Pretty Women.

Ladies who would retain freshness and vivacity, don't fail to try "Well's Health Renewer."

"Rough on Itch."

"Rough on Itch" cures humors, eruptions, ringworm, tetter, salt rheum, frosted feet, chilblains.

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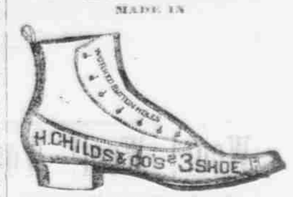

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FOR SALE.—STEAM ENGINES, CLAY ROLL, Gear Press, Plain and Chilled-Iron Work. Second-hand engines and boilers on hand. Roofing machine and machinery a specialty.—THOMAS CARLIN, Allegheny, Pa. (Feb. 22-4y.)

Antiquity of Bridges. The first bridges were of wood, and the earliest of which we have any account was built in Rome 500 years B. C. The next was erected by Julius Cæsar for the passage of his army across the Rhine. Trajan's great bridge over the Danube, 4770 feet long was made of timber, with stone piers. The Romans also built the first stone bridge, which crossed the Tiber. Suspension bridges are of remote organ. A Chinese one mentioned by Kirshen was made of chains supporting a roadway, 335 feet in length was built A. D. 65, and is said to be seen. The first large iron bridge was erected over the Seven in 1777. The age of railways has brought a remarkable development in this branch of engineering, especially in the construction of bridges of iron and steel.

Cure for a Felon. Take common salt roasted on a hot shovel until all the chlorine is thrown off or it is dry as you cake it. To a teaspoonful of pulverized castile soap add a teaspoonful of Venice turpentine; mix them well in a poultice and apply to the felon. If you have ten felons at once make as many poultices. Renew this poultice twice a day. In four or five days you felon will, if not opened before your poultice is first put on, present a hole down to the bone, where the pent up matter was before your poultice brought it out. If the felon has been cut open or opened itself, or is about to take off the finger to the first joint, no matter, put on your poultice, it will stop there and in time your finger will get well even if one of the first bones is gone. Of course it will not restore the lost bone, but it will get well soon.—*Providence Journal.*

A Perfect Baby.

Old Bachelor (to young mother)—The baby is rather small of its age?

Young mother (hesitatingly)—Yes, rather.

Old Bachelor—No teeth yet?

Young Mother (faltering)—No, not yet.

Old Bachelor—Legs a little bowed?

Young Mother (doubtfully)—Ever a trifle, perhaps.

Old Bachelor—Nose small for the rest of its face?

Young mother (uncertainly)—Yes, but it will grow.

Old Bachelor—Cries most of the time?

Young Mother (dubiously)—It cries a little.

Old Bachelor—Well, if the baby possesses all these defects why do you call it the sweetest, nicest, dearest, loveliest, and most beautiful baby in the world? Huh!

Young Mother (triumphantly