

FARM NOTES.

UNSALTED BUTTER.—How many persons are there who would turn up their noses at mention of unsalted butter? Isn't it to eat! exclaims the opinionated person who does not know what he is talking about. Well, it is a matter of taste. But travelers from Europe have the greatest difficulty in becoming accustomed to our strong, old, briny butter. They cannot eat it at first, any more than the American can endure the pretty, tiny pellets of fresh butter that meet him at every hotel in Europe. But again, so accommodating is human nature, that, once forced to accustom himself to the unsalted article in Europe, he, too, finds American butter briny and flavorless. The truth is that the most delicious butter is that which is left unsalted. For market, of course, it will not keep many days in the fresh state, but even then twice as much salt as is necessary is often put into it. The salt makes it acid, and destroys wholly the exquisite cream and grass flavor. For use in aesthetic homes, sets of tiny separate moulds, in the shape of a strawberry or something else pretty, should be had. Take the butter unsalted, work the milk out, mould it in rich-colored little gems in these, and put it upon the table in that shape. It is as attractive to the eye as flower or fruit, and the taste of it upon warm biscuit or snowflake light bread—well, try it, that is all.

FERTILIZING WITH CLOVER.—As regards keeping up the fertility of the farm bought manures are too expensive, and it is hardly possible to make a sufficiency of home-made manure; we then must resort to sowing clover, rotating crops, and resting part of the farm. Sowing clover is our cheapest and surest way of fertilizing, for when growing on the land, we can graze it or mow it for forage, and its effect as a fertilizer lasts for several years. Waldo F. Brown, one of the most intelligent and successful farmers of the West, says this of clover: "With thirty-five years of careful observation of the effects of clover, I have each year valued it higher than I did the previous year; a crop of clover cannot be grown on my soil without benefiting it; no matter what use it is put to—whether pasture, cut for hay, allowed to mature a crop of seed; plowed under, or burned off, and each farmer who grows clover can determine for himself what is the best use he can put it to; the roots of clover are the most important factor in the fertilizing value of the soil, because their dried weight considerably exceeds that of the weight of the top; and also because they are richer in food elements than the tops."

WHOLE GRAIN FOR FOWLS.—Poultry do not need to have their food masticated. If they did nature would have provided them with teeth, and, as everybody knows, "as scarce as hen's teeth" has become a proverb. The work of mastication is done in their gizzards by the aid of stones and shells. It is better for the fowls' health to keep this mill suitably provided with hard food that needs grinding up. Your chickens are often injured by having too large a proportion of soft, water food. It does not give the gizzard sufficient exercise. Try feeding whole wheat a little while. The chicks will become hard, plump and lively.

RAFT timber that has been floated down rivers has been ascertained to be no longer liable to the attack of dry rot. So much so is this said to be the case that in Alsace it is customary to specify that only raft timber shall be employed. The water slowly dissolves out the albumen and salts and thus deprives the fungus of the nutriment needed for its development. A French investigator, we are told, has found by experiment that, whereas fresh sawdust when buried rots away in a few years, sawdust from wood which has been soaked some time in water, and has thereby been deprived of soluble matters, will remain in the ground under similar circumstances wholly unchanged and only slightly tinged on the exterior with earthy matters dissolved from the soil.

He is a wise farmer who provides plenty of pasture for his hogs in summer. The hog is as much entitled to grass in summer as the cow, and will profit by it equally as well. Many farmers pay very little attention to what food their hogs get until fattening time, thinking that until then all that is necessary is to give them barely enough to keep them alive, and then they are impatient to stuff them with all the corn they can eat, all the time wondering why the hogs don't do better, grow fatter, make sweeter pork, and why the owner is so unlucky as to have his hogs die of cholera.

MR. WILCOX, says: "I have been in the habit of feeding stock with wheat for some years past. I consider it to be more nutritious than any other food I have ever used. My plans are as follows: Cut straw and hay to fine chaff—the greater proportion being straw thrown over a given quantity (four or five pounds) of meal, with as much pulp root as you feel disposed to put in, mixing it together. Give it twice a day. To sheep I always give it crushed or bruised—say a pint or a pint and a half each per day; it is the finest food for sheep I have ever used."

Pigs that are to be marketed this year should be pushed hard from the beginning. If allowed to stand still for a day there will be a loss. Ground oats and corn mixed, or ground corn and wheat middlings, will make a good slop for the pigs; soaked corn will also be highly relished, and will be found well adapted to keeping the pigs in high flesh, but as soon as the new corn shall be fairly in milk that will be found the best of all fattening foods. On the other hand, if pigs are to be kept over the winter there should be no stimulating or forcing. Give them the run of a clover field the first summer, with a small allowance of grain.

SCIENTIFIC.

A joint for diving-bands in which great strength is combined with an even surface has lately been offered to the public, although it has been used privately for upwards of five years. Messrs. Bailey Brothers, of Chancery-lane, were applied to by a large firm of mill-band-makers to which they have long made for mending china and glass that it might be used for joining machine belts. The ends of the belt to be joined are cut to the width scarf, not however so long as the length of the belt. The cement is applied hot, the two parts are put carefully together and the joint is subjected to pressure from a vice. The joints become set in twelve hours; but it is preferable not to use the belt before twenty-four hours have elapsed, when, it is said, the joint will break. The practice is to suspend the belt with a heavy weight on the joint, for the double purpose of testing the joint and of stretching the belt. It is stated that the joint will stand both heat and damp, and that one has never been known to give way.

Ersted, very early in the present century, discovered by accident the power exercised by a current on a magnet in its neighborhood. He was holding the mariner's compass in his hand, and accidentally approached it to a wire through which a current was passing. By a brilliant method of inductive reasoning, he at once came to the conclusion that the magnet was deflected in consequence of the nearness of the current overcoming for the moment the directing force of the earth's magnetism, and it flashed across his mind that the reason why the magnet itself points to the north was owing to the directing force of currents passing east and west round the earth. The idea, thus started, developed into electro-magnetism.

A garnish has been invented in Germany for patterns and machinery. It dries, leaving a smooth surface almost as soon as it is applied. It is thus prepared: Thirty pounds of shellac, ten pounds of Manila copal, and ten pounds of Zanzibar copal are placed in a vessel, which is heated externally by steam, and stirred during from four to six hours, after which 150 parts of the finest potato spirit are added, and the whole heated for four hours to 67 degrees. This liquid is dyed by the addition of orange color, and can then be applied as a paint on wood. When used for painting and glazing machinery it consists of 35 pounds of shellac, five pounds of Manila copal and 150 pounds of spirit.

San Francisco is falling behind badly this year in her foreign and coastwise trade. Her imports in the first five months of 1884 amounted to \$14,944,501 against nearly \$16,500,000 in the corresponding months last year. Her imports from China dropped to \$2,584,886 against \$3,900,000 last year, and the imports from Japan for the period mentioned amounted to \$2,161,943, or \$600,000 less than during the same time in 1883, while the decline in English and German trade is in about the same proportions. The decrease in foreign trade is attributed mainly to the decreased export of grain, and the coastwise traffic is lessened by the opening of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Lord Shaftesbury, speaking at a recent meeting in London, stated that England could very well sustain the emigration of half a million women, but as that was no easy matter he asked his audience to encourage such schemes as proposed the employment of women in industrial pursuits on a large scale. In view of this it would appear that there is a superabundance of females in England, and that the supply of this commodity exceeds the demand, owing, no doubt, to the single young men emigrating. If this emigration of young men continues, the British professors of political economy will have on hand a big problem, the successful solution of which will tax their skill to the utmost.

C. E. Beesey, calls attention in the American Naturalist to an enormous puff ball. This particular fungus, found by Professor R. E. Call, in Herkimer County, N. Y., belongs to the species known as Lycoperdon giganteum. Photographs of it were taken. It was irregularly oval in outline, and much flattened. Its largest diameter was 5 feet 4 inches, its smallest 4 feet 6 inches, while its height was but 3 feet 3 inches. This specimen, the writer says, the largest of any of which measurements were attainable for comparison.

Seth Green states that the cause of the death of the vast number of alewives, the bodies of which are found floating on Lake Ontario, is starvation. He says they travel about in large schools, the strong ones naturally taking the lead and getting the most food. Those in the rear get positively nothing at all, yet they will follow the school day after day until they die of actual starvation.

To ascertain whether a sample of petroleum is sufficiently volatile to be dangerous: Herr Montag points out a very simple and conclusive method. It fills a glass three parts full with the petroleum to be tested, and fills up the glass with boiling water, at the same time holding a flame over it. If the vapor disengaged becomes ignited the petroleum should not be considered a safe liquid to leave exposed to the atmosphere.

A writer says: "I discovered, many years ago, that wood could be made to last longer than iron in the ground, but thought the process so simple that it was not well to make a stir about it. Posts of any wood can be prepared for less than two cents apiece. This is the recipe: Take boiled linseed oil and stir in pulverized coal to the consistency of paint. Put a coat of this over the timber, and there is not a man that will live to see it rot."

SALMON SALAD.—To a can of salmon take eight or ten stocks of celery; cut the celery into small pieces and also beak into small bits; sprinkle over a little salt and a very little pepper, and pour on some good vinegar. A small onion may be added if desired.

APPLE JELLY.—Use fair, sour apples. Slice them, skins, seed and all, and simmer with one-half cup of water till well cooked and soft. Then strain through a cloth, add a pound of sugar to a pint of juice, boil a few moments, skimming till clear; then pour into glasses, and cover when cold.

GREEN PEA SOUP.—Boil three pints of shelled peas in three quarts of water; when soft rub through the colander and add a little water, return the pulp to the pot, add a head of lettuce and a pint more peas. Boil half an hour, thicken with a tablespoonful of flour mixed in two tablespoonfuls of cream. Season to taste.

DON'T SLICE PINEAPPLES.—Few people know that pineapples in their native country are never sliced, but after peeling they are carefully broken from the core in small pieces with a silver fork. If this way is once tried no one will again injure the fine flavor by cutting across the grain. They should always be so prepared, both for table and canning.

HERBRADISH SEED.—A paragraph is going the rounds saying that the herbradish plant never produces seed; that its only mode of spreading is from the root. It does not really need any other method of propagation, but we have seen a few herbradish seed on plants where the soil was thin and poor. As usually planted on rich garden or alluvial soil the plant has no instinct teaching it the need of producing seed. Place it where it is pinched and likely to die, and it will propagate seed the same as all other plants do.

WEEDS IN POTATOES.—The labor of keeping potatoes free from weeds late in the season needs to be done carefully, so as not to disturb the setting tubers. But it will pay, not only in the better crop thereby produced, but in the ease of harvesting it. Few potato digging machines will do good work, and none perfect work where the ground is very weedy. The most careful hand digging in some pieces will still leave some of the crop.

The trustees of the Lick estate in San Francisco have paid \$12,000 to Edmund Fell of Paris for a glass for the Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton, but of nineteen glasses produced all but two have proved defective, but it is not certain that these two will be any better. The glass is to be thirty-six inches in diameter.

An electric light was recently tested at Selden Hook by some officers of the lighthouse department and a few scientific men. The light could easily be seen thirty miles, but flickered. This flickering is of course likely to confuse the fixed and flash lights, and inventors are trying to avoid it.

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HOUSEHOLD. FRUIT CAKE.—One pound of butter, one pound of sugar, one pound of flour, twelve eggs, two large nutmegs ground, one teaspoonful of mace, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one teaspoonful of allspice, one-half teaspoonful of ginger, grated yellow rind and juice of one lemon and orange, small glass of rosewater, four pounds of currants, four pounds of raisins, two pounds of citron, half pound each of sweet and bitter almonds blanched and beaten to a paste with rose water. To be baked in one large loaf. It takes eight hours in a moderate oven.

PEACH SHORTCAKE.—The cake is made of one pint of flour, one teaspoonful of baking powder, one tablespoonful of salt and two tablespoonfuls of sugar passed through a sieve and then mixed with four tablespoonfuls of butter. When thoroughly mixed, moisten with one teacupful of milk. Bake in two deep pie-plates in a quick oven. Have the peaches peeled and cut in slices. As soon as the cakes are done cut them in halves, butter them and arrange the slices of peaches between the pieces, sprinkling with sugar. Serve warm with cream.

RISsoles.—Mince cold veal or chicken, season with pepper and salt, roll out a good pie crust, as for tart, cut into squares or oblongs, as for turnovers, put a tablespoonful of the seasoned meat in the centre of each, brush the edges with white of egg, and make into a neat roll, enveloping the meat. Pinch the edges of the paste firmly together; bake in a quick oven. When brown wash over with beaten egg, leave in the oven a minute to glaze and serve hot. These are nice made of cold calf's liver.

RUSK.—One quart of flour, one cup of sugar, half a cup of butter, half a yeast cake, dissolved in warm water, one teaspoonful of salt, two eggs. Sift flour and salt together, pour in milk and yeast, and let rise four or five hours before adding the beaten eggs, sugar and butter. Work these in well and make into small rolls; set closely together in a pan. Throw a cloth over them and let them stand until light. Bake in a steady oven. Just before taking them up wash the top with white of egg in which a little sugar has been stirred.

WARM GINGERBREAD.—One cup each of sugar, molasses, butter and "lapped" milk or cream, four and a half cups of flour, one teaspoonful of soda, sifted twice with the flour, one teaspoonful of ginger, one teaspoonful of mixed mace and cinnamon, three eggs; beat together molasses, sugar, butter and spices until they are very light; put in the milk, beaten eggs and finally flour. Stir vigorously for five minutes and bake in a "sard." Break instead of cutting it and eat with ice-cream as an accompaniment.

To TELL SOUND TIMBER.—It is said the soundness of a log of timber may be ascertained by placing the ear close to one end of it, while another person delivers a succession of smart blows with a hammer or mallet upon the opposite end, when the continuance of the vibrations will indicate to an experienced ear even the degree of soundness. If only a dull thud meets the ear, the listener may be certain that unsoundness exists.

CRULLERS.—Butter size of an egg, three eggs, two cups sugar, one and a half cups four milk, all well mixed; then sift in a large teaspoonful of soda and enough flour to make a soft dough.

STRAINED INDIAN LOAF.—Four cups of Indian meal, two cups of flour, two cups of sour milk, one teaspoonful of soda, one egg, a pinch of salt and one cup of molasses. Steam three hours.

CLOVE CAKE.—Half a cup of butter, one cup brown sugar, two cups flour, one cup milk, one cup chopped raisins, one egg, one teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one of cloves and half a nutmeg. Bake three-quarters of an hour.

RICE GEMS.—Use one pound of wheat flour, one pound of rice; mix thoroughly; add one pound sugar, one pound butter, four eggs, flavor to taste; dissolve one teaspoonful of soda in milk enough to form a dough that can be rolled and cut the same as cookies.

CUCUMBER SALAD.—Peel and slice the cucumbers and leave in ice water or an hour, drain, slice an onion and lay in a cold dish alternately with the cucumbers, and season with vinegar, pepper and salt.

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