

FARM NOTES.

FARMERS' FOWLS.—They should have a warm house; it can be built of matched boards; the roof of the same, and shingled only when it begins to leak; a ground door; a window in the south side, not too large, and well barred; the roosts in one end; the nest box in a corner; two or three on the ground, with several above these, disposed irregularly; covers may be arranged, so that the hen may creep in and out and be secluded as she likes. In another corner place a vessel for milk and one for water; along the side a dust-box; straw the floor; throw the grain on the straw and then scratch for it; feed all your grain screenings to your fowls. Sloppy food is not good for them, especially in cold weather. In the morning feed screenings, scraps from the table, warmed skim milk (the very best egg food); fill the water vessel with water slightly warmed and the dust box with coal ashes.

In afternoon give a feed of corn, another dish of milk and another supply of water, if necessary; gather the eggs; then, if the fowls are all in, shut them up for the night; allow them to run out every day, except in stormy weather, or when the snow is too deep; but do not allow one to make a nest outside; in this way they will supply themselves with what you do not furnish them. On pleasant days, when they are all out, dust the house thoroughly by throwing the coal ashes high upon the roosts, and do other cleaning, if necessary. Keep few old fowls; market the old with the young in the fall, keeping the finest pullets; indeed you should have no fowls over two years old. The farmer need spend no more time or labor with his fowls than this. He will have eggs in winter and vigorous, healthy fowls in spring.

SHORTHORNS FOR MILK OR BEEF.—The handsomest and most showy form for a Shorthorn cow is the one broad as well as deep chest, full crops, fore ribs so round as to leave no depression behind the shoulders; a straight line along the back to end of the rump; wide between the huckle bones, and well-developed quarters. This is the best shape for making beef. For milk, the chest should be deeper and not so broad, fore ribs rather flat and long, crops less full than for beef, and the quarters quite broad, so that in looking at her in front her body will appear decidedly wedge-shaped, the larger end to the rear. But even thus formed, when dried, a Shorthorn cow will fatten quickly and cheaply, and make a good carcass of a fine quality of beef. Occasionally one of beef shape—that is, about as full in front as rear, and rather fat, proves a great milker of a highly excellent quality, like some Holstein-Friesians. Many of these latter seem to have changed their nature in America, yielding richer milk generally than in Holland, and of a very abundant quantity. No doubt this change is owing to the difference of climate and quality of food.

The summer in Holland are cool and wet, and in Northern America comparatively hot and dry, with drier and more frosty winters, and the grass of our meadows is less rank and succulent. These have much influence in giving quantity and quality to milk and also in the formation of flesh. Still, the difference in breeds of cattle is paramount, and the animals should be chosen from such as excel in what it is most desired by the breeder to produce.

A most excellent preventive of gall is to bathe the shoulders each evening with strong salt water, commencing six weeks before active spring work begins, and continuing the bathing during the summer. An English veterinary surgeon, who has tested the above for ten years, says: "In the stable I keep an old fruit can, into which I throw a small handful of salt and then add the necessary water. This is stirred until the salt is dissolved, and the solution is applied to the shoulder with a cloth tied around the end of a corn cob. The roughness of the cob holds the cloth well in place. Using this avoids getting the salt water on the hands—an agreeable precaution, especially if the skin on your hand is broken. When the horses are at work, I wash their shoulders clean with clear water as soon as the harness is removed in the evening, and then apply the salt water. It cools and eases the shoulders, and the horses like it."

THINNING OUT PLANTS.—One of the great and most frequent mistakes made by gardeners is to delay the thinning out of plants too long. Instead of leaving this work until the plants have made a second or third pair of leaves, the thinning out should be done as soon as the plants are nicely up, and before the true roots of the plants are formed. If done early, the plants that are removed will not disturb the remaining ones, as the first root is perfectly smooth, while, if left until it is a mass of fibrous roots, it will disturb all the adjoining plants, so that growth is checked, and, in many instances, to such a degree that the plant never recovers its full vigor. This is particularly true with root crops; and "fingered" carrots and parsnips can be attributed to this more than any other cause.

TO GET RID OF SORREL.—If the land is plowed deeply and the sorrel turned under so that the roots are exposed to the frost, and salt is scattered over the ground at the rate of one peck to every two rods square, the sorrel will be completely killed. No doubt more sorrel will appear from the seed in the ground, but if manure is put on and the land put in corn and kept well hoed the young plants will be easily killed. Sorrel in lawns and paths may be killed out by scattering salt over it. The grass will not be injured unless the salt is used too freely, but plenty of salt will destroy grass in the pathways.

Whatever the situation, the best goods always bring the best prices, and the best farm products always find the best demand.

Dysentery should be treated with liberal doses of salts. Feed only dry food, giving but small quantities of drinking water, liberally impregnated with alum.

HOUSEHOLD.

CURRENT SPONGE.—Cover half a box of gelatine with half a cup of cold water, and soak for half an hour; then pour over half a pint of boiling water, add half a pint of sugar and stir until it dissolves. Strain half a pint of currant juice, and put on ice until thick and cold; then beat the whites of four eggs, put in the mixture, beat until smooth, turn into a fancy mould, and set on ice to harden.

RASPBERRY TAPIOCA.—Wash a teacup of tapioca through several waters, then cover with cold water and let soak all night. In the morning set on a close fire; pour over a pint of boiling water; simmer slowly until the tapioca is perfectly clear. Stir a quart of ripe raspberries into the boiling tapioca and sweeten. Take from the fire; pour in a deep dish; set on ice; when very cold, serve with sugar and cream.

GOOSEBERRY FOOD.—Stem and top a quart of ripe gooseberries and stir them in one pint of water until they are crushed. Pour through a colander to remove the skins; add a teaspoonful of butter and a cup of sugar, and the yolks of four eggs well beaten, and pour in a glass bowl. Beat the whites of the eggs until frothy, and add two heaping teaspoonfuls of powdered sugar, and beat until it stands alone. Heap on top of the gooseberries.

COTTAGE PUDDING.—One cupful of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, two eggs, one cupful of sweet milk, three cupfuls of flour, or enough to make sugar and stiff batter; one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar sifted with the flour, one teaspoonful of salt. Rub the butter and eggs together, beat in the yolks, then the milk and soda, and the salt and the beaten whites, alternately with the flour. Bake in a buttered mold; turn out upon a dish; cut in slices and eat with liquid sauce.

FILLETS OF FLOUNDER.—Take some flounder filets; steep them in vinegar and water while you boil the bones and skin; strain these out and add to the liquor one ounce of flour and two tablespoonfuls of butter, with the beaten yolk of an egg; cook the fillet for ten minutes in boiling water; heat up the sauce thoroughly, adding some chopped oysters, which need only be heated through; pour over the hot filets and serve.

PRESERVED APPLES.—Pare and core twelve large apples; cut each into eighths; make a sirup of one pound of sugar and one-half a pint of water, and boil; put in as much apple as can be cooked without breaking; remove them carefully when tender; after all are done add to the liquid one cup of sugar and boil ten minutes slowly; flavor with lemon and pour over the apples, or grate nutmeg on them instead.

GRAPEMARMALADE.—Amber Color.—Separate the skins and pulp of the grapes and cook the pulp until the seeds separate, strain it, and to four quarts of pulp add two quarts of sour apples; measure after cooking, the grated rind of three good lemons and nine pounds of sugar; let it get hot before the sugar is put in, and cook for half an hour after it begins to boil.

BEEF STEW WITH PEAS.—Take three pounds of beef, let it boil four hours in salted water, remove the steak carefully as it rises; when the meat is about half done add one onion, one small carrot, one-half a turnip and four large potatoes cut in small pieces; cook one pint of peas in a separate saucepan in liquor taken from the meat; add when done to the meat and vegetables, with a little parsley and white pepper. Cut the meat into small pieces and serve it in the stew.

In any good household, lard should be rendered in the kitchen from the best healthy pork. For small families in cities who can afford it, it would be advisable to keep leaf-lard, in summer for a few days in the ice-box, in winter in any cool place; and never more than a supply for a few days should be laid in. Fresh leaf lard and beef suet can be cut up and rendered in a frying-pan whenever wanted for preparing a meal. There is nothing more offensive than rancid fat used for cooking.

SPITCOCK CHICKEN.—Split the chicken down the back, and flatten it with a meat chopper. Put some butter in the frying-pan, with some chopped parsley, onion, salt and pepper; brown these, then add the chicken. A quarter of an hour before it is done take it out and grill it over a gentle fire. It may either be bread-crumbed or not, and may be served with Tartare sauce, or with fried bacon neatly rolled.

Who does not know how prosaic daylight seems when we first open our eyes upon it? How the dear, delicious impossibilities of that looked so easy and attainable the night before regain their true aspect in the remorseless morning. And we feel that there is nothing for us to do but to get up, put on the familiar clothes, and take up the familiar burdens.

CABBAGE IN BATTER.—Take a cold-boiled cabbage that is pretty firm. Cut it into small squares, lay them in a pie dish, sprinkling them with pepper and salt and a dash of vinegar. Make a very light baking batter and pour it over the cabbage. Bake in a very quick oven. Eat while hot.

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.

WAFFLES.—Three cupfuls of milk, one great spoonful of butter, one egg, three cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful of soda and two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar. If you use sour milk omit the cream of tartar.

ASKING TOO MUCH.—Wife—"My dear, I am surprised that you go to bed every night of your life so late." De Tomk (his feelings hurt)—"Do you expect me to live without going to bed at all?"

AT \$4,000 A NIGHT.—Gilroy—"Patti didn't pay cash for that castie in Wales." Snooter—"Is that so?" Gilroy—"No; she paid for it with notes."

A GENTLE HINT.—He—"Would you sooner ride home or walk home?" She—"Oh, suppose we walk a little way—say as far as the next ice cream saloon!"

NO CAUSE FOR WORRY.—Potter—I have read in a newspaper that the sun is gradually losing its heat. Where is the future heat to come from? Barnes—Don't let that worry you. You will find out before you really care to know.

A DOUBTING THOMAS.—Caller—"Is Mr. Slowpay at home?" Bridget—"He's out, sorr." Caller—"Are you sure that that was what he told you to tell me?"

LOVE IS BLIND.—Mr. Infrtit—Miss Chaise, I love you! Will you be my wife? Miss Chaise—I am sorry, Mr. Infrtit; but—but—I am somewhat fastidious in my choice. Mr. Infrtit—Oh, but I am not!

Little Girl—"Your papa has only got one leg, hasn't he?" Veteran's Little Girl—"Yes." L. G.—"Where is his other one?" V. L. G.—"Hush, dear; it's in heaven."

Progress.—It is very important in this age of vast material progress that a remedy be pleasing to the taste and to the eye, easily taken, acceptable to the stomach and healthy in its nature and effects. Possessing these qualities, Syrup of Figs is the one perfect laxative and most gentle diuretic known.

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SNAPPY OLD LADY.—Riding in the street car the other day I saw an amusing scene. An elderly lady asked the conductor for a transfer check. "Where do you wish to go?" he inquired.

"That's none of your business, sir," was her indignant answer. The conductor quietly punched a check for Chelsea, and taking her 8 cents, passed along. Soon he came through the car again, and the elderly lady, who had been studying the check intently, pulled his sleeve and asked: "Conductor, where will this take me?" His reply was prompt and justifiable. "That, Madam, is my business."

TOMMY KNEW WHAT HE WANTED.—Clarence (courting Miss Alice, observes that her little toddler of a brother has been starting at him from the parlor doorway full five minutes)—Why are you looking at me so, Tommy? Tommy—Waitin' for you to propose to Alice. Alice—Oh, Tommy, how came you to say such a thing? Tommy—Cause ma said if he proposed you'd fling yourself right at him, an' I want ter see you.

PROPER SUBJECT FOR THE ROD.—Uncle Mose—How are you coming on at school, 'Rastus? 'Rastus—Mighty poorly. De teacher 'most pounded the life outen me. "Whafoer?" "He asked me how many teet a man had, and I told him 'a hull mouf full,' and den he climbed right on top ob me."

COULD NOT TELL A LIE.—It was the little girl's first visit to a dairy farm. "Uncle Zeb," she asked, "which one of all your cows gives the most milk?" Uncle Zeb was a truthful man. He laid one hand on "Old Crumplehorn," carefully placed the other on the pump, and said: "This one, child."

Johnnie—"You've got a cold in your head, have you?" Cholly, calling on Johnnie's sister— "Yes, a very bad co'd." "Then sister was wrong." "Wrong in what?" "She said you hadn't anything in your head at all."

TURN ABOUT IS FAIR PLAY.—"Did your wife listen to your excuses for staying out so late last night?" "Oh, yes, she listened to me, and then—" "Then what?" "I listened to her."

ECONOMY.—Friend (leaving the office with the broker)—I say, old man, you didn't lock your safe. Broker—No; I never do. It cost \$300, and I don't want burglars to spoil it for the little I've got in it.

"What is it dear?" asked his wife, passing her cool hand over his troubled brow; "what is on your mind?" "Nothing," answered the poet, mournfully gazing at the blank sheet of paper before him; "nothing, I assure you."

AT THE GERMAN OPERA.—"Why do you look through the large end of your opera-glass?" "I wanted to see if distance would be fool enough to lead any enchantment to that chorus."

NOT HIS FAULT.—Jones—You have been at my wine again. Sambo—No, sah; you does me an injustice. De cork wouldn't come out.

THE DEAR GIRLS.—Ethel—"I sometimes fancy it is for my wealth he loves me." Maud—"How fortunate you are in being wealthy."

A COMPARISON.—He—"Why are you like ice this summer?" She (just become an heiress—laughingly)—"I suppose because I am cold." He—"No; because you are unusually dear."

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