

## DANGER OF ICEBOATING.

SPORT IS EXHILARATING, BUT NOT FREE FROM PERIL.

Craft Are Not Easily Controlled When Under Full Headway—Speed Over a Mile a Minute—The Riskiest Proceeding is Jumping Cracks.

Although the question of the American or Canadian origin of the iceboat remains unsettled, says Beekles Wilson, as long ago as 1790 there were iceboats built at Poughkeepsie, and, indeed, the sport may claim to be the father of competitive yachting in America. The first Hudson River iceboat, the relics of which are still religiously preserved, seems to have been simply a square box on three runners, with a small, flat-headed split sail. The forerunners were nailed to the sides of the box and the runner was set in an oak post with an iron tiller. But, after a period of neglect, the development of the iceboat was rapid. An iceboat 20-day has her timbers arranged in the form of the letter "T." The perpendicular line of the letter represents the center timber, which runs from the boat, while the horizontal line represents the runner plank, on each end of which is affixed an iron runner very much like a large skate. On the top of the runner plank is the mast bench, in which the mast is stepped. Rails run diagonally from the stern end of the center timber side to points about half way between the mast and the ends of the runner plank. A couple of braces cross the center timber, into whose forward end is mortised the heel of the bowsprit from one side to the other.

But are not the dangers attending this sport such as to confine it to a few and to render its vogue precarious? Not at all; the danger, although confessedly not contemptible, but whets the enthusiasts' appetite and ought to cause the lakes and rivers of Canada to become the mecca for all in whom stirs the blood of the true sportsman. The rare exhilaration that tingles one's every nerve when guiding a mighty iceboat over smooth ice in a stiff wind is unequalled by any other experience in the whole world. Some experts glory in being the most fearless and reckless ice yachtsmen in their district. One man I once heard of was daunted by nothing; snow hummocks and jagged masses of heavy ice were jumped or were smashed into, until on his return after a voyage his craft was torn and splintered as if raked fore and aft by shrapnel. His favorite amusement was to take unsuspecting visitors for a sail in the amiable hope that there would be wind enough to enable him to capsize. If this did not happen he was content, by a sudden turn, to ting the whole party, including, of course, himself, sprawling and helpless from the yacht, or else sail deliberately to the nearest airhole or ferry track.

Collisions at races in the days when the iceboats carried from 600 to 1,000 feet of sail used to be very common until the number of entries was limited. Yet even with the small number of competitors the great majority of spectators prudently remained ashore. You cannot watch the vagaries of an iceboat with impunity, for sometimes they take the bit from their driver, run away at a fearful speed and dash themselves to pieces. A typical accident of this kind, which might have been attended with great loss of life, is furnished by the case of the handsome ice yacht Jack Frost.

A fierce northwest gale of many flaws and variations started the boat from her anchorage. Commodore Rogers, standing near by, sprang hastily after her, but only caught the end of the boom, whence he was quickly flung with great violence. The yacht, with guiding rudder swinging, rushed toward a crowd of skaters and spectators, who, as many as were not panic-stricken, sought to get out of the way, whereupon the runaway, like a live thing, made directly for them at a terrible rate of speed, barely missing them, and, after some further evolutions, dashed between two yachts directly against the rocky shore, a complete wreck.

But the riskiest proceeding of all, and one productive of the most exciting adventures, is jumping "cracks." The owner of the Aeolus, with a friend, once took a trip which he will probably never forget to his dying day. The ice was safe and the wind strong on the journey up the river, and before returning the pair went ashore, and spent an hour or two over lunch. Meanwhile the wind increased, but the sun's ray had caused the ice to expand until some large gaps had been made on its surface. On their return the yachtsmen, unaware of anything of this serious nature, set to with a will. At each fresh burst of speed each uttered irrepressible yells of exultation, but in the midst of their enjoyment both were paralyzed to see, directly ahead and impossible of evasion, a long reach of open water fully twenty feet across.

Before it was possible to alter their course by a fraction there was a swift and sudden splash and the runner plank threw a sheeted mass of water as high as the gaff. The abrupt shock as the rudder of the boat caught the farther edge of the ice tossed the man from the rudder plank, causing him to perform a somersault high in midair, while the grip of the helmsman was not strong enough to prevent his sliding forward into the water, partly under the "box." Fortunately, the men escaped death by drowning and quitted the scene without any broken bones, leaving the Aeolus spinning round and round in the current.

To those who have never seen an iceboat dart away and shrink to a mere

speck on the horizon in a few minutes the speed, were it not well vouched for, would be wholly incredible. A gentleman residing at Poughkeepsie wished to speak to his brother who had just started by train for New York. He, therefore, sprang into his iceboat, soon passed the train, although it was an express, and was on the platform of the station at Newburg when the train drew up. At one point of his journey he had made two miles in one minute. Nevertheless, in spite of the various published records, it may confidently be stated that the greatest speed is never recorded, because it always occurs when no one is expecting it. Over 100 miles in an hour is, however, an authenticated performance.

## A GHOST WITH A BROOMSTICK.

After Burying His Wife Schernel Went Home and Felt Her Wrath Physically.

Some days ago a joiner named Louis Schernel, living in the rue d'Alsace in Levallois-Perret (Seine) took his wife to the Beaujon hospital for treatment. Then he went on a spree, which he kept up for two weeks. At the end of that period he thought it was about time for him to visit his wife and find out how she was progressing. He went to the hospital and asked to see Mme. Schernel.

The clerk, not catching the name precisely, fancied that he asked for "Mme. Cernel," a woman who had died just two days before and whose body was about to be taken to the cemetery. "There is her funeral starting now," said the official, pointing to a hearse. There were no mourners to follow the hearse. The dead woman was poor and friendless. Schernel, convinced that his wife's body was in the hearse, followed it to Saint-Ouen. The last prayers were recited, and while the gravedigger was filling up the grave Schernel knelt and prayed, after which he left the cemetery and purchased a wooden cross and a wreath in a store adjoining the place. He placed them carefully on the grave, knelt again in prayer, and then proceeded to the nearest saloon to mend his broken heart. He continued his spree for five days more.

Meanwhile his wife returned from the hospital sound in body and mind. She heard of her husband's prolonged spree, but knew nothing of her supposed funeral. While she was shopping he returned in a glorious condition, and, without undressing, threw himself on the bed. She returned to find him snoring like a foghorn. She allowed him to sleep for some hours, and at last proceeded to wake him up with a broomstick. She succeeded marvellously.

With a yell Schernel jumped up and ran out of the house. At full speed he fled through the streets until he came to the police station. There he told the officer in charge that the ghost of his wife was in his house raising Cain.

The officer thought he was crazy. But to investigate the affair he went to the Schernel home, and sure enough, there he found Mme. Schernel putting the place in order and very much astonished at the precipitate flight of her husband.

A little inquiry developed the truth in the case, but Schernel insists that he is a widower and that the ghost of his wife haunts his house. Now nothing can induce him to go home. But later on the ghost will have something to say in the matter.—Paris correspondence of the New York Courrier des Etats Unis.

## SODA FOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE.

Suggestions For Serving it Hot in Winter Time.

The soda water fountain formerly ministered to popular comfort only in summer. All the beverages served at that season were cold, therefore. But of late years it has been a common practice in drug stores in cities to serve coffee, chocolate, beef tea, clam broth and a number of other hot drinks. "The American Druggist" recently offered some hints regarding the preparation of hot chocolate. It says that many druggists simply make a sweetened solution of chocolate, to which is added either condensed milk or fresh cream. But the publication just mentioned recommends adding a little corn starch, and gives the following formula:

Powdered chocolate, four ounces; corn starch, four drams; hot water, two pints, and sugar, two and a half pounds. Mix the chocolate and corn starch intimately together, and add six ounces of cold water in divided portions, rubbing down in a mortar until a homogeneous, creamy mixture results. Now pour on the hot water, stir well, and boil until the starch is thoroughly cooked, making up the loss by evaporation with more water; add the sugar and stir until dissolved; when cold add one and one-fourth fluid drams of vanilla extract.

The above constitutes the chocolate syrup, and to serve it as hot chocolate draw about two ounces in a six-ounce mug, add condensed milk or cream, and fill with hot water.

Where the trade is limited the chocolate may be prepared fresh for each customer. It impresses some people to see it made in this way. Powdered chocolate for fountain use will be found best adapted for the extemporaneous preparation of hot chocolate. The modus operandi is to take one and one-half teaspoonsfuls of the powder, add, placing it in the mug or cup, add enough hot water to convert it into a smooth paste; add sugar and cream and a dash or two of vanilla extract and, filling the mug with hot water, the result is a cup of delicious hot chocolate.



## PROFIT FROM A DAIRY HERD.

The profit from a dairy herd is due to the yields of the best cows. It is possible for a dairyman to sell one-half of his cows and make a larger profit on fewer animals than on the original number. There are hundreds of herds where a few good cows not only give profit, but also support the unprofitable ones.

## KEEPING QUALITIES OF ROOT CROPS.

There is a difference in the keeping qualities of root crops. Carrots and beets seem to lose their sweetness after being frozen, but parsnips and salsify are left in the rows all winter. The parsnip is a more valuable crop than most others. Freezing does not injure its quality and it is excellent for stock and on the table. It can be cooked in various ways.

## WHAT TREES TO PLANT.

The best trees to plant for forestry purposes depend largely on location and the character of the soil. Black walnut, butternut, wild cherry, curly ash and bird's eye maple are all valuable woods for making furniture. For fence woods and many farm implements, elm is most in demand. For railroad ties, telegraph poles, spars and masts, the sweet chestnut, Scotch arch, alantus and eucalyptus are good. Oaks and hickories are slow-growing trees, but may be planted among other varieties to be thinned out for hoop poles, while the main plantation is allowed to grow.

## HOGS FOLLOWING CATTLE.

Corn is fed on the ear to cattle, there is considerable waste, and two hogs to each steer is not too many to consume this. When fed shelled in tight boxes, the waste will be smaller and consequently fewer hogs will be fattened. About one to every two steers is then the rule. When ground feed is given to the steers, there is considerable loss to be consumed by hogs.

## ADVANTAGES OF DEEPER PLOWING.

It has long been an expression in England that the best way to increase the size of a farm was by going down deeper, instead of widening out from the sides. Those who cultivate only the six inches of the surface soil are limiting their operations. While the cold sub-soil should not be turned over so as to be placed on the surface, yet the plow can encroach a little on the sub-soil every year, and if a sub-soil plow is used, then the lower soil may be loosened so as to permit of the easier penetration of the roots of plants. The subsoil is rich in plant foods that can be made available for crops, and as long as clover and other crops are grown and turned under, there will be added to the surface soil portions of the fertilizing elements that are taken up by the growing crops and returned to the land.

## THE TRAP NEST.

The trap nest is an individual nest. It should be so constructed as to be inviting to the laying hen and yet exclude the non-layer. The laying hen loves to spend considerable time on the nest, undisturbed by her mates or the attendant, hence the individual nest is in perfect accord with nature. As the hen remains on the nest until removed by the attendant, an accurate record of her produce is obtained and we are able to weed out the drones and perpetuate the best by breeding from the prolific layers. At least one-third of the hens of an average flock do not lay eggs enough in one year to pay for their food. The good layers are undervalued, while the poor layers are given undeserved credit. They may lay fairly well in the spring, yet do little or nothing the rest of the year.

By the use of the trap nests we learn the egg value of each hen in the flock and are enabled to handle the layers frequently, thus taming them and keeping constantly informed as to their individual condition and requirements. Beginning a number of years ago as a fad, the individual nest system has gradually developed until now its adoption presents a practical business proposition to the market poultryman and the farmer as well as to the fancier and pedigree breeder. The practical, simple, inexpensive yet scientific trap nest enables every poultry keeper to adopt the individual system.—F. O. Wellcome, in New England Homestead.

## SELLING FANCY POULTRY.

In order to be successful with fancy poultry we are told that we must never misrepresent any fowl when offering it for sale. That we must be candid with our customers and deliver them exactly what they buy. True, and so far as the seller goes, there is no question about the justice due the buyer. But are buyers so considerate with the sellers? Do they not ask, even demand, more than they purchase—far more than their money's worth?

For example a beginner, even often an experienced breeder, will ask for price of fowls for breeding purposes, and when they are delivered to them they send up a howl, claiming they are not what they expected, being poor in one way or another, and totally unfit for show purposes, when, as a matter of fact, show birds were never mentioned in the inquiry.

It is totally impossible to satisfy such purchasers, and the man who

starts out expecting to hear only words of praise about the magnificent fowls he sends every customer, will find soon that his hair is prematurely turning gray from worry, or he will find himself making application to the almshouse. Don't expect every customer to praise your generosity. A great many really do not know when they get what they pay for.—Home and Farm.

## CLEAN MILK AND BUTTER.

The first essential to securing clean and healthful milk is a clean and healthful cow. It is next to impossible to secure clean and pure milk from a dirty cow; it is impossible to get healthful milk from an unhealthy cow. Given a clean and healthy cow, she must be provided with a sufficient quantity of clean, healthful and nutritious food and water. This is the second essential. The third essential is that the person who does the milking and the place where the milking is done shall also be clean and healthful. A dirty milker, one with dirty hands, cannot do clean milking. No person who is suffering from or who attends upon others suffering from any contagious disease can milk without contaminating the milk. Scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria are especially liable to transmission by a milker.

The fourth essential is keeping the milk clean until it is to be used. Much more milk is damaged before it gets out of the cowhouse than after; nevertheless, eternal vigilance is necessary from the milk pail to the butter plate. Wash, rinse, scald, scour and sun all the milk vessels is the only programme that assures success.

Clean and pure butter can only come from clean and pure milk. Once fitted of any kind gets into milk, its essence stays there. Straining, aeration, separation, each does something, and all may do much toward cleaning milk, but the only safe or satisfactory way is never to let it get in. Purity is indeed cleanliness, and cleanliness is health.—N. B. Franklin, in Jersey Bulletin.

## WINTERING HALF-HARDY PLANTS.

It should be well known to advanced gardeners, by this time, that light is as great an agent in destruction by frost as frost alone. But little practical advantage has been taken of this knowledge, except by gardening folk generally, of what the advanced gardeners know. The latter shades his greenhouse when he finds the plants frozen—and he plants rhododendrons and similar plants where the sun does not strike them in frosty weather, if he should have any choice in the selection of a site. In the extra cold region of the northwest, the advanced gardener shades the trunks of his fruit trees by placing boards, fastened together like tree boxes, up against them. And thus the trees escape sunscald arising from being under the sunlight, and similar troubles.

Surely, orange growers in Florida might profit by this experience of their Northern brethren. It would not be a very expensive thing to make an arbor of lath over an orange grove, the lath being an inch or so apart. With such a partial shade the plants would probably endure ten or twelve spasmodic degrees of frost without injury—and the shade in summer would doubtless be all the better for the trees—at least the trunks of the trees might be boxed, and even filled with earth if the weight could be supported. If the tops should suffer from frost, the strong trunks would sooner recover than when the whole tree was killed to the ground.—Meehan's Monthly.

## TEMPER AND TEMPERATURE.

I have observed that the weather has a marked influence on dairy cows. A dry hard wind makes them nervous. Severe cold has the same effect. Step on a corn or a cold foot and you will quickly have a chance to look into the eyes of an angry man. Speak roughly to your cow on a cold morning, or strike her, and you may be thankful if you do not get a kick as well as an unusually small quantity of milk. If you and your cow are high strung and the morning is unusually cold, or the night has been windy, be careful, and hold your tongue, your feet, and your hands, or Bossy may hurt you. It might be well, and profitable, to prepare more carefully than you do to keep up the temperature of your stable for temper and temperature go by contraries—sometimes temperature down temper up. Sometimes they agree, as on a blustery day, when the kick of the bridle heifer may be "passed around" the cow yard.

It is a problem to secure an even temperature for milk cows. It involves quantity of feed consumed as well as quantity of milk produced. Excessive cold not only causes waste of feed, but it reduces the vital power of the animal, turning aside from their ordinary use the products of digestion and assimilation. That which should go to make milk and butter must be used for fuel. The digestive powers of the animal are overtaxed. Every observant farmer or stockman knows that any animal that is exposed to severe cold will eat much more hay than one that is kept in a warm stable. To digest this extra amount, which serves only to keep the animal warm, is wasteful as well as of power. And the problem of temperature is no less. Keep your cows quiet by treating them kindly, by dehorning at least the unruly ones, by keeping them in warm stables in cold weather and on days, and by keeping them always where their feet will be dry. Ever, thinking man knows it will pay.—D. W. Working, in Agricultural Economist.

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