

FARM AND GARDEN



STANDARD FOR MILK.

Why should milk that contains much cream be accounted the best? Cream is only fat, and we do not rate the food-value of meats solely by the amount of fat that they include, says Literary Digest. Dr. J. O. Gilbert, writing in the "Medical Record" (New York), takes the view that this devotion to "rich" milk has no logical basis. In our earnest search after a fat milk, he says, we have probably gone too far. We quote from an editorial in "The Hospital" (London, November 17) which notes Dr. Gilbert's opinion appreciatively:—

"The milk which is richest in cream is not, therefore, the most nutritious, for the very simple reason that a rich milk is less easily digested and absorbed than a milk in which the fat percentage is low. As far as its other constituents are concerned, a milk poor in fat is as valuable a food as a milk rich in fat. The fat percentage, the popular standard by which milk is judged, is most valuable while the proportions of the albuminoids, sugars, and salts vary but little in the different samples of milk. In other words, while the energy-producing and heat-giving qualities of the several kinds of milk may be great or little, the valuable proteid ingredients, which go to the building-up of the tissues—the prime property of any food—remain very much the same in all varieties of cows' milk. Thus a 'thin' milk is for all purposes, save for energy and heat production, as valuable a food as the so-called 'rich milk.' Indeed, it is not infrequently happens as the experimental feeding of young growing animals has shown, that a thin milk may prove, in the long run, more flesh forming than a rich milk, inasmuch as the former is less liable to induce gastroenteric disorders. Let us consider what this means. It means, first of all, that the enormous quantity of skim-milk produced in this country could be turned to more economical use than the feeding of animals or the manufacture of 'ivory' for table knives and piano keys. The despised skim-milk is a valuable article of food, capable of supplying many of the wants of the organism, and from its lightness and digestibility, peculiarly suitable to those whose digestive powers are debilitated. It means, that buttermilk, which can be had for the asking almost everywhere in this country, is a valuable food for men and women, although at present utilized only to feed pigs. Surely, if he is esteemed the greatest benefactor to the race who can grow two grains of corn where only one grew before, in like manner honor should be paid him who rescues a waste-product and transforms it into a valued article of a nation's diet."

very different supervision over their pets. There is no excuse for the existence of the countless ownerless, worthless curs infesting out cities everywhere, menacing humanity and live stock as they do today. The writer loves a good dog, and feels that concerted action on some such lines as here suggested will uplift the dog, by culling out the bad and greatly enhancing the respectable remainder. This is not class legislation for farmers; its direct benefits point straight to every man, woman and child in the country, whether resident or visitor. Therefore we are all for it.

SELLING FERTILITY.

The "Mirror and Farmer" thinks it quite time that farmers disabuse their minds of the old-time notion that selling hay tends to impoverish the farm which has its foundation in the fact that under conditions existing in earlier times the fertilizing elements contained in the hay could not easily be replaced, but in these days of agricultural development it is not more difficult to replace the fertility removed by selling hay than to replace an animal sold with another animal. The price of hay is higher this winter than for several years and it requires good management to feed it to any kind of stock at present prices and realize its selling value. The wise farmer has a supply of ensilage for the main feeding of his farm animals. The production of hay for market can be conducted upon a farm adapted to grass as one of the products without depleting the fertility of the soil, as well as any other product, if restoring the elements of fertility removed in the hay from some other source is given intelligent attention. This can be done by growing clover, application of chemicals and cultivation of the soil, making it possible to grow and harvest a ton of hay for one-half its selling price today, and if sold making the farm no poorer by the transaction.

PLANTING THE YARD.

In ornamental planting, it is important that great care be taken in grouping plants, making sure they fit in with the neighboring architecture, and seeking to bring out some desired effect. The texture of the foliage, the color of the flowers, the season of bloom and rapidity of growth should all be considered. It is the object of the landscape gardener to create charming effects of sunlight and shadow, and examples in miniature of nature's handiwork as seen in landscapes. All of a yard should not be filled with plants, but there should be broad stretches of grass bordered with shrubbery, so arranged as to produce vistas. The habit of scattering plants all over a yard or of planting them in rows in several given directions, is not ornamental planting. While the plants individually may be beautiful, their arrangement gives the idea of a wilderness, and, as a whole, is unsightly. It spoils the individual beauty of the plants instead of bringing it out. The border lines of a lot and the inside curves of a drive or walk usually require groups of shrubbery; also the corner of a building needs a mass of green to "tie the building to the ground." Unsightly objects should be completely covered by a screen of trees and shrubbery.—Indianapolis News.

A NEW CLOVER.

The Bureau of Plant Industry has been experimenting with a new form of red clover which came from the black soil region of Russia. The plant is practically hairless and therefore, does not hold dust like the common red clover. For this reason it is believed that it will make a better forage plant for horses, since it will be much less likely to cause heaves and will be cleaner and more convenient to handle. Bloating in cattle is perhaps due in part to the presence of hairs on common clover. If this be true the trouble would be obviated by feeding them the new hairless Orel clover.

Another objection to the common red clover is that it matures much earlier than timothy, with which it is usually sown. Is it thus impossible to harvest the mixture at a time when the full value of both the clover and timothy can be obtained. The new Orel clover matures two weeks later than the common red kind, or at the same time with the timothy, and at a season when the farmer's attention is not so imperatively demanded for his corn, and also at a time when in the most of the clover belt the weather is more favorable for harvesting the crop without injury by rain.—Country Life in America.

PLANTING NUT TREES.

There is a rapidly increasing interest in nut growing. The United States imports \$7,000,000 worth of nuts annually, the majority of which could easily be grown at home. As nut trees can be grown along fences and in many other places where they would have no appreciable effect on other farm crops, there is no reason why we should not be exporters instead of importers, except the fact that planting the nut tree means a long wait, and farmers are not good waiters.

ANENT THE RAZOR STROP

SUBJECT IN WHICH MOST MEN ARE KEENLY INTERESTED.

Four Kinds of Leather Used—Modern Article Comes Ready for Use But Old-Fashioned One Has to Be Broken In by the Buyer.

Most men are interested in the subject of razor strops, but comparatively few know how strops are made. Enlightenment on this subject is given by an article in *Hide and Leather*, a portion of which is reproduced herewith.

The leathers used mostly in making razor strops are: Genuine Russia, shell, cordovan, horsehide and kalskin.

Genuine Russia is made in Russia under government supervision and each hide bears the government stamp. They go through a secret process, taking much longer time than domestic tannage. These strops are peculiar in quite a few respects. This leather is the only kind of which the flesh side is successfully used. There is a distinctive and easily distinguishable odor, incidental to the tannage peculiar to this leather, which has never been successfully duplicated in the imitation article. The back is always red in color and marked in square shaped pattern, very plain and yet not so deep, but that when strop is bent the grain is clearly seen.

Russia strops, if properly finished are sold to the trade strictly ready for use, still they are like a good violin—they improve with use. An occasional dash of good creamy lather, well rubbed in with the palm of the hand and a careful working down in regular stropping, will produce a perfect strop.

The shell part of horsehide is a term that is not generally understood. When the Lord made horses he knew men would beat them, so he provided a protection over the hips. This protection is known as the shell. This shell is oval shaped and lies over the rump, one on each side of the backbone. Both sides of the shell have the appearance of a fine grain, and the finer side is the one next the flesh, in contradistinction to the regular horsehide, where the flesh is coarse. The flesh is scraped away on the inner side of the skin until the fine substance of the shell is reached, though contrary to the common notion, the shell is not a double skin.

All leathers need preparation before they are fit for stropping purposes. In former years this was left to the user with varying results, according to the patience and skill they displayed.

The new idea, or as it may be called the Chicago idea, it having originated and obtained its highest perfection there, is to produce a strop that is finished ready for use. A further development of this is, the "ageing idea"—that is, to produce a strop which will have the working quality of a thoroughly broken-in strop, say one in constant use for six months. This latest development is known as the Zulu treatment and finish. The name is taken from the African tribe of black men whose skin is always oily. This Zulu finish is obtained by thoroughly nourishing the fiber of the stock so that the nourishment penetrates through and through the stock. The leather so treated will thus remain always soft and pliable and retain that clinging, drawing quality so necessary for good work in a strop. The finish is in contradistinction to what is known as surface dressing and is without argument greatly superior. The surface dressing has often to be worked off and the strop worked over by the user before it is any good. This new finish can now be had in practically all leathers—Russias, shells and horsehides.

A strop should be kept straight; but if it must be folded, do so with the grain out and not against the grain of the leather to prevent creasing. Do not hang near a stove or register, as heat affects leather injuriously. Keep free from grit and dust. Before using rub clean with soft cloth or palm of the hand. If strop gets too dry or hard, rub with shaving lather until leather absorbs same. Begin stropping while strop is slightly moist. If strop gets glassy and razor slides over it, apply warm water to raise grain, then lather and rub in. In stropping hang strop about even with elbow; hold strop taut and level. Strop from heel to point and be careful not to overstop, particularly on sharpen side. When in doubt, always buy the better quality—you can never get too good a one.

MANY USES FOR TEA.

Circulation as Money in Central Asia—Fuel and Fodder.

In China tea leaves are used in sweeping floors, but this does not end their utilitarian purposes. In regions where fuel is scarce the refuse leaves are pressed into bricks, dried and used in the same manner as blocks of peat. This fuel is particularly prized for pork curing—and the tea cured or tea smoked meat is to the Chinese what beef and sugar cured bacon and ham are to us. The ashes from the fuel are used as a fertilizer.

But even before its use as fuel the refuse tea serves another purpose. The leaves are vigorously stewed or allowed to steep in cold water, in order to recover the tannic acid which they contain (about 12 per cent). This is used in tanning leather and in dyeing textiles. It gives a fine, permanent nut brown color, requires

no mordant and is unaffected by sunlight, bleaching or washing.

Sometimes the refuse tea leaves are used as fodder for farm stock—at least providing bulk if not much nutrition. Again, they may be dried, mixed with the low grade, factitiously scented teas of commerce, and are then known as "lie tea." The decoction resulting from such tea cannot be far superior to one made from the common hay with which we are all acquainted.

The queerest use to which brick tea has ever been put in the Orient is in the capacity of money. It is still in circulation as a medium of exchange in the far inland Chinese towns and central Asian markets and bazaars, southward to the Pamirs and Tibet and northward across Mongolia to the Siberian frontier.

Between the Mongolian town of Urga and the Siberian town of Kiakta there is usually as much as half a million taels of this money in circulation. At the latter place it ceases to be used as currency, and enters into the regular brick tea trade of Siberia and Russia. As brick tea it is largely used in the Russian army, by surveying engineers, touring theatrical companies, traveling hunters and sportsmen and tourists in general.—Scientific American.

The Popularity of "Ben-Hur."

Twenty-six years ago President Garfield ventured the prediction that Gen. Lew Wallace's "Ben-Hur" would "take a permanent and high place in literature." His prophecy, extravagant as it then seemed, has already been justified. It is true that Gen. Wallace's novel has won a popular rather than a critical success; but a novel that can grip the hearts of a whole people becomes, by that very fact, a literary portent of the first order. With the single exception of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," no American book has equaled "Ben-Hur" in popularity. It has been published in fourteen editions, aggregating 1,000,000 copies. It has been translated into German, French, Swedish, Bohemian, Turkish, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic, and has been printed in raised characters for the blind. In its dramatic version it has been witnessed by tens of thousands of people in all our great cities.—Current Literature.

Insurance on Pennsylvania's Capitol.

The State's magnificent \$12,000,000 capitol in Harrisburg has been insured for \$4,000,000, the amount of the original appropriation for the completion of the building. No thought has apparently been given to the nine millions of trimmings and decorations furnished by John H. Sanderson and the Pennsylvania Construction Company, and the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, which awarded the insurance, in its wisdom has considered the figure named by the legislature sufficient to cover any loss which might be incurred through a fire. The insurance has been split up by the board, \$2,000,000 going to two Philadelphia brokerage houses and \$2,000,000 to Harrisburg firms.—Philadelphia Record.

The Danube.

The Danube is not the largest or longest river in the world, but its beautiful blue waters flow through countries in which fifty-two languages and dialects are spoken. Its total length is 1,875 miles, and the Danube basin covers an area of 300,000 square miles. It bears upon its current four-fifths of the commerce of Eastern Europe. "The Beautiful Blue Danube," a waltz, composed by Johann Strauss II, is perhaps the best-known and most popular piece of dance music in the world. It has caused possibly a million marriages, and may have prevented a few. This same Strauss, by the way, who died only eight years ago, was the composer of about 400 waltzes.—New York Press.

Romance in a Banana.

A Handsworth servant girl has had a singular romance arising out of a love letter which she found inside a banana. When preparing a banana for the table she noticed a bird's quill projecting, and inside was a letter written in the smallest characters, but legible. The writer enclosed his address and stated that he was engaged upon the Jamaica plantation. His life was very lonely and he desired a mate to share his loneliness. The girl decided to answer the letter, and two months later received a further reply repeating the offer of marriage. Correspondence continued for about a year. Both were looking forward to marriage when, unfortunately for the Jamaica planter, a former soldier lover of the young lady appeared on the scene and the wedding with the old sweetheart has now been fixed.—London Tribune.

The Ethiopian Hawkshaw.

The Ethiopian method of detecting crime is quick and effective, and has the great advantage of always catching some one. A priest is called, and by his exhortation, prayers, sorceries—and drugs—a youth is sent to sleep with the command to dream. The person he dreams of is the criminal. No further proof is sought or needed. The sanction of the church is quite enough. If by chance the boy fails to dream he is promptly put to sleep again by the same process until he does, so that he usually manages the affair in a short time.—Pall Mall Gazette.

The Salvation Army is established in fifty-two countries and colonies, and preaches the gospel in thirty-one languages.



Thomas Carlyle, likened the railway whistle to the screech of ten thousand cats, every cat of them as big as a cathedral.

The ability to keep constantly and untiringly at the same thing is what makes a genius or a bore, according to the Springfield (Ill.) Journal.

A million Chinese are starving, and the government has set aside \$10,000,000 to begin the reconstruction of their navy, notes the New York World. China will soon be civilized.

The New York Evening Sun declares: "It is possible that in time we may reach the happy condition when every citizen twenty-one years of age will be compelled to show cause why he has not the degree of bachelor of arts."

Mr. William Dean Howells continues to inform us, observes the Atlanta Constitution, that "Genius is hard work." As the farmers hope for an early season, he must have an eye to the strenuous spring plowing.

A London professor of an inquiring turn of mind, observes the Washington Post, has discovered that a woman who dragged her skirt through the street gathered up 10,500,000 disease germs. And probably every one of them had a Latin name a foot long.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat thinks the people of the country are to be congratulated that they are to have two battle ships as powerful as any on the planet, if not more powerful—ships which need not feel apprehension of any enemy on the high seas.

The first woman juror in Denver was "a beautiful young girl with masses of fluffy golden hair and dancing blue eyes." The plaintiff, notes the Courier-Journal, in the divorce case, was a man who charged incompatibility of temper, cruelty and desertion and the verdict was, of course, for the plaintiff.

There is a man out in Toledo who wants to know what is the use of eating, declares the New York Tribune. Sixty days are a "moderate fast" for him. Sometimes he eats just for a change, for everybody likes variety. He lives on air and predicts the time when all mankind will do so. Properly heated, air will undoubtedly accomplish a great deal.

In these days of instantaneous communication by wire, the Boston Post thinks, there is no excuse for ignorance of the exact position of delayed trains at any point of their slow progress, and surely no justification for withholding the information from persons at the station, chafing at the non-appearance of expected friends.

"When there is so much material for scarlet fever to prey on as there is in Chicago," suggests the Chicago Tribune, "it is not easy to stamp out the disease after it has once got a good start. The most energetic efforts may be of little avail, because the intelligent co-operation of the mass of the community cannot be secured. Many people cannot or will not adopt the precautions they are advised to."

The code of unwritten law is likely to become bulky if present tendencies are not checked, admonishes the Washington Post. If a man may kill another for one kind of insult he cannot reasonably be denied the privilege of murdering for any other insult. The scope of unwritten law is therefore very large, and the horizon of its operations is far off. Yet there must be a boundary somewhere if the human race is to survive the sudden judgments of the man with the gun.

The Springfield Union recommends that while the Japanese are being lectured on the necessity for commercial honesty, it is instructive to read that a line of \$2.75 shoes from America was lately landed in Australia of which the Sydney Bulletin says: "The only scrap of real leather about them was a shaving on the soles, the rest consisting of a cloth that looked like kid, some wood, some paper and about 80 stitches."

Crown Prince's Romance. The crown prince of Sweden, now regent, when a youth fell in love with the daughter of a country clergyman. He wanted to renounce his royal rights in order to marry the girl of his choice, but his parents induced him to give up the idea of such an alliance. Tall, slight, with a thoughtful but rather narrow face and intelligent and sensitive eyes, this descendant of a small French provincial lawyer on the one hand and of a long line of German sovereigns on the other looks more like a civil engineer than a future king.—Bath News.

Twenty-five years ago a Voluntary Street Ambulance Association was formed in Vienna. That year its services were required two thousand times; last year nearly 30,000 times.

Workmen in one of the streets of Madrid dug up an old walnut-wood chest containing 300 gold doubloons.

PE-RU-NA
FOR
CATARRH
OF THE
HEAD,
THROAT,
LUNGS,
STOMACH,
KIDNEYS
BLADDER
AND
FEMALE ORGANS.

W. A. Mitchell, dealer in general merchandise, Martin, Ga., writes: "My wife lost in weight from 130 to 68 pounds. We saw she could not live long. She was a skeleton, so we consulted an old physician. He told her to try Peruna."

"She gradually commenced improving and getting a little strength. She now weighs 106 pounds. She is gaining every day, and does her own housework and cooking."

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