

GARDEN & FARM

POTATO EXPERIENCE.

Late potatoes were a failure in New York state the present season. This was due to the incessant rain fall which flooded the lowlands and caused decay and blight even on the higher ground. Early potatoes did very well, having nearly reached maturity before the very wet weather came on. This particular section of the state does not grow a large acreage of potatoes, though about 20 miles west they are one of the chief money crops. Little spraying for blight is done by farmers in the immediate vicinity, and indeed, they were so busy the past summer, fishing hay out of the puddles between showers, that there was little time for other work. We only had a small piece of ground in potatoes, and successfully tried a new method of applying copper sulphate. I made it very strong and then used one of the atomizers, which are used to apply Paris green solution—no lime was used. A few hills were sprayed first, and, as they were not burned, the following day the copper was applied to the rest of the field. It checked the blight, so that a fair crop was harvested. The trouble of making the Bordeaux mixture keeps many small growers from applying it. And by adopting the method herein described one can make a little of the solution at a time, and three or four gallons will spray a large number of potatoes, the sprayer being so fine. The solution which I used was so strong that it ate holes through a galvanized pail in which it was left over night. Caution should be used, however, and it should be tried on a few hills, and results noted, before risking one's whole crop. Many say that it is useless to put copper on during rainy weather, that it will be all washed off. I believe that they are wrong, and that it may be applied to advantage between showers, the vines absorbing it in a short time. These potatoes were on sod ground, part of which had been plowed in the fall, the balance in the spring. On the spring-plowed portion the tubers were badly eaten by white grubs, while on the fall-plowed part of the field little damage was done.—B. Howard, in Agricultural Epitomist.

HOMEMADE CHEESE.

Get from the drug store a supply of ready prepared rennet tablets. Bring the milk to a temperature of eighty-five degrees. Put it in a tub or large churn, which must be very clean and sweet. Dissolve the rennet tablets in water and stir them into the milk. Cover with a cloth and let stand three-fourths of an hour. Being now set it can be cut into small pieces. Wait a few minutes and then place over it a cloth and dip the whey through the cloth. Reach in and break the curd. This will liberate more whey, which should be dipped off. Continue this process till the whey supply exhausts.

Wet a cloth in whey and spread in an ordinary basket. Lift the curd into this basket previously placed over some vessel to allow all extra whey to pass out. Heat some whey near 100 degrees and pour it over the curd. Work it with the hands gently but thoroughly. Salt to suit the taste and set cheese hoop which has been previously provided. Line it with a clean cloth wet with whey and place it on a clean plank and put in the curd. Close the corners of the cloth smoothly over it and place on top a wooden cover just large enough to fit inside the hoop and weight it down. In twelve to fifteen hours take the cheese out and turn it over after removing the cloth and supplying its place with a fresh, clean one. Replace the wooden cover and weight it down again. Let it remain twenty-four to thirty-six hours and take it out of the hoop. Wrap up in a clean cloth and store away in a moderately warm room.—T. E. Richey, in Orange Judd Farmer.

SOIL MOISTURE.

As rains fall the moisture goes down and when an excess of moisture exists (which happens only after the soil is saturated, and all the spaces between the particles are filled) crops cannot thrive, because the solution of plant food would be too dilute. As the water fills the soil the air is driven out, and continued rains will cause the excess of water to stand on the surface if it cannot flow off. The soil will dry slowly unless there is an outlet below, evaporation of the moisture creating cold and destroying the plants. When the soil has been tilled or has some kind of drainage the excess of water goes down, and the air follows, carrying warmth, while the soil will retain sufficient moisture for the crops, though a large portion of the soil moisture will be lost if not conserved by judicious cultivation. As the water leaves the earth at the surface that lower down comes up through capillary attraction, but a large proportion of the lower water is arrested by the plant roots before it can pass up, and is then utilized. Organic matter in the soil increases its water-holding capacity, and widens the range between drought and excessive water supply, either of which is injurious to plant life. Water held by the organic matter may be useful to the bacterial life that forwards the decomposition of organic substances in the soil, and as the decomposition continues there may be a gradual liberation of moisture as the organic substances are more and more reduced. The water may also be useful to growing crops. But moisture alone will not forward crops; warmth is essential, and as the excess of water is removed from below the soil becomes warmer at the

surface, and the roots go down as the water recedes. When the soil is loosened on the surface evaporation is prevented and the supply is continued over a larger period of time.—Philadelphia Record.

CROP BOUND.

Mild cases of crop bound may be relieved by giving the fowl a teaspoonful of sweet oil, and then working up the contents of the crop until it has become softened. This is often successfully done when the trouble is caused by overfeeding but when, as is frequently the case, a solid mass of grass or other indigestible matter forms, nothing but an operation can bring relief. In such cases open the crop by making an incision near the top large enough to admit a pair of tweezers, and then remove the obstruction. With a needle take a few stitches in the opening, and the operation is complete.

Put the fowl in a coop in a quiet place with straw to stand on, and feed very lightly for a few days. Within a week the wound should be entirely healed, and if the other fowls are at large the patient may be given her freedom, but if all are confined in pens it will be better to keep her alone until the feathers that were removed have regrown. It sometimes happens that the other fowls will pick a wound and from such a beginning acquire the feather eating habit. We ourselves are usually to blame for cases of crop bound, and when one occurs we should investigate our methods and remedy them.—Home and Farm.

GRAIN MIXTURE FOR COWS.

The station is receiving many inquiries relative to the most economic grain mixtures for milk production. All kinds of grain are relatively high at present. Taking feeding effect and cost into consideration, the following mixtures are suggested: (1) 100 pounds flour middlings, 100 pounds cottonseed or gluten meal; mix and feed seven to eight quarts daily; (2) 100 pounds bran, 150 pounds corn and cob meal, 100 pounds cottonseed or gluten meal; mix and feed seven to eight quarts daily; (3) 100 pounds corn and cob meal, 125 pounds gluten feed; mix and feed five to six quarts daily, preferably mixed with corn silage.

Very satisfactory and economic results are being obtained at this station with the following: 200 pounds distillers' dried grains, 150 pounds corn and cob meal; mix and feed five to six quarts daily; also with 100 pounds flour middlings; mix and feed six to eight quarts daily. During these times of high feed prices it is important to study the subject of economic feeding.—J. B. Lindsey, of the Hatch Experiment Station.

SHEEP DIP FOR FOWLS.

For destroying chicken lice, F. E. Emery, of the Wyoming station recommends that the fowls be dipped in a solution of sheep dip. He estimates that ten to twelve and a half gallons will be sufficient for thirty to forty fowls. The plumage should be thoroughly soaked, and care exercised to prevent the solution getting into the lungs of the fowls. Yards and buildings should be sprayed with the same preparation. Mr. Emery's directions seem a little unsafe, since sheep dip differ greatly in composition. Those which contain the different oils of petroleum origin are liable to do serious injury to the plumage and skin. Most of the dipping preparations should first be tried very cautiously. Aside from the proper arrangements for removing and cleaning roosts and nest boxes, providing a good dust-bath before the window where it is warm and sunny, is the only remedy usually needed during the winter. Read dust is best, but if it has not been secured in the proper season, use sifted coal ashes.

RECRUITING FILES.

How many farmers, blacksmiths and other users of the file, after using it a short time, do not replace it with a new one? When for the sum of one dime they can make new files of all the old ones. Take four ounces of common baking soda, dissolve it in one quart of boiling water or enough to cover the files; boil one half an hour, take out and dry thoroughly; place in a jar of rainwater, add four ounces of sulphuric acid and put in files; let remain from 8 to 12 hours; remove, rub dry and put on them a little sweet or machine oil. Cover solution tightly and label: Poison. This can be used several times and is all right for recruiting files.—W. T. Rehse, in The Epitomist.

ADVANTAGES OF SILO SYSTEM.

Less waste of fodder than by drying. Three times as much storage capacity as if stored in mows. Juicy winter feed keeps up the milk flow. Ensilage is estimated, on good experiment station authority, as two or three times as cheap as roots. Keep cows in a healthy condition, better than dry food and gives good appetite. It helps save late crops in bad weather. It helps out old pasturage. Twice as many cattle can be kept on the average farm. No sudden change from green to dry food, and the reverse.

In 1893, the year the car-coupling law was passed, the number of casualties caused by the coupling and uncoupling of cars by the old link-and-pin arrangement was 11,710, of which 433 were fatal. Last year, the first year in which the law was in full effect, the total number of casualties from this cause was 2,256, of which 133 were fatal.

Fashions



of Today

New York City.—Box pleats unquestionably make the most marked and individual feature of the season. This stylish blouse combines them with the



BOX PLEATED ROUSE.

fashionable big collar and loose sleeves and is essentially chic. As shown it is made of white pongee with collar shield and cuffs of twine colored lace over silk veiled with chiffon, and is daintily charming, but all silks, soft wools, fine linen and cotton fabrics are appropriate and the design suits both the odd waist and the costume.

The foundation is a smoothly fitted lining that closes at the centre front. On it are arranged the plain back, the shield and the box pleated fronts. The back is smooth across the shoulders and drawn down in gathers at the waist line, but the fronts are gathered and droop slightly and becomingly over the belt. The sleeves are box pleated from the shoulders to slightly below the elbows, then fall in soft puffs and are gathered into deep cuffs. The clos-

ing is effected invisibly beneath the central pleat.

To cut this waist in the medium size four yards of material twenty-one inches wide, three and one-half yards twenty-seven inches wide, three and one-half yards thirty-two inches wide, or two yards forty-four inches wide will be required, with one and three-fourth yards of all-over lace for collar, shield and cuffs.

Woman's House Jacket.

Dainty house jackets are essential to comfort and to making that best appearance under all conditions which it is every woman's duty to cultivate. The very pretty May Manton example shown in the large drawing is absolutely simple, and at the same time is attractive and becoming. The original is made of white lawn, with trimming of Valenciennes lace, but all washable fabrics are suitable as well as light weight wools and simple silks.

The jacket consists of fronts, back and side backs, with bell sleeves. Both the fronts and the back are tucked, the former to the yoke depth, the latter to the waist line, but fall in soft folds below the tucks. The sleeves are slightly flowing, but can be gathered into bands in bishop style, as shown in the small cut. At the neck is a standing collar with a turk-over portion of lace.

Blue and Silver House Gown.

A charming afternoon or reception gown is of pale blue lousine. The skirt is laid in rather loose accordion pleats and sweeps the ground on all sides. The waist is also accordion pleated and draped with blue chiffon pailletted in silver. The pointed neck yoke is of Venetian lace. The loose sleeve is a combination of lousine, chiffon and lace. The narrow girde is

Lace Shoes.

Shoes and slippers of all-over lace are much worn. The delicate white lace is laid over satin of a pale tint. Black lace over white or colored satin is also seen.

Leather Fobs.

Leather fobs of black or brown take the place of tassels on the newest umbrellas. They are very smart.

Woman's Hungarian Dress Sleeve.

That the sleeve makes or mars the gown admits of no argument. It is the feature of features and more surely than any other determines style and date. The excellent model illustrated is up to date, correct and smart and

Serviceable House Jacket.

is effected invisibly beneath the central pleat.

To cut this waist in the medium size four yards of material twenty-one inches wide, three and one-half yards twenty-seven inches wide, three and one-half yards thirty-two inches wide, or two yards forty-four inches wide will be required, with one and three-fourth yards of all-over lace for collar, shield and cuffs.

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Woman's Dress Sleeve.

lace for capes; for short sleeves, one yard twenty-one inches wide, one yard twenty-seven inches wide, or one-half yard forty-four inches wide.

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