

FARM NOTES.

HIGH STEPPING HORSES.—The breeding of these is much more recommended at present in the agricultural papers than formerly. True, the action of such is more showy, and on that account is preferred by those ignorant of its injurious effect upon the horse. He has to lift his feet to an extra height, which is tiresome, and prevents his accomplishing in such action as great a distance per day on a journey as he otherwise would if not obliged to raise his feet so high, and this with considerable less fatigue at the end of the day. As the feet are replaced on the ground, the impact of high steps is much more forcible than of others, and this is particularly injurious to the feet and legs. When traveling on a stony road or a pavement I have seen horses made so lame in a few months, or even weeks of such work, that they had to be withdrawn from use and turned out on soft pasture for some time to recruit. Even with this relaxation, they were unfit to go back to hard roads and had to be employed for farm work or on mellow ground ever after. Quite low stepping, on the other hand, is to be avoided, as the horse is likely to strike his foot against any little rise of ground or obstacle on the road and stumble badly, often falling down in harness, and endangering those riding in the vehicle to which he is attached, to be upset and perhaps fatally injured. A low stepper travels more easily and is less fatigued than those stepping higher. A medium between the two is best and safest.

EXPERIMENTS WITH CABBAGE PLANTS.—I have come to the conclusion this season that cabbage plants may be set in the open ground to advantage much earlier than is customary. In the latter part of March the ground being in fine condition and pleasant weather prevailing for some time, I took a few plants from a cold frame and set them out. In a few days a hard freeze came, the mercury going down to twenty-four degrees Fahrenheit. My plants shivered and looked blue, but revived with the warmer weather and now are decidedly ahead of those set later from the same frame. Possibly the later set plants would have done quite as well, but unprecedently dry weather, for the season, followed their planting. The earlier ones had the benefit of all the moisture that departing winter left in the soil. In my first regular planting of early cabbage this season, I tested carefully the relative value of small and large plants. Under equal conditions as to soil, moisture, time of planting, etc., I put out a quantity of fine, stocky plants averaging six inches in height. Beside them I set an equal quantity of small plants, none more than three inches high. At this writing all are flourishing, but if there is any choice between them it is certainly in favor of the piece set with the smaller plants.

THE ROSE BUG is a hard insect to fight, and we have had no practical occasion to experiment with it in the work of the Botanical Division of the United States Department of Agriculture. The old method was to knock the insect from the foliage or fruit into a pan of kerosene and water. This, however, is very slow work and not practicable on a large scale. At River Edge, N. J., they found last season that a mixture of pyrethrum and water made a very excellent liquid to spray upon the vines. It destroyed all the insects which it touched and seemed also to have a preventative action. The proper proportions can only be obtained by further experiment. Col. Pearson, of New Jersey, has also found that the original fungicide mixture of sulphide of copper and lime and water sprayed upon grape vines has both a poisoning and deterring effect upon the rose bug. This insect is one which I hope to have a good series of experiments made upon with a view of determining just what is best to be done.

SMALL FRUITS IN GARDENS.—Small fruits can be conveniently grown in a garden with but little loss of room. Currants, raspberries and gooseberries may be planted near the fence, out of the way of the vegetables, and will thrive better in such locations than anywhere else. Strawberries may be grown in close rows, and will give a fair yield on a small space. A few grape vines can be allowed to trail along the fence, or on arbors, and even a few peach trees may be grown, but it is better to have no trees in the garden, as the trees will largely appropriate the plant food and shade the plants from the warmth of the sun.

PUMPKINS should not be planted in the corn rows until the corn has been thoroughly cultivated and the grass kept out. A pumpkin vine among the corn rows sometimes interferes with thorough cultivation and harbors weeds. It does not pay to grow pumpkins if done at the expense of injury to the corn crop. Pumpkins may be planted among the corn, however, and with profit, if the ground is kept clean and no weeds allowed to seed.

FLIES and other insects often cause the stock to lose flesh, even when the best care is given. The small insects may give more trouble than the larger, being more numerous. Horses should be protected with nets whenever possible, and the pens and stalls should be kept clean. The hog pen is a fruitful source of insects, and should be well littered with dry dirt to absorb all liquids.

THE PRUNE, which belongs to the plum family, will thrive on nearly all sections, but if grown near plum trees the fruit of both varieties will be injured, as the prune and plum hybridize. The trees bear when 2 years old, and give heavy crops when 4 years old. They should have the same cultivation as is given the peach. The fruit is free stone, and of a bluish color.

A GAIN in one direction may sometimes entail a loss in some other quarter. The bountiful rains of this season have given the crops an excellent opportunity, especially corn, but rains also benefit weeds and increase the labor of cultivation. The work is necessary and should not be neglected, as it may entail greater labor next season.

SCIENTIFIC.

Fully 99 persons in every 100, if asked to name the most precious metals, would mention gold as first, platinum as second and silver as third. If asked to name others, a few might add nickel, and a very few aluminum, to the list. Let us see how near to the truth they would be. Gold is worth about \$200 per pound, troy; platinum, \$130, and silver about \$12. Nickel would be quoted at about 60 cents, and pure aluminum \$8 to \$9 to the troy pound.

We will now compare these prices with those of the rarer and less well known of the metals. To take them in alphabetical order, barium sells for \$975 a pound, when it is sold at all, and calcium is worth \$1800 a pound. Cerium is a shade higher—its cost is \$160 an ounce, or \$1920 a pound.

These begin to look like fabulous prices, but they do not reach the highest point; chromium brings \$2000, cobalt falls to about half the price of silver, while didymium is the same price as cerium, and erbium \$10 cheaper on the ounce than calcium, or just \$1688 per pound.

Glucinum is worth \$250 per ounce; indium, \$158, iridium, \$658 a pound; lanthanum, \$175, and lithium, \$160 per ounce. Niobium costs \$128 per ounce, osmium, palladium, platinum, potassium and rhodium bring respectively \$640, \$400, \$130, \$32 and \$212 per pound. Strontium costs \$128 an ounce; tellurium, \$144; thallium, \$9; thorium, \$272; vanadium, \$320; yttrium, \$144, and zirconium, \$250 an ounce.

Thus we see that the commonly received opinion as to what are the most precious metals is quite erroneous. Barium is more than four times as valuable as gold, and gallium more than 162 times as costly, while many of the metals are twice and thrice as valuable. Aluminum, which now costs \$8 or \$9 a pound, will eventually be produced as cheaply as steel. The earlier metals do not have the same uses as it, as it possesses great strength, toughness and elasticity, with extreme lightness of weight. Its sources of supply are inexhaustible, and its present high cost arises from the difficulty of its extraction in a metallic form. Iridium seems to be chiefly used for pointing gold pens, and many of the metals mentioned have but a limited sphere of usefulness.

A correspondent writes to the Scientific American in regard to taking care of the hair: "Experience has taught me that it is best to keep all oils or grease from the hair. Don't let barbers oil it. I find wetting with water best. At least once a week rub the yolk of an egg, or half of it, well into the hair and scalp, and rinse off thoroughly with tepid water. It will promote growth and color, probably largely due to the sulphur in the egg. This process has started a new growth of hair with me, not very thick, but better than none at all."

Speaking of electric lights for mines, Mr. G. G. Andre says that, irrespective of the trouble attending the use of wire leads in underground workings, the danger of rupture and "short circuits" rob the system of the advantage which the lamp itself gives it, and that those who are occupied in the work of lighting fiery mines by means of electricity, provide means for generating the current within the lamp itself by some sort of galvanic cell of either a primary or a secondary nature. He acknowledges that the problem is beset with difficulties, but considers that there is good ground for hoping that a sufficiently practical solution will be shortly arrived at.

THE NOON LUNCH.—Perhaps the doctor is right who says that a great portion of the sickness in this country is caused by the unpleasant habit of eating too rapidly. It is interesting to watch the average citizen when he goes into a restaurant for his dinner. He doesn't seem to regard the meal with any degree of fondness, but acts as though the eating of it is one of those disagreeable duties which confront a man at every step on the highway of life. He attacks the meal savagely, and you can hear his knife and fork rattling a furlong away. He shovels the food into his mouth as a hired man shovels corn into a shelling machine, and swallows it without chewing it. He pours down a lot of ice water when the meal is consumed, with a frantic endeavor to make it as indigestible as possible, and when the last sad rites are over he rushes to the cashier's desk and settles with an expression of relief, five to six after a storm. The stern physician says that people should eat very slowly, and while away the time between bites by conversation about the weather, the crops or any other cheerful subject. In this way the days of their years of their pilgrimage may be many.

ORANGE CUSTARD.—The yolks of three eggs, beaten quite light, five to three spoonfuls of white sugar, the juice of two and the grated rind of one orange, a little salt and one cupful of cream. Mix all well together; then add the whites, beaten to a stiff froth, stir lightly and bake slowly.

MAMMA, to Flossie, who has been lurching with a little friend—"I hope you were very polite, Flossie, at the table and said, 'Yes, please,' and 'No, thank you!'"

Flossie—"Well, I didn't say, 'No, thank you,' because you see I took every thing."

A NUMBER of young women in Culbert, Georgia, have organized an anti-kissing society. Those who have seen the members say that such a precaution was not necessary.

TWO VIEWS.—Passenger—Captain, you haven't quite as big a crowd aboard to-day as usual, have you? Captain—"We have 1500 passengers, sir."

Another passenger, a few minutes later—"Captain, it seems to me you haven't enough boats on this steamer."

Captain, with cold dignity—"I have boats enough for 250 passengers, sir, which is all my license calls for."

HOUSEHOLD.

PREPARATION OF VEGETABLES.—In hot weather we require a cooling and laxative diet, one in which fruit and vegetables are the chief constituents, and surely nothing could be more wholesome and palatable than fresh fruit, just ripe, and fresh vegetables, just matured, and properly prepared.

The excellence of vegetables hinges partly on their being gathered in proper time. This should be done if possible in the cool of the morning, while the morning dew is upon them. If you cannot gather them at that time, your next best time will be to gather them in the cool of the evening and set them by, in the ice-chest or some other cool place, till you need them for cooking the next day. This plan has much to recommend it, for it serves to lessen the pressure and flurry of the morning's work.

The housekeeper hails with joy the first green vegetables that come to raise the siege of winter, turnip salad, lettuce and asparagus. Turnip salad is quite a palatable dish boiled with a piece of home-cured bacon, and in just enough water to keep it from sticking to the pot. If allowed to float about in a pot full of water it will be mean and tasteless. Boil the bacon a couple of hours before you add the salad. Lift it from the pot with a perforated skimmer, so as to thoroughly separate the water from it. Serve it with poached eggs.

Lettuce makes a pretty dish, but it requires a nicely prepared dressing to make it palatable. The following recipe for lettuce dressing is a reliable one: One-half cup of vinegar, one-half cup of water, one tablespoonful of white sugar, one tablespoonful of mustard, one tablespoonful of olive oil, one teaspoonful of salt, black pepper to taste; one or two hard boiled eggs sliced up and laid on top.

An inexperienced cook or housekeeper is not aware of the fact that different vegetables require a different length of time for cooking, so that sometimes she commits the blunder of putting on every thing at the same time. It is an important branch of culinary knowledge to learn how long it takes to cook each different vegetable. To enable you to be accurate about this, you should have a clock in your kitchen. Of all the spring vegetables, beans require the longest time for cooking. They should be boiled two hours. It is a good plan to leave an inch of the tops so as to prevent the color and juice from escaping. When they have boiled perfectly tender slice them and then butter them. Some housekeepers also add sufficient long to boil green peas if they are young and tender.

It is important to keep a colander, as well as a perforated spoon, on hand, so as to drain off all the water in which the vegetables have been boiled. As soon as this is done butter them liberally, as this makes them doubly palatable and nutritious. A dairy is the most valuable adjunct to the vegetable garden, for vegetables without plenty of butter are very insipid. Well buttered, however, they are sufficiently strong food in summer for any one who has not had manual labor to do. I doubt not, too, that if the masses of our people could eat more fresh vegetables, properly prepared, and use more butter, eggs and milk, and less meat their stomachs and lives would be in much better order than they are now. Nothing more astonishing foreigners from the continent of Europe than the enormous amount of meat consumed by Americans, both the better classes and the working classes.

THE WISEST GIFT.—"I bought my wife a velvet sack. This promptly pleased Mr. Brown. 'So, you've bought her a velvet sack, the best-dressed dame in town.' But velvet sack or diamond ring, I prefer to give my wife my favorite Prescription. It is the only guaranteed cure. See guarantee on every bottle wrapper."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets—gently laxative or active cathartic according to dose. 50 cents.

HOW TO USE CANNED GOODS.—An "expert" writing to the Grocer's Chronicle, well says that canned goods should be turned out and eaten as soon as possible. If kept at all, the food should be covered up and put in a cool place—always, however, turn out of the original tin. The liquor around lobsters, salmon, and all vegetables, excepting tomatoes, it is desirable to strain off and throw away. Lobsters and prawns are improved by being turned out into a sieve and rinsed with clear cold water. Never on any account add vinegar, sauces, or any kind of condiment to tinned foods, while they are in the tins, and never leave such mixtures to remain an hour or two, if from forgetfulness it is done. All tinned goods are put up as fresh as it is possible to be, but unless corned or salted, will not keep, and certainly not longer, as many thoughtlessly suppose or expect they will. Sardines, if preserved in good oil, and if of good quality, will be an exception; so long as the oil is good, the fish can be kept in the tins. But seven days is long enough to trust these before eating. Customers should not buy larger packages of canned goods than they can consume quickly; if they should, most of the fish and meats can be potted after re-cooking, sauces and seasonings being added. If the nose and eyes are properly used, it is impossible to partake of an unseasoned tin of canned food of any kind as to partake of bad meat, fish, or vegetables from a shop.

RASPBERRY SYRUP.—Mash and press with a spoon some very ripe raspberries, let them stand a few hours in a cool place, then strain them. Allow a half pound of sugar to each pint of juice and boil it at once. Let it boil slowly for half an hour; skim it well, or when you have taken it from the fire give it a stir, and any seam will sink to the bottom. When quite cold fill small, dry bottles, cork them well, using only new corks. Stand the bottles upright in a cool place. A little fine and fresh olive oil poured on the top before corking is said to insure the keeping of the syrup any length of time.

Quarrels would never last long if the trouble was only on the one side.

RARE PRESENCE OF MIND.—He had never seen a telephone, and his friend was showing him how it worked. It was in his office. He called up his house, and the wife came to the telephone. "My dear, Mr. Jones is here, and I have asked him to come up to dinner."

Then he turned to Mr. Jones and said: "Put your ear to that and you'll hear her answer."

He did, and this was the answer: "Now, John, I told you I would never have that disagreeable wretch in my house again."

"What was that?" spoke out Mr. Jones. Women are quick. A man would have simply backed away from the telephone and said no more. She took in the situation in a second when she heard the strange voice, and quick as a flash came back the sweetest kind of a voice: "Why, Mr. Jones, how do you do? I thought my husband meant another Mr. Jones. Do come up to dinner. I shall be so glad to see you."

DISHEARTENING.—"How are you getting along?" asked a traveling man of an acquaintance who had gone on the stage.

"Oh, I have met with a share of success. I played 'Hamlet' for the first time."

"Did you get through all right?" "Yes, except that I happened to stumble and fall into 'Ophelia's' grave."

"That must have been embarrassing." "It was; but I wouldn't have minded it if the audience hadn't seemed so disappointed when I got out."

SELF-SACRIFICE.—"Have you a cigar about you?" "No; I don't buy any now."

"What! and why, then?" "Because I want to break you of the habit of smoking."

Weak and Weary

Describes the condition of many people debilitated by the warm weather, by disease, or overwork. Hood's Sarsaparilla is just the medicine needed to overcome that tired feeling, to purify and quicken the sluggish blood, and restore the lost appetite. If you need a good medicine be sure to try Hood's Sarsaparilla. "My appetite was poor, I could not sleep, had headache a great deal, pains in my back, my bowels did not move regularly. Hood's Sarsaparilla in a short time did me so much good that I felt like a new man. My pains and aches are relieved, my appetite improved." GEORGE F. JACKSON, Roxbury Station, Conn.

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MISS LULU, to grandmother—George and I have just returned from the beach, grandmamma, dear. The ocean to-night, as it reflects the rays of the moon, is so placid and beautiful. We sat there for nearly two hours drinking it in."

Grandmother—"Gracious, child, you oughtn't to drink so much on it. It'll make ye sick."

"Stick to your business," is very good advice, but still there are a great many people in the world who have no regular and profitable business to stick to; and there are others who are economically purest and best. They have had 24 years to try it. You give it 12 years."

It is probable that what a million women say after daily trial is a mistake. They say they know best that Dr. King's Electric is most economical, purest and best. They have had 24 years to try it. You give it 12 years."

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The man who can't be angry is a fool; the man who will not allow himself to be wise.



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Swift's Specific cured me of terrible Tetter, from which I had suffered for twenty long years. I have now been entirely well for five years, and no sign of any return of the disease. Rogers, Ark., May 1, 1889. W. H. Wynn. One bottle of S. S. S. cured my son of boils and abscesses, which resulted from malarial poison, and affected him all the summer. He had treatment from five doctors, who failed to benefit him. Cavalari, Indian Ter. J. B. Wynn. I have taken Swift's Specific for secondary blood poison, and derived great benefit. It acts much better than potash, or any other remedy that I have ever used. D. F. WISEWISSE, M. D., Richmond, Va.

Treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Drawer 3, Atlanta, Ga.

A FRAUD EXPLANATION.

"Mr. Dashaway," said one of the real lady boarders as she polished her plate with her napkin, "I hope you will pardon me for mentioning it, but we ladies have been remarking of late that you never appear at the table twice wearing the same necktie."

"The fact is, madam," said Dashaway, as he glanced grimly at Mrs. Sillindie, the landlady, "I must have some variety."

RIVAL CITIES.—Chicago lawyer—"And, gentlemen of the jury, remember you can't take this poor man's life without reducing the population of our mighty metropolis, an act of which I am sure such patriotic citizens as yourselves will never be guilty while Brooklyn puts in her absurd claim to being the third great city in the country."

FORCED TO LEAVE HOME.—Over 60 people were forced to leave their homes yesterday to call for a free trial package of Lane's Family Medicine. If your blood is bad, your liver and kidneys out of order, if you are constipated and have headache, an unpleasant complexion, don't fail to call on any druggist to-day for a free sample of this grand remedy. The ladies praise it. Everyone likes it. Large-size package, 50 cents.

A DISTINCTION.—"Did you get that box of cigars I sent you?" inquired his fiancée.

"Yes, dear."

"And how did you like them?"

"The box was very nice, indeed," he said, softly.

A BAD MISTAKE.—"Bromley, it was lucky that newsboy found your wallet, wasn't it?"

"Yes. It had 10,000 in it."

"But you only gave the boy a 20-cent piece."

"Why, bless my soul! I thought it was a quarter."

BADIES BARRED.—Mr. Jones—"Can you go sailing this afternoon, my love?"

Mrs. Jones—"If I may take the baby."

"Well, you mayn't. I'm not going to assume the responsibility of a squall."

WHEN everything appears unusually fresh we say the season is forward, and when a person is unusually forward we say he is too fresh.

CATARRH

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