

FARM AND GARDEN



HOW TO MAKE GOOD BUTTER.

To make good butter you must set your milk where the wind will not blow on it, for the wind dries the cream, and dried cream will not make butter. In warm weather keep your cream still, for if you want your cream to become sour stir it often. Very sour milk will not produce a good quality of butter. In cool or cold weather don't think that you must let your milk set until it is sour before you take off the cream. Forty-eight hours is a sufficient length of time for milk to produce all the cream it is capable of producing, in a right temperature it will rise in less time. Much poor butter is the result of bad management of the cream. It is a good plan in warm weather to save strippings, about a quart night and morning from each cow, and churn every day. Churn your cream as cool as possible in warm weather. Much butter is spoiled by churning the cream too warm. If your butter comes rather warm, put in twice the salt you usually do, work your butter just enough to mix the salt well through it, and set it away in a cool place for 24 hours, then take it up and work it over. Much of the salt will be dissolved and will work out. Thoroughly cleanse your butter with salt. Use no water about your butter, for you cannot cleanse butter or any other lump of grease with water. Some women talk as though butter was not fit to eat unless it is first washed with cold water, when the fact is that the cold water always damages butter. Butter that is washed with water is not fit to pack, for it will not keep. When the brine that oozes from your butter, as you work it, is clear, that is, clear from milk, it is worked enough; don't give it another stroke, except to get it into shape. Pack your butter in perfectly clean vessels, and keep it well covered with strong brine. When you use your butter, set it on the table just as you cut it out of the tub, for it is injured if worked after it has been packed. If all butter was made after this plan, we would see but little that is poor.—Ella M. Hees, in the Epitomist.

ABOUT FALL PLOWING.

There seems to be considerable difference of opinion regarding the value of early and late fall plowing. I have had considerable experience and believe that I can say that I have received the best results from early fall plowing. This plan prevents the developments of weeds. The land is much more easily taken care of and kept free from weed pests than if the plowing is done late, or is delayed until the following spring. I detest a weed and any method of farming that will prevent the development of these pests is very satisfactory to me. In southeastern Iowa where land has been cropped for a long period of years I feel that early fall plowing is the most satisfactory. The sooner I can plow the better. In some localities, however, the soil is so light that windstorms during the autumn and early winter and also early in the spring blow away the soil that has been plowed in the autumn. Where this is true it may not be practical to plow in the fall. However, I am of the opinion that it is still advisable to plow in the fall and sow some crop which will grow well in autumn and start early in the spring. This will prevent the drifting of the soil. A crop which is very satisfactory to hold the soil in place is buckwheat. Sow this early and by the time cold weather comes sufficient growth will have been made to prevent the wind doing the land any particular damage.—E. Bradley.

CORN AND COB MEAL AGAIN.

We have several times lately published the experience of feeders, and results of the State Experiment Stations in feeding corn-and-cob meal. On this subject Prof. Curtiss, of the Iowa Station, says: "Corn and cob meal will give fully as good results as pure corn meal without the cob. There is then a gain of fourteen pounds in every bushel, which is well worth considering. It requires a good mill, however, to grind the corn and cob meal properly, and the stone burr mills generally give the best service, though some of the steel mills do good work if the plates are kept in good repair. For a number of years it has been the policy at the Iowa Experiment Station and agricultural college to use corn and cob meal instead of corn meal, whenever the conditions are such as to warrant grinding at all, and we have never had any injurious results that could be attributed to the use of corn and cob meal when properly ground and fed to cattle." The cob thus utilized is a saving of 25 per cent. of the corn so fed, and therefore an important matter, especially as corn will continue no doubt at a high price for another year.

SELECTING SEED CORN.

The best time to select corn is before the corn is cut. Go through the field and choose from those plants which are of the desired type. After the corn is once cut, it is almost impossible to tell the type of the plant when sorting out the ears at husking

time. Although there is some gain in selecting the best ears when husking, yet a more rapid advance can be made by going through the field before harvesting, and pulling off the seed corn at that time. The husks should be left on the ears, which ought to be husked at once and trussed up to dry, either in the manner shown in the illustration, or hung in a dry, airy lot, where there is no danger of mold or of attacks by rats or mice.

SHEEP ARE GOOD MIXERS.

Professor Kennedy, of the Iowa Experiment Station, says that there are 600 kinds of weeds and grasses growing in the agricultural states, and of these sheep eat 550, horses eat 82 and cattle eat 56. He says sheep relish most weeds, and do well on them, therefore, every farm of a quarter section should have at least a flock of twenty-five sheep to help keep down the weeds, and that small flocks pay their way on most farms in this way. He adds: "Less labor is required in handling sheep than almost any other kind of stock. During a large portion of the year they will take care of themselves and at the same time utilize the weeds and other wastes found on so many farms. True it is that at certain seasons of the year they must be given food, care and attention. This is especially so at lambing time. The successful flockmaster is the one who watches the old and young very closely at this season of the year."

PLUCKING GEESSE.

It's all right to pluck geese when their feathers are right and begin to molt. This will occur about the first of July and if only the feathers that come easy are plucked it is easy and not injurious to them. It is poor policy to pluck geese more than once a year and not advisable to pluck the geese at all. In plucking a goose, draw a stocking over its head, or you are apt to get bitten. Do not pick the feathers that cover the wing butts, as it will cause the wings to drop and means a lot of trouble for the goose. Do not pick feathers growing in the back, or the down on any part of the body. It would make nice pillows, but let it be. It is enough to pick the down from those you kill for market.—E. F. Barry, formerly of Maine.

SHEEP FEEDING.

Prof. Kennedy, of the Iowa Station, referring to some of the experiments in feeding sheep, says: "Mutton can be produced much more economically during the summer months on grass alone than it can be produced by feeding grain and hay during the fall and winter months. The feeder can oftentimes purchase half-fat lambs during the latter part of April or the first part of May, and by grazing them from forty to sixty days, realize a good profit, due to the advance in market prices during the first of July over those ruling in April and the first part of May. Sheep can be fattened economically on grass and corn or on grass alone. Soy beans, on account of their high protein content, should not form the sole grain ration in conjunction with clover hay."

BEAN PODS NOT GOOD FOR COWS.

I am getting the notion that bean pods are not good for milk cows. My Jerseys do not get with calf readily when given this sort of feed. Some of my neighbors made the same complaint. Two years ago considerable of the bean roughage was fed to the cows, and now I have one cow that does not come in heat at all and will have to be sold for beef. It appears that some of the others were affected more or less, though they appear to get over the difficulty since I stopped feeding the pods. Cows eat them greedily as soon as they learn the taste, and so do horses, so that it will be my practice hereafter to feed bean pods to my horses, as I have no sheep.—John Chamberlain, Erie County, N. Y.

Chicago in Babylonia.

President Harper of the University of Chicago has succeeded in securing from the Sultan the right to explore the ruins of ancient Babylon. The university has now obtained permission to excavate in Tel Ibrahim. Application was made to the Sultan for permission to explore the ruins of Babylon and its neighborhood in 1900, and after long delays it was granted. But further delays occurred and the trade was not issued. Then it was discovered that the Germans had received permission to explore the same territory. It is believed that the ruins of the temple in which Nebuchadnezzar offered sacrifices in 550 B. C., and also an extensive library of clay tablets, will be uncovered.

Sir Hiram Maxim declares that his flying machine is an unqualified success. As he has never put his new theory to a practical test, and it is still a dead secret, there's no room for argument.

BISON IN MONTANA.

Success in Building up a Herd From Small Beginnings.

The University of Montana, Missoula, maintains a biological station near Flathead Lake, in the northwestern part of the State. Professor Morton J. Elrod, director of the station, describes in "A Biological Reconnaissance," published last year by the university, the herd of 230 buffaloes on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The herd, derived from thirty-six animals purchased in 1884 by Charles Allard and Michael Pablo, has in twenty years increased to more than 350 or ten times the original number. Many of the animals have been sold to show enterprises and to Eastern cities for parks and zoological gardens. The conditions here are more favorable for buffalo than in Yellowstone Park. The animals are constantly attended by a herder, and therefore are not afraid of man, while the Yellowstone Park herd is rarely seen.

The park herd also ranges at a high altitude, over seven thousand feet, where snows are deep and winters are long and severe; but the Flathead herd ranges at an altitude below three thousand feet, where deep snows do not occur, or hay and grain may be taken to the animals in a few hours. Their range does not exceed seventy to one hundred square miles, and the animals might be maintained in a much smaller range. The cows do not bear calves until they are four or five years old, and about half of them produce every year. The fertility of the herd is not decreasing. The herder keeps note of the increase, looks after the calves, and, in fact, the animals are much more carefully attended than the range cattle among which they graze.

Professor Elrod is of opinion that the success of this private enterprise should stimulate Congress to increase its efforts to save the buffalo from extinction. An appropriation of \$8,000 would buy as large a herd as Allard and Pablo purchased in the beginning. With the same care the herd should increase to between 400 and 500 in twenty years. If a tract of land containing from fifty to one hundred square miles were set apart for a buffalo range, with an appropriation at the start of \$15,000 and an annual appropriation of \$5,000, there would be no difficulty in developing a herd that would be a credit to the nation. The care of the herd should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Biological Survey Department of Agriculture. It is hardly to be expected that the animals will thrive in Yellowstone Park, where the winters are long and severe, the summers short, and protection is afforded to wild animals which prey upon the calves.—Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.

TERRAPIN TRAPS.

A New Device for Exterminating the Diamond Back.

The terrapin hunters have adopted a new method for catching terrapin, and what few are left in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries will soon be in the terrapin pounds. The new device is a trap constructed about on the same principle as the cel pot. The body of the trap is constructed of wire and the entrance of twine, so woven that the terrapins easily enter, but find it impossible to get out. The trap is then filled with bait, for the most part crushed crabs, and set in the marsh where terrapins have been located. The terrapin hunter walks through the marsh and discovers his game by the protruding heads, as the terrapins are compelled to come to the surface to breathe. Many of them are drowned in these traps, and one hunter states that he has seen twenty-two drowned in this manner during the present summer. A terrapin cannot live in one of these traps over three hours, and thus the hunter must be on the move constantly if he would preserve his game alive. Terrapins are also being caught in purse nets, but these cannot be used in shallow streams successfully on account of the numerous stumps of trees on the bottom. One hunter made a large haul with a fyke some weeks ago. He saw a large number of terrapin going up a narrow marsh stream and knew that it was useless to follow them at once on account of the numerous deep holes which rendered the terrapin practically safe from pursuit. He therefore stopped up the stream with the exception of one narrow outlet, in which he placed his fyke. Night after night he waited patiently for the terrapin to come down. At length one night there came a heavy rain, and the terrapin came down with a rush, so that he caught more of them than he had caught at one time for many years.—Baltimore Sun.

An Imprisoned Lobster.

A strange freak was found in Vineyard Haven harbor this summer by a young woman who was bathing. She saw a bottle on the bottom and lived for it. When it was brought to the surface it was found to contain a live lobster far too large to have crawled through the neck of the bottle. It is supposed that it got into the trap when it was a little fellow, and was unable to find its way out, but how it got food enough to grow on is a mystery.

Light-colored cloths will be seen in tailor-mades.

Farm hands in Norway receive \$48 to \$80 a year.

The Making of Exposition Statuary.

The work of enlarging the statuary for the St. Louis Exposition is progressing rapidly under the direction of Karl Bitter, Chief of the Department of Agriculture, in the abandoned round-house of the Erie Railway in Hoboken, which is used as a studio. Formerly the sculptor modeled and entirely completed their own groups and figures, working at a great disadvantage. But with newer methods, requiring only the conception of the idea in the form of a small model, the sculptor is not required to work upon his own statue. This has been made possible by the great improvement in methods of enlargement. The "pointing-machine," the invention of a young Brooklyn sculptor, R. T. Paine, is employed in making the enlarged figure correspond precisely in proportion and outline to the clay model. Adjoining a plaster cast of this clay model is placed a framework of wood, which presents the general outlines of the figure or group to be reproduced. It is covered with plaster until an outline resembling, in some degree, that of the model has been attained.

Then the pointing-machine is brought into play. It is a horizontal tin tube some eight feet in length, with smaller tubes or arms at each end terminating in points, and extending from it at right angles. The machine is operated upon a framework which has a sliding-scale measurement. Upon the plaster model small black dots have been made about an inch apart. The point of the small arm of the machine is placed on one of these dots, and the point of the long arm is placed in a correspondent to it on the figure to be built up. Nails are driven in to mark these spots, and cement is put on to round out the figure. Two men operate the machine. The figure is then brought to the stage where it may receive the finishing touches from the hands of an expert workman, who is himself a sculptor.—Elsie Reasoner, in Harper's Weekly.

The Odious Habit of Whining.

There isn't anything in the world, says Medical Talk, more disagreeable than a whining person. He whines at this, he whines at that, he whines at everything. Whine, whine, whine. It is just a habit he has fallen into. There is nothing the matter with him. It is just a bad habit.

The whiner is generally an idle person or a lazy one. What he needs is to be set to work—at real hard work, mental or physical. Some work that will interest him and engage his whole attention and he will not have time to whine. We know two women. One of them does her own housework and takes care of her horse besides. She is happy and singing all the day long. The keyboard of her life sounds no whining note. It is a pleasure to be with her. The other woman is so situated that she does not have to work. Nothing to do but amuse herself. She has no zest in life, no interest in anything. She is a bunch of selfishness and whines at everything. Whining has become such a habit with her that her most casual remark is tinged with a whine. She is miserable herself and makes everybody else in her presence miserable. She is a walking, a parasite, a drag, a heavy weight on somebody all the time.

Get the whine out of your voice or it will stop the development and growth of your body. It will narrow and shrink your mind. It will drive away your friends; it will make you unpopular. Quit your whining; brace up; go to work; be something; stand for something; fill your place in the universe. Instead of whining around, exciting only pity and contempt, face about and make something of yourself. Reach up to the stature of a strong, ennobling manhood, to the beauty and strength of a superb womanhood.

Water for the Stomach.

The alimentary receptacle, the stomach or vat in which foods and liquids are received and mixed, says Health, is habitually converted by many persons into a chemical retort for all sorts of drugs and remedies, with the view of reaching and relieving the ills of various organs of the body, from dandruff to corns. The writer believes that he can give no more and better reasons for his confidence in the therapeutic value of remedies than most other physicians, but he wishes to emphasize here the transcendent element of common sense in their administration.

Before and above all things, however, what is wanted is a clean gastrointestinal canal, and his claim is that water, properly used, is the best agent to effect that cleansing. On a part with this canal in importance are the eliminative tissues and organs of the system, the kidneys, mucous membrane and skin. What therapeutic agent, properly used, is better than water? After all the assimilative and eliminative organs and tissues have been thoroughly rinsed with pure soft water, then, if it be still necessary to administer a chemical agent, one may be selected that will, with these organs and tissues in better condition work wonders. If you are so foolish as to allow yourself to become foul from head to foot, cleanse yourself with water before resorting to chemical aids.

In New York City schools 1,000 children have trachoma.

Billy's War Record.

A veteran of the Spanish-American War was before Justice Lewis, at the Northeastern Police Station, on Saturday morning, in the person of Billy Goat, late mascot of the United States ship Atlanta.

Billy, a moderately large gray specimen of the genus goat, was the bone of contention between Charles A. Halle, 961 North Wolfe street, and Joseph Crowley, 16 South Castle street, the latter being charged by the former with the larceny of Billy, whose value was placed at \$10 by his owner. Billy was turned over to Halle and Crowley was discharged.

Billy has a record that is enviable. He has served on the United States ships Detroit, Buffalo, Dolphin, Texas, Annapolis and Atlanta. He was enlisted as a member of the Atlanta's crew, being rated as an "able mascot," papers as to his physical fitness having been drawn up by the ship's surgeon. He was assigned a berth and treated like his shipmates. Several times he was severely disciplined for drunkenness, and once was compelled to do duty in the engine room for breaking up a ping pong game between his superior officers. Once while Halle was a patient in the Marine Hospital at Norfolk the goat in some way broke its leg. Thereupon "Billy Goat" was regularly registered as a patient and put to bed, where he remained until the leg had knit.

Previous to his departure from the police station yesterday the goat "shook hands" with Justice Lewis and others in the court room.—Baltimore Sun.

Tact Among Doctors.

To succeed in the practice of medicine tact is as necessary as skill. In Everybody's Magazine a woman doctor tells of the loss of her first opportunity: "A delicate young woman came fluffing into my office on a wet, raw day to know why she had such a cold. I looked down at her thin ties and openwork stockings, and expressed myself with comfortable freedom. How could she expect anything else with such footgear?"

"She took my prescription in displeased silence and never came back. I heard that she described me afterward as quite too cold and unsympathetic to be a good doctor; and so, perhaps, I lost others as well as her. I had been right, of course, from the highest standpoint; but that is a luxury no young doctor can afford. I should have petted her, babbled her, listened to all her troubles, and introduced the matter of footgear so delicately that she would be drawn away from openwork by the silken thread of persuasion."

A Rude Razor.

The East Indian correspondent of an English hardware trade journal recently sent to his paper a photograph of an Indian razor, which is a rough blade which looks as if it would not cut soap. Millions of these native blades, he asserts, are in every day use by the benighted natives of India. Until recently, owing to the natural conservatism of the race, the European article, though admittedly much superior, was totally neglected. Orthodox natives, like the Chinese, consider it a crime to attempt to improve on the handwork of their forefathers, so that the present native razor is just the same as that in use centuries ago. The blade is probably made out of a piece of junk iron. It has a blade about 2 1/2 inches long and a handle turned out of a piece of teak—by a fiddle lathe, probably—rigidly attached to the blade. This bazaar for six annas, equivalent to device can be bought in the native 18 cents; while the cheapest German razor offered in the shops costs twice as much.

Modern Lake Dweller on Lake Constance.

M. Henneberg, a great silk manufacturer, who recently retired from business, has built for himself on Lake Constance a habitation exactly after the model of a prehistoric lake dwelling shown in the Zurich Museum. The building, which is about two hundred feet off the coast of the lake, rests upon piles a few yards above the level of the water. It consists of only one room, and its framework is made from the wood of the yew tree. Around the room a gallery extends of a width of some five feet or seven feet. The walls consist of willow wickerwork and mud plaster, the floor of hard mud and plaited willow, and the ceiling of pressed straw. The walls are ornamented with designs drawn with coal and bullock's blood.

The Baby's First Tooth.

It is a funny craze that urges the wearing of baby's first milk-tooth, but this is positively rampant among Jeeply devoted Parisian mammas. The shedding of the first tooth is most carefully watched for, and afterward this pearly trifle is handed over to the jeweler. He polishes and trims the little tooth until it has all the appearance of a gem, and in a ring it takes the place of a jewel. Some rings are of plain gold, with only the tooth as an ornament, but more often baby's first milk tooth forms the center in a marquise ring of diamonds and a hoop ring has been seen containing five little teeth taking their positions among large diamonds.

Thirty-seven per cent. of the American people now live in cities of more than 4,000 inhabitants.

National bank notes are one-sixth of the money in circulation.

BUDGET OF HUMOR

THE QUESTION.

Publicity! Oh, potent thing,
How harshly is your way pursued!
'Tis you who bids the poet sing
Of medicines and patent food.
And if one pens a simple strain
Of tender blooms and smiling skies,
Your business man will look again
And say, "What does it advertise?"

And if you sing of heroea bold
Who battle for a nation's weal;
If tales of statesmanship are told
Which great sagacity reveal;
Or if 'tis art that claims your praise
In language so intensely wise,
The people smile and go their ways
And ask, "Whom does it advertise?"
—Washington Star.

THE REWARD OF ECONOMY.

Kwoter—What's that old saying?
"Take care of the pennies and—"
Newitt—And the dollars will take care of your heirs.—Philadelphia Press.

TRAMPLES ON IT.

"I would lay the world at your feet," said the extravagant youth.
"My dear Sir," answered the haughty girl, "it is there already."
—Washington Star.

DESCRIPTIVE.

Darkaway—Did you make love to any girls at the shore?
Cleverton—Yes. One from Boston and one from New Orleans.
"How was it?"
"Did you ever have chills and fever?"—Smart Set.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

"Oh-oh!" shudders the fair young thing who is going through the iron works. "What makes that awful squeal every time they start the metal through those monster rolls?"
"That," explains her guide, "is the pig-iron."
—Judge.

BETTER PLAN.

"Did you tell Clarence you would cut him off without a cent if he married that girl?"
"No," answered the wise father, "the idiot would marry her in spite of that. I told the girl."
—Indianapolis Sun.

MERE CONJECTURE.

"Have you ever known any one," she asked, "who was actually killed by happiness?"
"Well," replied the crusty old bachelor, "I can't say positively as to that, but I did know a chap once who was found dead on his mother-in-law's ve."
—Chicago Record-Herald.

TERRIBLE FATE.

Parrot—What is the matter with the monkey?
Owl—He thinks he's going to die. Great believer in transmigration, you know.
Parrot—What of that?
Owl—Why, he's afraid he'll return to earth in the shape of a dude.
—Chicago News.

RIGHT UP TO DATE.

Jenkins—Have you a typewriter at your office?
Jinks—Yes, indeed.
Jenkins—What style?
Jinks—Oh, the very latest. You should see the new fall gown she's wearing these days.—Philadelphia Ledger.

BRINGING HIM AROUND.

"I can't get up early," said a wealthy gentleman to his doctor.
"Oh, yes, you can," was the reply. "If you will only follow my advice. What is your usual hour of rising?"
"Nine o'clock."
"Well, get up half-an-hour later every day, and in the course of a month you will find yourself up at 4 in the morning."
—Pearson's Weekly.

AN EPOCH.

"How old are you?" the school teacher asked the new student.
"Six years old," lisped the little one.
"When were you six?" asked the teacher.
"The day our hired girl came," said the little one, conclusively.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

JUST LIKE A WOMAN.

Mrs. Growells—Our servant has left.
Growells—Well, I'm glad of it. You were always complaining of her. Mrs. Growells—Yes, but I'm afraid I'll never be able to get another who will furnish as much cause for complaint.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

POETRY REDUCED TO ITS "GRAB STAKE."

Cecil (sentimentally)—Don't you feel gloomy when the sky is overcast with gray, when the rhythmic rain sounds a dirge upon the roof and the landscape's beauties are hid by the weeping mist?
Hazel (sweetly)—Yes, it's dreadfully annoying. It does make one's hair come out of curl so!
—Tid Bits.

The United States imports of tropical and semi-tropical fruits \$1,000,000 a day.