

# FARM AND GARDEN

## DRESSED POULTRY FOR CHOICE TRADE.

A select private trade often demands that poultry be very carefully prepared, in which case the giblets should be removed and cleaned. Cut the gall-sack from the liver, the blood vessels from the heart, and remove the contents of the gizzard. Cut off the shanks after first removing the strong sinews which run up through the leg and injure the quality of the "drum-stick." To take out these sinews run a knife blade down the back of the bone of the shank, between it and the sinews. Remove the skin above the sinews, and pull the latter out singly by means of a strong fork or skewer. A still easier way is to have a strong hook fastened to the wall at the proper height. Place the point of the hook under each sinew, which can then be easily drawn out. The bird is now ready for tying up. Replace the giblets in the body cavity, draw the end of the drumsticks down to the "pope's nose," and tie there firmly. Finally fold the wings behind the back. Birds so tied are unusually attractive, always appearing plump and chunky, due to the absence of sprawling legs and wings.

Broilers may be attractively prepared for private trade as follows: Pluck carefully and remove the legs and sinews as above. With a heavy, sharp knife make a cut each side and the entire length of the backbone, severing the ribs. Let these incisions meet in front of the neck and behind the vent. This permits the removal of the head, neck, backbone and entire intestinal tract, and the bird opens out flat in most convenient form to be placed upon the broiler. The giblets should be cleaned and should accompany the carcass.—American Cultivator.

## COW FEEDING.

In answer to some enquiries from a section where corn is not much grown but where barley produces well, Hoard's Dairyman advises as follows:

Barley takes the place of corn for feeding dairy cows, and we therefore suggest that a mixture of bran and barley equal parts by weight be made, and for each 2.5 to 3.0 pounds of milk produced, feed one pound of the combination, together with all the alfalfa hay the cows will consume.

It is possible to feed too much of meal, but there is no danger in feeding two pounds per day.

A calf four weeks or more of age, should have at least 12 to 15 pounds of skim milk per day, and unless exceptionally good inducements are offered for the skim milk, we would not scrimp the calf.

Give the new born calf about 3 pounds of milk at a feed; gradually increasing the allowance as the calf demands it. At the end of ten days or two weeks, add some skim milk and decrease the whole milk; continue until the calf is on skim milk entirely—increasing the allowance as the calf grows larger. Select some fine alfalfa hay and put before it as a very early age and also a little ground barley. Calves will learn to eat when rather young if given an opportunity. Give the calf a liberal allowance of alfalfa—not too much, or it will physic it. Barley is a good food for calves and should be fed right after milking.

Oil meal may be fed dry or put in the milk. We think, however, it is better to feed it dry with the barley meal. A small handful of oil meal is about the usual allowance for calves.

There is practically no difference between shorts and middlings. Middlings should not contain any of the outside layer of the wheat kernel; shorts contain both bran and middlings ground together.

## POULTRY NOTES.

Quality is not always indicated by size in the poultry business.

It takes hard work to get the best results in the poultry business.

The hen and the cow are the farmer's two most valuable kinds of stock.

The only way to be sure your poultry have no lice is to examine them.

The hen house breakfast menu will soon need a few hot things mixed in.

Refrigerators do not make good hen houses—neither do houses full of cracks.

Wood shavings make excellent nests and are not so likely to become infested with lice.

Perches should be built low and arranged so they can be easily taken out and cleaned.

Uniformity in the size of eggs can best be obtained by keeping one standard breed of hens.

A small amount of sulphur fed to the poultry during the winter will keep the blood in condition.

Money spent for poultry feed will be returned twofold in the profit derived from the sale of eggs.

Unless fowls are provided with plenty of water during the early winter, they are liable to contract disease.

If ducks are overfed, they sometimes become so fat that their legs are incapable of supporting their bodies.

Every poultryman should lay in a supply of alfalfa and clover for his fowls during the winter. Green feed is as essential as grain.

Don't let the hens dictate where

they shall sit. In putting them on new nests they should be covered so they cannot leave for twenty-four hours.

The fad of marketing day-old chicks has led to some being sold even before they were hatched, much to the indignation of the "fresh" egg purchaser.

While ducks require plenty of water in the day time, they should be provided with dry quarters at night.

## ALFALFA DID RATHER WELL.

After several years trial on average gravelly clay soil of southern Pennsylvania the experiment station people have drawn the following about alfalfa:

Under favorable conditions alfalfa yields a most satisfactory crop for soiling and for hay.

Alfalfa should be cut when coming into blossom; if the cutting is delayed until full bloom, the stalks become more woody and undesirable, and the succeeding growth starts more slowly.

Under average good conditions from twenty to thirty pounds of seed should be sown per acre.

Summer or fall seeding following thorough tillage is recommended. Spring seeding is more likely to be choked out by weeds.

Deep, well-drained soils are best. Do not sow on wet land.

Alfalfa thrived in a compact, gravelly soil of good drainage quite as well as in a loose loam.

Alfalfa grew best where a heavy application of phosphoric acid and potash had been made.

Five tons of manure per acre gave better results than the phosphoric acid and potash contained in five hundred pounds of a good brand of commercial fertilizer.

Turkistan alfalfa did not equal in yield the common alfalfa.

Fall-seeded alfalfa on dry land will withstand severe winters of this climate perfectly; in fact, better than the common red clover.

Where conditions were such as to give the plant a strong and vigorous start, nodules appeared on the roots. Where plants were weak and slow in starting to grow, few of them possessed nodules.

Lime has not given satisfactory results. In some instances it has given no appreciable results; in other cases it has been decidedly harmful; in no case was it applied to advantage.

In several instances the alfalfa withstood the first winter, but was completely winter killed during the second. The larger growth seemed to give no assurance of the ability of the plants to withstand severe freezing if the soil is wet.

The yield the record year was about fourteen tons of green fodder or four or five tons of hay per acre.—Boston Cultivator.

## WHEAT FOR HORSES.

The Washington State agricultural experiment station at Pullman has under consideration a series of experiments of feeding wheat to work horses. Feeding experiments during the last ten years with cattle and swine show that wheat yields better results than any other cereal. In the Northwest oats and barley have been the traditional feed for horses. Wheat has been used in mixtures, but there has always been fear of foundering from it, the idea being it is too "heating." In the case of hogs and cattle such uniform results have been attained that it would seem likely that horses should be peculiar in this respect. It is probable that the vast number of work horses on the farm, in the towns and cities, and on the many construction lines for railroads and irrigation enterprises in the Northwest, can use wheat as the foundation and the largest part of the ration. To get exact data on this point and thus promote the interests of consumer and producer, is the object of the projected experiment at Pullman.

## MULCHING STRAWBERRIES.

One of our southern exchanges printed an article on this subject taken from some northern paper, without comment. The article was good when applied to northern strawberry beds, but entirely unsuited to those of this State. For example it says: "Its principal object during winter is to prevent sudden thawing during bright days. Alternate freezing and thawing causes contraction and expansion of the soil which results in straining and breaking the roots." There are many other sentences which are just as inappropriate to this climate.

We believe in mulching strawberry beds in Florida, not to keep them from freezing but to keep down weeds, keep the surface moist and keep the fruit clean. Any one of these reasons is sufficient, but the three constitute an unanswerable argument in favor of mulching. In many places the most easily obtainable material is pine straw, and it is good, in others the wire grass furnishes the best material. But it is certain that it is very profitable to mulch the plants.—Florida Agriculturist.

## SELECTION PAYS.

A small herd of cattle that have been carefully selected with the purpose of obtaining the most desirable points is better and more profitable than a large herd composed of all sorts.

# The Largest Flesh-Eating Animals in the World Are Found in America

By Andrew J. Stone.

**W**HAT percentage of people, even of those who feel an interest in wild animal life, really know that the largest flesh-eating animals in the world are found in America? People generally believe, and have believed for ages, that the African lion is the king of beasts. But he is not nearly as large or as powerful an animal as the large brown bear of Subarctic America. The bears are not as ferocious or combative as the lions, nor are they nearly as vicious as they are given credit for being; but the largest of them are much larger and more powerful than any of the lions. It is safe to say that the largest of the brown bears of the North would weigh three times as much as the largest specimen of lion, and is beyond all question greatly superior in strength.

Comparing these two powerful animals in action, if brought together in combat, the bear would at first appear very clumsy. It would not be capable of the quick rush or the cat-like spring of the lion. It would not attack, but would remain entirely on the defensive, meeting its adversary with blows of such rapidity and terrific force as at once to illustrate its superiority not only in strength, but in action. I do not believe that there is an animal in the world that can act more quickly or effectively or can aim its blows with greater certainty than the bear.

The large brown bears of the Alaska Peninsula, south of Bering Sea, are among the largest bears in the world, and it is evident that there is no part of the world outside of America in which such large flesh-eating animals are found. The bears are flesh-eaters, or carnivorous, yet there are none of them that depend upon flesh for food, and with most of them flesh comprises but a very small percentage of their food.

The large brown bears of the North and those of the Alaska Peninsula, to which I shall make special reference, usually travel to the sea when first leaving hibernation.—From "Hunting the Great Alaska Bear," in Scribner.

# Impure Air and Water, Health's Great Foe

By H. H. Langdon.

**A**S our new pure food bill is now in force, it is to be hoped that the nefarious practice of unscrupulous merchants adulterating food stuffs is at an end.

Coal tar coloring matter is prohibited. The new law, however, allows innocent vegetable coloring matter. It is singular that any person should desire food artificially colored, as coloring matter is absolutely devoid of any food value and it does not enhance the flavor or improve the article colored in any manner whatever, except to please the eye.

It has been stated that borax and boric acid are harmful preservatives. In all of my researches, however, I have been unable to find an authentic case of boron preservatives ever injuring persons who have partaken of foods preserved with these mild substances.

Every day we read of persons having been poisoned in various parts of the country from ptomaine poison. The judicious use of boron preservatives would prevent such cases.

Our food we can select according to our desires; our water is more difficult to select; the air we breathe must be taken into the lungs wherever we are. We have no choice of air when we are in crowded, close quarters or in narrow, stuffy streets.

Our food must be thoroughly masticated so as to prepare it for the action of the gastric juices when it enters the stomach. The copious drinking of liquids at meal times so dilutes the gastric juices that they cannot perform their functions until some of the liquid is eliminated.

Our systems require from four to five pints of water per day. It should be drunk, however, on arising, between meals and prior to retiring.

Our breathing is more important to health than our food and drink, consequently more attention should be paid to proper ventilation of our public institutions, railway trains, street cars, homes, etc.

The open air treatment that has proven so successful in curing consumption should convince us of the value of ventilation and fresh air. If we could regulate our diet so as to repair all waste as fast as it occurs I believe we could live to be as old as Methusalem.

# Skim-Milk as Food

By Dr. J. A. Gilbert.

**T**HE milk which is richest in cream is not 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 heating 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 the energy and heat production, as valuable a food as the so-called "rich" milk. Indeed, it not infrequently happens, as the experimental breeding 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 introduce 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, further, that buttermilk, which can be had for the asking almost everywhere in this country, is also 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.—Medical Review.

# The Need of Prison Reform

By Mrs. Florence E. Maybrick, American Woman Once Sentenced to Death in England For the Murder of Her Husband.

**I**T is amazing to find how sparse is the information of the average person concerning the work going on in the prisons of America. People seem to lose sight of the fact that when a man comes from the prison he should be enabled to start over again with some new hope. It is pitiful to think that prisons are regarded here only as places of safe keeping and not of possible regeneration.

Could the American women, who are so sympathetic natural ally, realize the almost insurmountable obstacles with which prison officials battle to give humane treatment to prisoners and to maintain health and well being among them, then they would be aroused to action. It is greatly to the credit of Superintendent Collins, of the New York state prisons, that in spite of such obstacles the convicts are no longer forced to go through the drill of the lockstep, to wear striped clothing or to have their hair clipped. Another great reform has been the placing of glass windows in the prison walls. Since this was done the death rate has been reduced 66 per cent. and the death rate from tuberculosis 71 per cent.

But there is much more to be done in the way of reform, and upon women this work must, for the greater part devolve.

## Alcohol From the Cactus.

Industrial or denatured alcohol is a name applied to untaxed ethyl alcohol, obtained by the fermentation of starch, sugar and other fermentable carbohydrate matter of plants; to which has been added some substance, often methyl (wood) alcohol that will render it unfit for use as a beverage without affecting its value for use in the arts.

The authorities at the New Mexico College of Agriculture think that the manufacture of industrial alcohol from cactus can reasonably be considered within the range of possibilities.—Indiana Farmer.

Leeds, England, has 5,000 girls in its public elementary schools under systematic instruction in the art of swimming, and 550 of them hold certificates as expert swimmers.

# PRECIOUS STONE INDUSTRY

THERE WERE RECORD-BREAKING IMPORTATIONS LAST YEAR.

Search for Diamond Fields on This Continent—Popularity of the Pearl—Where Precious Stones Are Found in This Country.

Precious stones of every variety were imported into the United States last year in larger quantities than ever before, writes the Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post. Most diamonds came in than in the three years beginning 1897. The importation of rough diamonds was seven times larger than in 1897, the diamond cutting industry in this country having greatly increased in recent years. The total value of these importations for last year, amounted to \$34,998,513.

High prices paid for diamonds today have made the search for these precious stones in this country and Canada keener than ever before. There are four regions in this country where diamonds have been found. The Pacific Coast, chiefly along the western base of the Sierra Nevada, in the central counties of California, associated with gold in the cement gravel; along the line of the moraine of the ancient ice sheet in Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio; in Kentucky and Tennessee; and in the Atlantic States from Virginia to Alabama, chiefly along the eastern base of the Appalachians in what is known as the Piedmont region. Scientists have been unable to discover the actual place of origin of the diamonds found in these regions. Those of the Pacific Coast and Atlantic States are known to have been derived by erosion from nearby mountain ranges, and the diamonds of the northern drift are supposed to have come from somewhere in the Dominion of Canada.

The diamonds discovered in Tennessee and Kentucky which have been found in loose and superficial deposits, and those in the Atlantic and Pacific regions, which for the most part have been met with in washing for gold, are from sources which scientists of the Geological Survey have been unable to trace definitely, even in theory. A report recently appeared that two diamonds had been found near Syracuse, N. Y., and that one of them had subsequently been sold to a resident of Springfield, Mass.

Sapphires are found in considerable quantity at Yogo Gulch, Mont., and workings for these gems is gradually developing into a great and permanent mining industry. It is expected that the production of sapphires in this section will soon be quadrupled. The Montana sapphires are not of large size. They are brilliant, free from flaws, and of good color, ranging from light shades to the rich deep blue of Oriental sapphires. They are sent to Amsterdam for cutting, and are extensively used as watch jewels.

Wholly unequal to the demand in the United States for emeralds has been the supply of this popular gem, which is imported mostly from Colombia. The emerald-bearing area northwest of Bogota is declared to be very extensive, the Government holdings alone being estimated at nearly 100,000 acres. The emerald is today at the high tide of its popularity and price. Many of the finest of these gems recently imported into this country were undoubtedly taken from old jewelry by their owners in Colombia, who were tempted to part with them by the increased price at which they are selling.

Pearls are as popular as ever, especially in the United States, and the present demand is causing a drain upon the pearl banks of Ceylon which has been recently the subject of an investigation by the English Government for the purpose of studying the life history of the pearl oyster, its parasites and enemies, and the methods for increasing its production.

Discovery of old and new gems in various sections of the country has stimulated the trade in American gems. Urtchite is already coming into use as a gem and decorative stone, and is especially popular in semi-barbaric jewelry where a rich but not a precious gem is desired. It is a green variscite, translucent and golden green in color, and was discovered near Salt Lake City.

California gems are growing in popularity and the increased interest in them has stimulated the search for tourmaline, beryl, topaz and kunzite. These crystals are of especial interest to mineralists, and George Frederick Kunz, the gem expert who has made a study of the region where these gems are found, thinks that it bids fair to rival the Ural Mountains, which for fifty years have led the world in the production of precious stones. Some prospecting has been done in Maine for gems at Mt. Michael and other mining localities, but the tourmalines found did not exceed in value a few thousand dollars. Turquoise mines in California and Nevada have increased in production, and have more than made up for the decreased production of the turquoise mines in New Mexico and Arizona. Black quartz, cut in the form of beads has been sold throughout the world in competition with rich green aventurine, which sparkles with specks of mica. Great quantities of this stone have been taken from the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Among the stones which have been found in large quantities in Amelia County in Virginia, and for which there is a considerable demand, are the amethyst, topaz, malachite and amazon stone.

Mr. Kunz attributes the record established last year for the importation

of precious stones of all kinds, ranging from the richest gems to those of the poorest qualities, and even to every form of imitation, to the general "good times" the American people are enjoying. "This record," he says, "was achieved notwithstanding the Russo-Japanese war and was due to general prosperity."

## Schoolgirl Swimmers.

AMEER LOVES A PRIZE FIGHT.

## Curious Methods of Entertaining Oriental Monarchs.

Of all the devices adopted by the English government to entertain the ruler of Afghanistan during his visit to India, which is costing the national treasury the trifling sum of \$1,000,000, the one which seems to have been the most successful of all has been the boxing contests, and at his request matches of this kind are got up almost daily for his entertainment. Banquets, state functions, reviews and even sham battles have ended by boring him. But he never tires of a hotly contested encounter with the gloves, and his interest and delight in the noble art of self-defence peculiar to the English speaking races are unbounded.

The Ameer is by no means the only Oriental monarch entertained by the British sovereign who has manifested tastes of this particular character. Thus old Nazr-ed-Din, grandfather and predecessor of the present Shah of Persia, got so worked up about boxing on the occasion of his first stay in England that nothing would satisfy him but a full fledged prizefight; that is to say, a real one, with bare knuckles and blood. With many precautions an encounter of this kind was arranged for his edification by the officials charged with his amusement, and it took place in the stables of Buckingham palace. Unfortunately, the Shah was lamentably deficient in that virtue of punctuality which is inappropriately described as "the politeness of kings," and he came down to the stables late, with the result that the prizefight overlapped an appointment which had been made for the late Lord Shaftesbury, the Archbishop of Canterbury and of York, and a delegation of bishops, to plead before him the cause of Christian missions in the land of Iran. They came at the appointed hour and were conducted by officials, unaware of what was in progress in the royal stables, to the Shah's presence there. The prelates, horror struck by the spectacle presented to their pious eyes, retreated precipitately, followed by old Lord Shaftesbury, not before he had given vent to his indignation in a loud tone of voice, and protesting that he would denounce "the horrid scandal all over the kingdom." It was only with the utmost difficulty that he was eventually appeased. It did not, however, interfere with the enjoyment of the Shah, who could not be brought to understand the objection of his visitors to a spectacle which he considered so delectable. In fact, he could never understand Western squeamishness, and was disposed to regard it as an unintelligible discourtesy when the English authorities refused to hang a man just in order to show him how the gallows worked and the trap door was sprung.—New York Tribune.

## IN THE EVERGLADES.

They Are the Haunts of Modern Robin Hoods.

The mares of the Ten Thousand Islands have proved a sanctuary for the pursued since before the Civil War, during which they harbored deserters from the Confederate service, some of whom continue their residence within their boundaries in apparent ignorance that the need thereof has passed. Often in the cypress or mangrove swamps which border the Everglades you will meet men who turn their faces away, or, if they look toward you, laugh as you ask their names. After they have passed, your boatman will mention names that will recall to your memory stories of tragedies. These men trap otters, shoot alligators and plume birds, selling skins, hide and plumes to dealers who go to them secretly, or through Indians, who often help but never betray them. When I asked an Indian whom I knew well when he had last seen a certain one of these refugees his "Um-um no see, long time," together with an earnest shake of his head, would have been convincing if I had not happened to know that he had been with the man inquired of on the previous day. Sometimes these outlaws kill one another, usually over a bird rookery which two or more of them claim. I passed the camp of two of them, beside which hung a dozen otter skins, and a few days later learned that both had been killed, probably in a quarrel, but possibly by some third outlaw, tempted by their wealth of skins. The country in which they live is a labyrinth. The big rivers flow into smaller streams, which divide and form into creeks that, although deep, will for miles give passage only to skiffs, for which a way must frequently be cleared with knives through vines and overhanging bushes. Often these creeks branch out into hundreds of shallow channels, making a thousand tiny mangrove keys in each square mile. Within these mazes are occasional blazed trails, upon one of which I found hanging to a tree an old shoe containing a bit of paper on which was pencilled "of a want Sum grub tom has got it"—Scribner's Magazine.

While hunting last fall near Carbondale, Pa., John Pappos shot a giant owl, measuring four feet seven inches from tip to tip.