

FARM NOTES.

DOWN WITH THE CROW.—The American Agricultural Department has been making careful inquiry as to the food of crows, and the result, as set forth in a report by Mr. Walter Barrow, is likely to surprise those who have always contended that those birds do very much more good than harm. It is not disputed that they destroy injurious insects, that they are enemies of mice and other rodents, and that they are occasionally valuable as scavengers; but these services are slight in comparison with the mischief for which they are responsible. The injury done by them to Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, and other cereals is enormous. According to one observer, the crow eats corn "from ten minutes after planting until the blades are three inches high," and more than a score of other observers testify that he not only pulls up the young plants, but digs up the newly sown seed. His depredations extend to potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, peanuts, cherries, strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries, and he distributes certain poisonous plants, the seeds of which are improved rather than impaired by passage through his digestive organs. As if all this were not enough, it is shown that the crow eats beneficial insects, and that he makes himself a most formidable nuisance by destroying the eggs and young both of domesticated fowls and wild birds.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS (A very proper topic to follow meadows and pastures) require careful attention in April. Puro teams should be put in good condition for heavy work. Dams and their young progeny ought to be carefully watched and provided for, especially when the weather is cold or stormy. Do not turn stock out too early; wait until the grass gets a fair start and the ground has settled. Work horses now need better food—more grain and less coarse forage, according to the service required. Look well after the brood mares, giving them roomy stalls and careful treatment. Guard against galls as heavy work begins, and protect your horses from all harmful exposures. Watch the cows with care; give those about to come in comfortable quarters and treat them gently. Ewes and lambs need extra care and protection; don't allow them to suffer from either exposure or lack of nourishment. Should ticks appear in the flock, dip the sheep in some decoction prepared for the purpose, as advised last month. Let breeding cows have bran and other cooling food, but no corn or clover meal. Give young pigs a warm reception and protect them from exposure. Grow swine need exercise, and a run in the orchard will benefit both sows and orchard. Poultry keeping pays at this season, if ever, so look well to the comfort of your fowls. If they are troubled with vermin, apply kerosene to the roosts and walls of the poultry house. Provide dust baths, give a variety of food, attend to the cleanliness of their quarters, and study egg and chicken production.

THE MEADOWS should not be neglected this month, especially in sections where hay is profitably grown for market. Meadow lands may be rolled as soon as the tramping of the team will do no injury; it will press the heaved roots and stones back into place and make a smooth surface. Timothy is a profitable grass to grow for market, for it is usually in demand at good prices. Though not the best grass grown it brings the most "cash money." Timothy is always worth more (from 25 to 50 per cent. more) than clover in market, and hence it is best to grow the former to sell and the latter to feed stock. Many old meadows would pay better if plowed up and reseeded, and most meadows might be rendered more profitable if properly cared for and fertilized. Pastures also need attention this month. Old pastures may be greatly revived and improved by spending upon them a little concentrated commercial fertilizer at this season.

PREPARING FOR PLANTING IS now the most important work on the farm. For the reason already stated, this will necessitate prompt and systematic action. Those who have planned to raise many acres of spring cereals and hood crops must be up and doing at the earliest practicable moment, for they have much to do in little time if they properly prepare their ground for seeding at the usual period. For this preparatory labor—including the ploughing and other necessary manipulation of the soil to make a good seed-bed—it is true economy to use the most approved implements and employ competent men and teams, in order that the work may be done satisfactorily. Spring is not the time to use cheap seeds, plants, help, or tools—indeed they are not desirable at any season.

THE EXCITEMENT NOT OVER.—The rush on the drug stores continues and daily scores of people call for a bottle of Kemp's Balm for the Throat and Lungs for the cure of Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis and Consumption. Kemp's Balm, the standard family remedy, is held on a guarantee and never fails to give entire satisfaction. Price 50c and \$1. Trial size free.

EVERY farmer feels the necessity of raising more or less corn to carry the stock through the Winter, but let me advise right here, don't try to raise more corn on a hill farm than will be required to carry your stock from pasture to pasture, as I believe corn to be a severe crop to grow on a hill land, as there is generally so much damage by wash. The main crop on hill farms should be grass, and you will have more money and a better farm in the end.

AGE FOR PELLETS TO LAY.—This matter is frequently discussed. One authority says pellets of any breed ought to lay one setting of eggs in the Fall. Those hatched earliest will lay earliest, of course, and begin again after a short rest if well fed and kept warm. The Asiatic breeds are more apt to be overfed and fat. Give them only bran and oats except in the coldest weather. Feed sparingly and mix oats among out straw, so that they will have to work to get their feed. Late Fall chicks well wintered often begin laying early in Spring, and make good layers until early Summer.

Now is the Time

To purify your blood and fortify your system against the debilitating effects of spring weather. At no other season is the bitter taste in the mouth more prominent, the breath so offensive, the drowsy dizziness so frequent, or that extreme tired feeling so prevalent. Hood's Sarsaparilla is just the medicine to build up the system, purify the blood, cure biliousness and headache, overcome that tired feeling and create a good appetite. The peculiar medicinal merit of Hood's Sarsaparilla is shown by the many remarkable cures it accomplishes where others fail.

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**Hood's Sarsaparilla**  
"For a first-class spring medicine my wife and I think very highly of Hood's Sarsaparilla. We both took it last spring. It did us a great deal of good and we felt better through the hot weather than ever before. I cured my wife of sick headache, from which she has suffered a great deal, and relieved me of a dizzy, tired feeling. I think every one ought to take something to purify the blood before the hot weather comes on, and we shall take Hood's Sarsaparilla this spring." H. F. PEARCE, Supt. Granite Ry. Co., Concord, N. H.

**The Spring Medicine**  
"I wish to enroll my name as one of those who have derived health from the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla. For many years I have taken it, especially in the early spring, when I am troubled with dizziness, dullness, unpleasant taste in my mouth, in the morning. It removes this bad taste, relieves my headache and makes me feel greatly refreshed. The two bottles I have used this spring have been worth a dollar a dose. I advise all my friends to take it." JOHN BIRNS, 652 4th Street, Town of Lake, Chicago, Ill.

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APPLE FLOAT.—Peel as many apples as will make a pint when cooked, and stew them until tender in as little water as possible, wash them through a sieve, sweeten; flavor slightly with a few drops of lemon and set away to get very cold; when ready to serve whip the whites of two eggs very stiff, and add them lightly to the apples.

BRAIN OYSTERS.—Pour boiling water over the brains; cut them into four parts and skin them; cut them into pieces the size of oysters, roll them in flour, fry them in a little fat as you would oysters; sprinkle with pepper and salt; pour over them a little melted butter and serve at once.

MEAT LOAF.—Take any cold meat and chop it fine—lean and fat together. Add a finely chopped onion, two slices of bread which have been soaked in milk, salt and pepper and one beaten egg. Mix well. Press it into a buttered mold and bake.

COIN BATTER BREAD.—Sift together six teaspoonfuls of flour and three of cornmeal with a little salt. Whip up four eggs and add to the flour, with enough milk to make a thin batter. Bake in small pans in a quick oven.

SPONGE PUDDING.—One egg, one cupful of sugar, a small piece of butter, one-half cupful of water or sweet milk, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and flour enough to make a good batter. Bake in a long tin pan in a quick oven.

IVERNESS EGGS.—Boil four hard, take off their shells; make forcemeat with parsley, thyme, breadcrumbs, pepper, salt, butter, chopped anchovy and a beaten-up egg; cover the hard eggs with this forcemeat, roll in flour, fry a light brown, and serve.

HOUSEHOLD

EGGS FOR MARKET.—If your object is to keep hens for the purpose of selling eggs, do not have a lot of useless males to feed, wisely advise a poultry authority. The presence of a male has no influence whatever on the laying of eggs, and, if anything, he is a nuisance when not desired. Bear in mind, also, that eggs laid by hens not with males will keep three times as long as will those that contain the germs of chicks. The best laying breeds are small ones, such as the Leghorns, and more of them can be kept together than of the larger kinds. For eggs use the Leghorns, and keep no males. If you desire eggs for hatching make up a special yard for that purpose, but get rid of the males as soon as the hatching season is over.

FOR DAMP WALLS.—The following recipe is given by a prominent architect as a sure preventive of dampness in brick walls: Three-quarters of a pound of castile soap to a gallon of water, one-half a pound of alum to four gallons of water; both perfectly dissolved before being used. The walls should be clean and dry, and temperature not below 50 degrees when the wash is applied. Put the soap wash on at boiling heat, taking care not to rub so as to froth on the brickwork. This should remain twenty-four hours to dry and harden, when the alum is to be similarly applied. The alum wash should be at a temperature of 60 or 70 degrees when applied. Two coats will perfectly fill good brick; if porous apply another coat. Put the washes on with a large white-wash brush.

AN ALMOND PUDDING.—Blanche one ounce of butter and one-quarter pound of sweet almonds and pound them to a paste in a mortar; add a few drops of rose water while pounding. Stir one-quarter pound of butter and one-quarter pound of sugar to a cream. Beat well the whites of six eggs; stir the almonds and beaten eggs alternately into the butter and sugar. Line a pie dish with puff paste, pour in the mixture, and bake in a moderate oven not over half an hour. Sprinkle with sugar and serve.

HERRINGS IN JELLY.—Wash and clean four herrings, lay them in a deep pie-dish; sprinkle over with one very finely minced shallot; take six tablespoonfuls of stock, to which add two tablespoonfuls of mild anchovy sauce and one of vinegar, a little allspice, and a pinch of cayenne; heat this mixture, pour it over the fish, cover with a flat dish, bake for twenty minutes, then slide it into another cold pie-dish; when perfectly cold, serve.

GINGER SNAPS.—Three tablespoonfuls of melted lard, three of boiling water, one tablespoonful each of salt, soda and ginger; put in a pint cup and fill up with molasses; stir in flour to make dough; roll and bake quickly.

SAVORY EGGS.—Hard-boil four eggs and cut them in two; remove the yolks and fill the whites with a mixture of pounded olives, tongue, anchovy, a little beetroot and capers; season each with a few drops of salad oil, or a squeeze of lemon, and grate over each the yolks of the eggs; serve on crisp dry toast.

CLAM STIFLES.—Fill a deep pan or dish with a layer of sliced potatoes, a layer of clams, a layer of sliced onions, a layer of sliced potatoes, and a few small slices of salt pork; season it with pepper, a little water, cover it with a plate or pan, and bake in a moderate oven five hours, add a little water if it dries away too much.

SOUR MILK BISCUITS.—One quart of flour, two cupfuls of sour milk, two level teaspoonfuls of soda and two large tablespoonfuls of lard. Mix with the hand as bread dough only, not so stiff. Roll out about an inch thick, cut and bake in a moderate oven.

FRUIT CAKE.—One cupful brown sugar, one-half cupful of butter; beat together one cupful of sweet milk, one-half cupful of molasses, two eggs, three cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful each of allspice and ground cloves, one tablespoonful of cinnamon, half a nutmeg, one pound of raisins, one cupful of currants (rub them in flour before using), two tablespoonfuls of cream of tartar, one of soda.

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**Said Sarah to Mary:**  
"Pray, tell me, dear cousin, what can be the matter? Sure, a few months ago you were fairer and fatter. Now your cheeks, once so rosy, are waxy and yellow. Your thin, trembling hands are as hueless as talow. Your nerves are unstrung, your temper is shaken, and you act and appear like a woman forsaken."  
**Sara Mary to Sarah:**  
"Your comments seem rough, but the facts are still rougher. I am sick unto death and well nigh despaired. With female disorders and nervous prostration, I've doctored and doctored till my stomach is seething. And life hardly seems worth the trouble of breathing."  
**Said Sarah to Mary:**  
"Forgive me, my dear, if my comments seem crusty. And, pray, try a cure that is certain and trusty. The needless to suffer, to murmur and languid. And pass half your days in such painful anguish. For 'female disorders' of every description. Are certainly cured by Pierce's Favorite Prescription."  
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