

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Feeding Litters Separately—Pip and Feather Eating—Unplowed Headland—Mutton for Farmers' Tables—Etc., Etc.

FEEDING LITERS SEPARATELY.

Pigs do not do well in large droves because they are selfish and greedy, and those that are weaklings will be crowded from the feeding place and become poorer than ever. It is never best to feed two litters together, for there will be inherent differences between pigs born at near the same time, but of different dams. Thus the pigs from an old, vigorous sow will always outgrow those of a sow dropping her first litter. If two such litters are fed together the latter will be sure to suffer.

PIP AND FEATHER EATING.

In pip the tongue of the fowl is hardened. Moistened several times with sweet oil and give a dose of epsom salts; let the hardened skin wear away of its own accord. Feather eating usually occurs when fowls are closely confined, with little chance for exercise, and no change in food. It is very uncommon among fowls that are kept scratching and fed with a variety of food. When the vice appears, stamp out the first offenders. If the stock is valuable mix powdered aloes with lard and apply freely to the spots attacked.—New English Homestead.

UNPLOWED HEADLANDS.

It is the practice of many farmers in plowing grass land, especially for hoed crops, to leave an unplowed space, usually called a headland, on which the horse can turn when used in cultivating. But with a careful horse, this care is not necessary in growing corn or potatoes, though the nurseryman's more valuable stock may justify it. In growing corn, some farmers plant two or three rows of potatoes next the fence. But these scattering rows of potatoes are difficult to harvest, as the wagon has to be drawn all around a field to gather a few potatoes. We used, in the later years of our farming, to plant corn out to the end of the row. If, while small, a hill of corn was stepped on, there is still time to plant a hill of beans. Yet we always noticed that they were better than those ripened earlier and had better ears than the middle of the field. Most corn is planted to closely to yield the largest amount of grain.—Boston Cultivator.

MUTTON FOR FARMERS' TABLES.

There is no meat quite so convenient for farm use as mutton, as the carcass of an average sheep can be easily kept in most families until it can be eaten. It is very easy to kill and dress a sheep. Not even poultry can be prepared for the table with so little trouble. What is better, the mutton killed on the farm is of superior quality. It lacks the "wooly taste" which so often comes to mutton from sheep that have been long driven to market, or that have had to endure long journeys by railroad, often without food or drink for 24 to 36 hours. It is one of the advantages of better prices for wool that more farmers will be able to keep sheep. If mutton could more generally supersede fat, greasy pork on farmers' tables, they and their families would be much more healthful than they are under present conditions.

VALUE OF MIXED GRAIN.

For sowing purposes a mixture of wheat, barley and oats gives profitable results. Cut it just before the blossoms appear. If a succession is sown the product may be had for use during the latter part of summer and early fall at a time when pasturage is at its best.

The same mixture can be sown to advantage for the grain, which is particularly useful for fattening animals. The proportion of the mixture sown should depend somewhat on what grain grows best on the land you have, but usually of the three bushels required for an acre, two parts each of wheat and barley and one of oats would be about the proper proportion in making the mixture. Sow early in the spring, taking care that the soil is well pulverized and that the seed is covered well. Harvest when the grain is well ripened, thresh and grind the grain together. Young stock particularly fare well on this ration, which is a well balanced one.—Atlanta Journal.

GROWING ONIONS ON MUCK LAND.

The land should be plowed in the fall of the year, as soon as possible after the crop has been harvested. Before plowing the land it should be thoroughly cleaned from weeds and other rubbish, which should be hauled off. Plow it about four inches deep and then drag it once before winter sets in. Give it a coating of wood ashes, unbleached, about one carload for ten acres. In many places ashes can be had very cheap. Ashes are one of the best fertilizers for muck land, keeping the soil loose and also cleaner from weeds. Work your land as early as practicable in the spring. As soon as the soil is thawed several inches deep run a harrow over it several times, as the one great advantage of successful onion cultivating is getting them planted early. Some growers plant them before all of the frost is out of the ground, and get a good crop. Before sowing your seed see that the soil is very fine and well packed down, so as to keep the moisture. Use some good brand of fertilizer liberally, say from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds per acre, one that has a

good per cent. of potash preferred. Put it in with a wheat drill, passing over the ground twice, putting in 600 pounds at each time, which distributes it more evenly. The fertilizer should be sown as early as possible. Get good seed. Don't look at the price, as poor seed is too high at any price. Be sure and test the seed before sowing. Four pounds per acre of good seed is sufficient and will give a good stand. Plant your seed about a half inch deep and about twelve grains to the foot. Put the rows twelve inches apart. Cultivate them as soon as you can see them peeping out of the soil. Then it does not matter if one is covered, as it will push out again. Mixing radish seed with the onion is practiced by some growers, the radish seed sprouting first.—Ira Graber, in the Epitomist.

DEHORNING CATTLE.

Dehorning cattle has been extensively practiced in many parts of the country. In the dairy sections, the need and advantages of dehorning are not as well understood as in the ranges where cattle run together in large herds.

The subject is attracting attention just at present and the bulletin on dehorning now being distributed by the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station will be read with unusual interest.

The following conclusions regarding dehorning are taken from the bulletin: Dehorning is to be recommended because dehorned cattle are more easily cared for than those with horns, and because dehorned cattle enjoy life better. "A great deal of suffering is prevented by the removal of horns." To dehorn mature animals, clippers should be used that will remove the horn perfectly at a single stroke and in a moment of time.

When it is skillfully performed animals do not give evidence of great suffering as an effect of dehorning. The tissues injured in dehorning are not very well supplied with nerves, and they are quickly cut through. Good evidence that dehorning is not very painful is the fact that cattle will resume feeding immediately after being operated on, and the yield of milk in cows is not perceptibly affected.

Compared with castration of coits and calves, dehorning may be considered painless. Those who are familiar with the operation of dehorning and the results of it are its most enthusiastic advocates. In the past, efforts have frequently been made to prevent the practice of dehorning on the ground that it caused needless pain. It would seem to us that efforts can now better be expended by endeavoring to have the last relic of a horn removed from our domestic cattle, who ceased to need them when they came under the protection of man.

Horns may sometimes be ornamental, but it is evident that they are usually useless, expensive and dangerous luxuries.

ROUP AND KINDRED AILMENTS.

In roup there is an offensive smell, which makes the disease certain. Without that bad odor it is not roup, but rather some ailment, which, if neglected, will lead on to the dreadful disease.

A fowl may sneeze, and have a thin watery discharge from the nostrils, and even be feverish, and yet not have roup.

Or, the discharge may be thick and of a yellow, white or greenish color, much like it would be in case of catarrh, and yet not be roup.

Or, the head and eyes may swell, and the bird may be feverish, and still no roup.

Or, the eyes may become ulcerated, the fowl rapidly falling away, and still no roup.

Or, the face may become puffed up, and assume a scarlet color, and the bird fall into a drowsy condition, and yet roup may not be reached.

Or, there may be a rattling in the throat when breathing, accompanied by cough and expectoration, inflamed eyes, and still the fowl may be free from roup.

What, then, is roup?

The bird, to have genuine roup, must have all of these symptoms: A discharge from the nose and eyes, which becomes thick and very offensive; the nostrils clogged up by this discharge; the eyelids swollen and stuck together, and in severe cases the whole face swollen.

So it will be seen that roup, practically, is a combination of all the symptoms that we have enumerated. Take those symptoms separately, and they can be cured—but take them collectively and there is no remedy that will completely restore the bird to good health again. If the symptoms cannot be successfully handled, no time should be lost, but the patient should at once be killed and buried deep. A neglect to do that may endanger the entire flock.—Wisconsin Farmer.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Fresh air and exercise increase the egg yield.

Darkened nests are a sure cure for eating hens.

April hatched chicks are the most profitable to raise. They lay eggs in the fall and winter.

Cut clover hay is a valuable egg food and will go a long way toward keeping the biddies in healthy laying condition.

Yellow legs and skin are preferred in American poultry markets, and command the best prices when properly prepared.

Skim milk is next in value to fresh meat as an egg producer. It may be fed alone or mixed with ground grain in the morning mash.

Male lambs intended for the market should be castrated when not over

three weeks old, in order to realize the highest price for the carcass. They fatten more readily, are more quiet in disposition, and make a much more rapid growth.

Know what your cows are doing by weighing the milk of each animal frequently. An ordinary dial scale set back so that the dial added the indicator will stand at zero will give you the weight of the milk only at each operation. The milk of any animal falling much below that of others in weight should be tested for quality and if badly lacking the cow should be sold at once.

Do not mate animals when either one is deficient in some essential feature with the idea that the strong points of the male will overcome the deficiencies of the female, or vice versa. Bear in mind that both animals should be as nearly perfect as possible to secure a progeny of value. This rule is as applicable to poultry as to other live stock.

Poultrymen using incubators find "the proper degree of moisture" the stumbling block to success. To avoid this trouble incubators should be placed in cellars which are always moist, and the machines will not then require the use of water pans until the eggs are in the last stages of incubation, if at all.

Dairyman, whether large or small, should not attempt the home process of skimming milk by hand. It is impossible for the hand to do the thorough work of the separator, and more than one dairyman has been feeding many per cent of butter fat to pigs which the separator would have saved to the butter.

An Illinois breeder recommends the use of salt-water or weak brine applied to the backs of cattle to kill the festive warble. Says he has used this remedy for years without causing irritation or any bad effects whatever.

Sub-watering has been found profitable for both flowers and vegetables in the green-house. The first cost for arrangements is considerable but the greater profit soon makes up the difference.

QUEER RELIGIOUS SECT.

Their Name is "Evening Light," and They Keep to Themselves.

There is a sect known as the "Evening Light," scattered throughout Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. The families are not isolated, but form communities. No one is really leader, but in each community there always is a man who is looked up to. Although nearly all are well-to-do, no attempt at display is ever made. The homes are in one-story houses, built about the house where the sect meets on Sundays. Where they have no meeting house they meet in the homes of the families each in turn. They have no ministers. Each member of the sect says and does what he considers best for the community. When they meet at one of the homes the host always has ready a good meal.

This sect wears peculiar clothing. The women make all the men's clothes. When the baby boy's dresses are taken from him he is clothed in the garb he is to wear for life. They wear trousers reaching to their ankles and boots to their knees. A waistcoat and a hat complete the outfit, except in cold weather, when an overcoat is added. Only heavy brown or black material is used in making the clothes of the men.

The young women dress in either black or bright blue and use no trimmings. Their aprons are always brown. Cashmere is the cloth used for dresses. The bonnet is after the sunbonnet style and has a skirt in the rear. Brown and black satin is used to make them. To keep out the cold of winter the women wear black cashmere shawls.

There are no barbers in the community. The hair is allowed to grow. These people never take part in politics, never go to court and don't have photographs taken. They never insure their property, and if one should lose his the others starts him anew. The parents match the children as soon as they are born and they are brought up in each other's company, and are made to understand that they are to marry and always live together after they leave their homes. Children stay with their parents until they marry. The marriage ceremony consists of the bridegroom putting a ring on the bride's finger and the both drinking holy water. A big dinner is served and in the course of it the young couple leave it and go to their home, which they find already. Where this sect originated is not known. The men are very fond of horses.—New York Press.

Small-Bore Rifle.

In the course of a letter to the "Temps." M. Buffet, a French artist who has just returned from Abyssinia, where he has painted portraits of the Emperor and Ras Makonnen, which are to be exhibited at the forthcoming Salon, says: "It was in a great degree to the small-bore guns with which the Abyssinians were armed that the Abyssinians owed their victories. Ras Makonnen and several of the suite of Menelik told me that when a bullet had gone right through them their men had lost none of their dash. If the bullet did not kill at once—and nine out of ten times that was not the case—they did not even know they were wounded, and fought as furiously as their comrades. Their wounds healed in a very short time unless a vital organ had been touched. The result is that the Abyssinians despise such modern arms." In view of possible debates as to the Dum-dum bullet this testimony is not without its importance.—London Post.

The Swedish mountain Gellvara is estimated to contain about 300,000,000 tons of iron.

NEWS FOR THE FAIR SEX.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON NUMEROUS FEMALE TOPICS.

Girls' Jacket—Pretty Neckwear—Are You Just Married?—Gorgeous Hatpins—Do Not Like to Be Servants—Etc., Etc.

PRETTY NECKWEAR.

A plain, black gown that is worn with the prim linen collars and cuffs for morning can be made to look like festive attire for evening by adding a becoming chiffon stock, finished with a jabot of lace. The long lace scarfs of white or black are very popular. They are put about the neck twice and tied almost at the side. A natural flower pinned in the lace is an added charm.

BOY'S BLOUSE.

The blouse is a thoroughly comfortable and satisfactory garment for a growing boy to wear on warm days in the gymnasium or on the playground, flannels or wash goods being equally fitted for its development.



The fitting is very simple, being accomplished by shoulder and under arm seams only and the closing is effected by buttons and button holes, made through a boxplait on the left side. The sleeves are loose, one seam gathered at the arm's eye and wrist which is finished with a straight cuff. The neck is finished with a simple sailor collar, which with the box plait and stitched on pocket may or may not be made of a contrasting color. The lower edge of the waist is finished with a casing through which an elastic ribbon may run.

ARE YOU JUST MARRIED?

Try to be satisfied to commence on a small scale. Try to avoid the too common mistake of making an effort to begin "where the parents ended." Try not to look at richer homes and covet their costly furniture. Try going a step further, and visit the homes of the poor when secret dissatisfaction is liable to spring up. Try buying all that is necessary to work with skillfully, while adorning the house at first with simply what will render it comfortable. Try being perfectly independent from the first, and shun debt in all its forms.

GEORGEOUS HATPINS.

Hatpins are so gorgeous that they out do the gorgeous hats. The newest are set with very large jadestones, which, by the way, are having a great run, being considered as having the properties of a talisman. It's all very well for young women away over in China to think that an evil fate will overtake them if they leave off their jadestones once, but it seems odd that American women should feel the same way about China's sacred stone. This doesn't appear quite fair to that left hind foot of our Southern graveyard rabbit. But to get back to hatpins. The size of the beautiful bits of glass that do duty as opals, amethysts, rubies, emeralds, and so on, declares that they are impostures. So it is just as easy for the maid to skewer her hat on with four or five of these brilliant baubles as it is for the mistress. The prettiest of these pins and the most dainty looking is one set with a large American pearl, incrusting with brilliant.

DON'T LIKE TO BE SERVANTS.

In Manchester, England, recently Mrs. Edalle read for the Manchester Ladies' Literary Club a most interesting paper on "The Domestic Problem." She said that it was as difficult to get girls of the wage earning class to recognize that domestic work is best for them as it is to get the workman to return to the soil. Eventually she expects the national character of well appointed homes for separate families will be altered because of the scarcity of good servants. She thinks a servants' bureau would be better than the usual registry office, and would have it in charge of an officer appointed by some guild. Lack of personal freedom seems to be the great grievance of the servant.

NEW FAD IN BELTS.

There is something distinctly new in the belt line for the college girl, or rather the girl who has a fondness for college students. It is a belt made of the flags of the leading universities and colleges in this part of the world. These flags are linked together by silver chains, gilded, and the effect is as gay as a happy college boy's heart. The blue emblem of Yale waves side by side with the crimson of Harvard and Columbia, Cornell, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Rutgers and all the others are represented. A very stunning belt for girls who

have outgrown their salad days and for women who are interested in college boys, only in a sisterly or motherly way, is made of amber or tortoise shell, and has a huge cameo for a buckle. The shell or amber is cut in very small heart-shaped pieces and set close together, giving the belt the appearance of having scales. The cameo buckle is about the prettiest part of it, however. In some cases it is encircled by turquoise and in others is set in the loveliest of pink coral. Jewelers say that all the women who own the very large oblong or round cameo pins, so fondly cherished by their grandmothers and their mothers, are utilizing them for belt buckles. Some of these old pins are surrounded by magnificent pearls and others by the whitest of white diamonds.

MARY ANDERSON ON THE VOICE.

It is said that the American voice is the least musical known to civilization. Americans themselves notice it on returning home after a three months' sojourn in Europe, where a coarse, harsh voice is almost unknown among refined people. Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, who spends half of every year in England, once said: "It takes fully a month to become accustomed to the nasal, harsh American voice when I come home. There are two young women among my friends whose coming I should greet with raptures if only for their sweet, low musical voices, full of modulation and varied intonations." And, as every one knows, Mrs. Moulton's social circle contains all that is most highly cultivated in Boston life.

Surely we are clever enough to change all that, if we try. Let mothers think of their own voices and cultivate them into low, soft tones in speaking, and see to it that the children's voices are not rendered raucous and nasal by screaming, and let teachers drop their pernicious habit of forcing little pupils to read and recite at the utmost capacity of their lungs, and in a generation the "American voice" will have become civilized.

Approx of which topic an interesting little story is told by a young woman who, as a school girl, lavished boundless adoration upon beautiful Mary Anderson, and one day ventured to call upon the famous actress, with another girl adorer.

Miss Anderson was lovely to them and they had an "interview" that would have enraptured the soul of a journalist. She told them about her favorite books when a child, her dolls' theatricals, in which she played the entire cast, and the more ambitious plays shared by her schoolmates. "One day my dolls were doing 'Romeo and Juliet,'" she said, "when my mother brought a visitor into the room. I went on with my play in a whisper, and the visitor laughed and said: 'What tiny voices your actors have, little Mary.' I replied with much dignity: 'Well, their lungs aren't developed yet, and if they made their voices loud they'd spoil them.'" Possibly the very early perception of that truth explains her wonderful rich and musical voice, a voice of rare charm.

GIRLS' JACKET.

For spring and fall wear, there is no more comfortable and convenient garment than the one we illustrate, a jacket of the refter style. It is so simple as to be easily made by the home dressmaker. The material is a novelty in blue cloth with raised knots of a darker shade on its rough surface. The loose graceful fronts lap well over upon the other, and buttons to the shoulder, the standing collar closing on the side, the deep sailor collar may be



sewed on with the collar or made separate. The back is seamed in the center and joined to the fronts by means of under arm pieces, the seams being left open for a little distance. The sleeves are two seamed and gathered at the shoulder, the pockets are inserted at each side and the conventional pocket lid over them. The garment is trimmed with three rows of narrow braid on the pocket lid, sailor collar and at the wrists, the standing collar being covered with the same braid with narrow interlaces between. This jaunty style is popularly developed in bright red and trimmed with braid.

GIRLS' COATS AND JACKETS.

A very smart style of coat is worn by the little girls this season—that is, the girl's under ten years of age. It is of rough gray cloth, and with it is worn a white leather belt and a broad sailor collar of white silk edged with a double ruffle of white ribbon. In front the collar forms revers which reach to the belt. This is sometimes made up in gray or tan corduroy, and is always a very smart little garment. The refter and the covert coat are

worn for every-day wear, but there are some short coats which have fancy collars that are very much in fashion. These collars are of silk and lace combined, or all of silk, or all of lace. They are square at the back, and in front form revers, and are fastened with gilt buttons. Blue, brown, and tan are the favorite colors, and they are always becoming, because the collar relieves any sombre appearance the cloth might give.

The sailor and the Alpine hat are to be the smart styles for every-day wear. For smart occasions the fancy straws trimmed with flower gardens of flowers are in fashion. The coloring on the hats is particularly charming; the black hats are the finest, softest straw, are almost flat in shape, and the crown is completely covered with the flowers. Wild flowers, poppies, and corn-flowers are all greatly in use; while for the Leghorns and white straws the roses and the daisies are preferred. All the hats are a good size, and there is not so much eccentricity displayed in the shapes as was the case last year. Indeed, it would seem as though a great effort were made to have the girls look as youthful and girlish in their dress as possible.—Harper's Bazar.

FASHION NOTES.

This season's hat are veritable gardens, violets, lilies of the valley, morning glories, acacia and roses being used in profusion.

Taffeta waists, covered with heavy cream and black net, either put on as applique or in accordion pleats, are much worn this season.

The most beautiful hats have for trimmings abundance of tulie, flowers and spangled net, the popular flowers being those of the old English garden kind.

The pointed shawl cape is the ultra-fashionable one of the season. For carriage wear the materials used most are black chintilly lace, with burnt orange liberty silk.

Silk waists this season are keeping the designers busy, and the result of their labor is seen on all sides. Among the pretty conceits are those with many tucks and finished with a short skirt, which shows a little below the belt.

A pretty effect in hats is of black fancy braid, with double brim and soft crown, overlaid with sequins. At the side are white plumes held with shirred rosettes of three tones of watermelon pink, and fastened with a jewelled buckle.

One neat design in lawn is a gray ground, with three diagonal white stripes, about a quarter of an inch wide, spaced so as to give a checker-board effect. These unite to form diamond checks, and on the surface are sprinkled carelessly tiny designs of flower springs of conventional figures.

The visiting and reception gowns this season are gentle reminders of ages gone by, the demure quaker colors and lavender so much worn in the old days being once more in vogue. A pretty gown is of lavender colored crepe de chine, with a trimming of point applique lace and net.

The demand for fancy silk skirts increases, and on all the counters they are displayed in varied styles and colors. One that is worthy of notice is of white taffeta, trimmed with many rows of insertion, and edged with small white chiffon ruffles, the bottom being filled in with flounces of narrow point applique lace.

Antics of Electricity.

The mention of electricity of a frisky behavior will suggest to most people some of its actions on the trolley, or about the street cars, or in connection with electric light wires, when it breaks loose—which are all of too dangerous a character to be amusing; not to get at all its pranks on their own desks, though no "live" wire be within a mile of them.

It does not always occur to our minds that electricity is playing a little trick when we take a sheet of writing paper from a pile and find it does not come alone, but drags along another sheet or more, "sticking closer than a brother."

Similar action of the immense sheets of book paper on a printing press in certain states of the atmosphere—when one is slid on to the form of type and has one or more others partially adhering to it for a moment, then taking flight away from the press to some dingy resting place—frequently keeps the pressmen in an uncomfortable state of fidgets.

Such action results from the attraction and repulsion of frictional electricity—the same kind that is produced by the chafing of the silk flaps against the rotating glass disk in the so-called "electrical machine."

An experiment with the same kind of electricity, which can easily be tried, is to apply gentle friction to a thin piece of cloth or paper; when, on bringing it near the wall of the apartment, it will be attracted thereby, and adhere to the surface—be it wood, plaster or paper—for a brief time.—Lippincott's.

The Deadly Lamp.

Of the 3,500 fires to which the London Fire Brigade was called last year, no fewer than 335 were caused by petroleum lamps. This is an increase of 8 per cent. since 1870.

Retribution, that inevitable thought often slow-coming grist of the Divine mills, seems now to be face to face with the people of the kingdom of Spain.

There is a burglar in Chicago who plays the piano while he burlesques. Lucky is the Chicago family that can afford a piano.