FARM AND GARDEN

INBRED HORSES.

In breeding is the method by which the highest possible percentage of the blood of an exceptional individual, or of a particularly fortunate nick, can be preserved, fused into, and ultimately made to characterize, an entire line of descent on both sides. If persisted in the outside blood disappears by the same law that governs grading, and the pedigree is speedily enriched to an almost unlimited extent by the choice of a single animal—in practice generally that of the sire. It is a method not so much of originating excellence, as of making the most of excellence when it does appear, and it is not too much to say that a large proportion of the really great sires have been strongly inbred.

An inbred animal is of course enormously prepotent over everything else. Its half of the ancestry, being largely of identical blood, is almost certain to dominate the offspring. Inbreeding is therefore recognized as the strongest of all breeding, giving rise to the simplest of pedigrees, an advantage quickly recognized when we recall the law of ancestral heredity. All things considered, no other known method of breeding equals this for intensifying blood lines, doubling up existing combinations, and making the most of exceptional individuals, or of unusually valuable strains.

Many who have tried the experiment of inbreeding have found that in their cases it did not produce satisfactory results. The sire and dam were animals quite closely related. They were of desirable conformation, of good size, strong and vigorous, free from physical defects, so far as the eye could detect, and also free from infirmities of temper. It would seem that the produce of the union of such animals must bear a close resemblance to the parents themselves, in all respects, but, much to the surprise and disgust of the breeder, the produce has been of an undesirable character, and those breeders who have been so unfortunate as to obtain such results will always strongly condemn the practice of inbreeding.

The results in such cases have been due largely to the influence of atavism. If those breeders who have been unfortunate could have learned the character of every one of the ancestors of the stallions and mares on both sides for several generations back, they would undoubtedly have found some ancestor common to both sire and dam that exhibited in a strong degree the same undesirable quality or qualities that were apparent in the produce of that sire and dam, both of which, so far as could be detected by outward appearances, were free from the undesirable qualities plainly manifested by their offspring.—Horse Breeder.

SORGHUM.

Sorghum is one of the largest yielding crops and one of the most palatable to all farm stock. It should be planted after corn is in the ground when the soil is thoroughly warm. It is a drought resistant plant. Ground should be prepared as for corn. Seed may be broad casted, drilled in close with grain drill or in rows wide enough apart to permit cultivation. We use the drill, setting it for 1 1-2 bushels on the wheat scale and letting all holes feed. The young plants may be cultivated with the harrow till they are 4 or 5 inches high if necessary to break crust on the ground or to kill weeds. We prefer the Early Amber variety. A field of sorghum is a great help in August and September when pastures are short. All farm stock are greedy for it when cut and fed green. It is especially good for dairy cows.

It may be cut and cured much as other hay is handled. When sown thick it may be cut with the binder or where drilled in wide rows, with the corn harvester, and cured out in shocks. We prefer to let it stand till frost, shock it within a day or two and let it cure in shock and stand there till needed. In well made shocks it will stand with little damage. A few acres of it in an odd corner will convince you of its value.

The most serious charge made against this crop is that it puts the land in bad condition for the next crop, especially if that is a small grain crop. It is said that corn does better after it than wheat or oats. We got a good crop of cow peas after it last year.—Epitomist.

BEST BARN FOR 160 ACRE FARM.

Replying to inquiry of R. E. Egbert, of Grant county in issue of May 30th, I have the following to offer:

For grain and hay barn to accommodate 160 acre farm, with room for 6 to 8 head of horses, the best and cheapest barn available is one circular in form, about 64 to 70 feet in diameter, with 20 foot walls. Frame of light dimension lumber, with hoop-plates, girders, nail-ties, etc. Solid concrete wall, or foundation, concrete floor and water-tanks.

First floor 7 feet 6 inches in clear, and balance of 20 feet devoted to mow for hay, and possibly a few bins, at outer walls, that can be filled from trolley track and carrier, and emptied by gravity through spouts. About 34 feet of central part devoted to working space, bins, etc., about which the horse stalls are placed with heads toward center. The space on opposite side from horses, may be used for vehicles, machinery, etc., or stalls may be provided for a few cows or young stock. A space 14 to 16 feet wide is left open at main entrance, through which hay may be taken up and conveyed to any part of mow on circular track.

Barn would require about 16,000 feet o frame lumber, including double mow floor.

Total expense of building such a barn runs from $600 to $1,000 owing to conditions, localities, etc. Mow space is open and unobstructed and general arrangement the very best in every particular.—Benton Steele, Architect in the Indiana Farmer.

RAISING SHEEP FOR MUTTON.

A farmer writing to one of our exchanges refers to his own experience in sheep on a small farm. He says:

In reply to the inquiry made in the Farmer concerning profits on a small farm, we cannot do any better than give a short synopsis of our own experience, as we have lived and farmed on the same place we now occupy for forty-two years. We followed dairying for twenty years, milking some years as high as sixty cows and making our own butter and selling it at the highest price on the market. On account of scarcity of help we were obliged to abandon dairying. For the last fifteen years we have been handling sheep, raising our own lambs and sending them in once a year to the Chicago market. I want to say right here that there has not been a year since I have been in the business that I have not realized 100 per cent., and sometimes considerably more profit. This is no guess work. We keep an itemized book account of every particular item. We cannot say that we have done as well with other stock with the same amount of labor expended.—Indiana Farmer.

CROP ROTATION.

Crop rotation is nature's method of restoring a worn-out soil. By working in harmony with nature man may maintain an adequate supply of humus and preserve the available fertility of the soil. It is easy to adopt a rotation on land that is under tillage and where some kind of livestock farming is being followed so that the clover and other grasses that form an essential part of the rotation may be profitably utilized. One of the best rotations for the stock farmer of the middle states to follow is the following: corn, followed by winter wheat drilled in the stubble; clover, manure to be applied as a top dressing and turned under with the second crop for corn the next year. The time is past when we can afford to feed livestock just to make manure, we must feed better and more profitable livestock.—Farm and Stock.

THE PROTEIN PROBLEM.

Many tables, showing the average protein and its value, have been published, recommending that all such foods should be sold under guarantee, the farmers when buying feeds to select those which furnish protein the cheapest, as this is the substance desired more than any other when the feeds are purchased for the purpose of enriching the rations made from home-grown produce. It will be largely to the interest of farmers to carefully study the composition of stock foods and endeavor to feed so as to secure the largest return at the least cost.—Epitomist.

CLASSIFICATON OF EGGS.

Secretary Wilson says that hereafter eggs sold as "fresh" or "strictly fresh" must be exactly what they are represented to be. Storage eggs must be sold as such, or under the pure food law the dealer is liable to a fine of $500 or six months' imprisonment, or both. Thousands of people do not know how a "strictly fresh" egg tastes—this will give them a chance to find out.—American Cultivator.

SHEEP DESTROY SUMAC.

For killing out sumac Edward Von Alstein recommends a flock of sheep. First mow the sumac then turn in the sheep. It may be destroyed by persistent cutting after flowering season and before it sets berries, but sheep will do the work at less trouble and expense.—American Cultivator.

FARM NOTES.

Do not engage in poultry raising as a business unless you have a liking in that direction.

Fowls on free range will produce a greater percentage of strongly fertilized eggs than those in confinement.

Scald out all drinking vessels and feed troughs every few days to keep them from developing disease germs.

Pure-bred poultry will give better results than the mongrel kind and will not eat any more or require any greater care.

It is a good plan to mark the eggs when sitting a hen. A small lead pencil mark is sufficient, and then one can tell when they were set and keep track of them.

The color of the comb and appearance of the plumage of a hen can be taken as an indication of her health. A healthy hen has a bright red comb.

Nothing Too Small To Do Well

By Beatrice Fairfax.

WE all have our hours of doubt and despair as to whether we are making anything of ourselves, and it is a very good thing that we do, otherwise we would hit back in smug satisfaction and never amount to a row of pins.

We must be dissatisfied in order to progress.

If, however, we do the best that we can, there is no occasion for us to be in a constant state of depression.

Dissatisfaction comes from the knowledge that we are not putting our best foot foremost.

If you want to succeed you must put your best effort into every undertaking.

Nothing is too small to do well.

Big undertakings are the fruit of small undertakings well done.

Whether your duty be washing dishes or keeping books, there is a right way to do it, and that is the only way to do it.

You can't slur over the little things and expect to make any success with the big ones.

If you are doing your best and still you have times of doubt as to your usefulness, you must meet them philosophically.

You must say to yourself, "I am doing the best I know how; I wonder if there is some way in which I can do better."

Do not be too easily cast down and discouraged, and be sure that your way is wrong before you change it.

Constant change works against success.

Don't ask advice from every one you know or you will live in a turmoil of indecision.

When you need advice go to the person whose common sense and opinion you most respect and ask for it.

Never talk about the big things you intend doing unless you really mean to attempt them.

People have scant respect for the person who is always talking big and never doing anything.

Actions, you know, speak louder than words, and you will make a far greater impression on people by doing things than by talking them.

The really successful man is rarely a blow-hard.

It sometimes happens that a man is doing the very best he can, following the course that duty and honor dictate, and still he may be much criticised and censured by the world.

In a case of that kind there is nothing to do but carry the burden bravely and uncomplainingly.

But there will be many dark and hopeless hours to face and fight, and the only consolation for him will be the knowledge that he himself knows that he is in the right.

It takes a brave man to stick to his own convictions in the face of contrary advice and criticism, but if he is quite convinced that he is in the right he had better keep to them until it is proved that he is in the wrong.

Nobody is as much interested in what you do as you are yourself, and so you must learn to think and act for yourself.

You are the "captain of your soul," and your success lies in your handling of opportunity.—New York Evening Journal.

Cooking a Pleasure, NOT A DRUDGERY, Once *the* Art Is Acquired

By Gabrielle Stewart Mulliner.

I AM a strong advocate of schools to teach cooking, and in my professional life I advise every woman who comes to me for advice as to her future to learn to do the things which make for proper housekeeping and home-making. As long as the race exists, men will have to eat, and some one will have to do the cooking. Women should study the art of cooking and should do cooking rather than any other one thing that they are doing in any line whatever. I believe that if women could learn to cook well at proper schools so that they know how and why they do the various things in preparing a meal, the doing of it would be a pleasure and not a drudgery.

One of my father's pet stories is how one day he came into our home for lunch, and found me sitting in the kitchen with a cookbook on my lap, crying great tears into the pages while I tried to find out what to get him for lunch. He thinks it is a good story, but I know the trouble was that I was attempting to do a thing I did not understand, and was declaring that I never could and never would cook. After we finished that meal of bread and milk, I went at it with a will and learned to cook properly, and stuck at it under Mrs. Rorer and my mother until I could cook everything in the usual family menu, and as soon as I learned how I loved to do it. And I never have since then heard a woman decry cooking who was herself a good cook. Watch that point, and see if it is not so.

Anything a woman can do well, she enjoys doing. And it is because I believe that firmly that I advocate teaching young girls to cook well. If she goes into a kitchen mistress of her work, she will love it and take her pleasure in life in producing good things to eat. If she enters upon household duties not understanding her work, fearing failures, spoiling good raw material, fretful, uninterested, she will find it a great hardship, and will flee from it into some shop, tell every girl not to do housework and help to spread the panic.

Housework done intelligently is not drudgery. Cooking done well is as great a pleasure as painting a picture. Serving a good meal cooked by yourself is as great an achievement as arguing a case well in court. And the woman who can do so, and lets her servants have the benefit of her knowledge, has no trouble with her servants.

So I suggest that every woman who does not herself know all about the great art of cookery should learn it, make it fashionable to know how, and soon you will find some one quite inadvertently, you know, forget to take off her apron when you make an afternoon call.

A System *of* Mnemonics.

By G. F. Williamson.

IT may interest your readers to know of a never failing method of calling to mind the names of places and of persons perhaps long forgotten and yet that at one time seemed to be indelibly printed on the tablets of memory.

Like many others, no doubt, I have on occasions too numerous to mention been "stumped" to recall for the moment heretofore well known names of places, persons and things in general, but I am glad to say that by adopting the very simple method which I practise when my memory fails me I invariably get instant relief and seem to be lifted out of the quagmire and mist of forgetfulness. This is my method:

Suppose, for instance, that you wish to recall the name of a person named "Ross." Simply concentrate your mind on the individual and go down each letter of the alphabet, beginning with "a," then "b" and so on, using the vowels in conjunction, a, e, i, o, u. For instance, say "a" to yourself five times, bringing in a, e, i, o, u. First aa then ae, ai, ao, au. If there is nothing in the sound suggested by repeating the above several times and there is certainly nothing to suggest "Ross," pass on to "b" and say ba, be, bi, bo, bu. When "r" is reached—providing you are concentrating your mind on the person you wish to recall—it will be a simple matter to recall the name. When the fourth vowel is reached the sound of the letters "ro" would suggest Rowe, Rowland, Roach and lastly if not firstly Ross.

I am aware that the five vowels used in junction with the twenty-six letters of the alphabet will not suggest all names and words like "chair," for instance, for one, but they will fill the bill in many cases when memory is lacking. As a last resort one can go down the alphabet beginning with "a," and say aa, ab, ac, and so on, then ba, bb, bc, etc. When "c" is reached the word "chair" will come to us when we try to pronounce "ch."

Actress's Tribute to Garrick.

Mrs. Clive was eminent as an actress on the London stage before Garrick appeared, and, as his blaze of excellence threw all others into comparative insignificance, she never forgave him, and took every opportunity of venting her spleen. She was coarse, rude and violent in her temper and spared nobody.

One night, as Garrick was performing "King Lear," she stood behind the scenes to observe him, and, in spite of the roughness of her nature, was so deeply affected that she sobbed one minute and abused him the next, and at length, overcome by his pathetic touches, she hurried from the place with the following extraordinary tribute to the university of his powers. "Confound him! I believe he could act a gridiron."—T. P.'s Weekly.

Held Up the Army.

The battle was going against him. The commander in chief, himself ruler of the South American Republic, sent an aide to the rear, ordering Gen. Blanco to bring up his regiment at once. Ten minutes passed, but it didn't come. Twenty, thirty, an hour—still no regiment. The aide came tearing back hatless, breathless. "My regiment! My regiment! Where is it?" shrieked the commander. "General," answered the excited aide, "Blanco started all right, but there are a couple of drunken Americans down the road and they won't let it go by."—San Francisco Argonaut.

The German empire has about 4,000 duels a year. France about 1,000, and Italy 270. Most of them are fought with swords.

WOMAN

SOLUTION OF THE HELP PROBLEM.

Every successful housekeeper of today recognizes the perplexing state of affairs in regard to domestic service. Domestic service in the United States has passed through great changes in the last fifty years. Until within a few years, whether assistance was needed in the house beyond that rendered by members of the family, was secured by employing a neighbor's wife or daughter, who was made one of the family. While this still continues in some rural districts, there really has been an almost entire change, based largely on the influence from immigration and the changes in the industrial system.

The American has been pushed up from an unskilled laborer to a skilled laborer, while the immigrant has taken her place, until at the present time very few native Americans can be secured for housework. In this way the relation between the housekeeper and the helper has had to change.

The manufacturing industries have a large influence in determining the number of women who engage in domestic service, as the factories seem to prove more attractive than housework. There are many reasons for this.

There should be some standard of work established so that the cook who prepares three elaborate meals daily for a family of six, who often entertain, does not receive the same wages as the cook next door who prepares three simple meals for three people who live very quietly. Workers in the factories and stores are governed by the same number of hours. Just as the life, numbers, and demands of different families vary, so does the work vary. A standard of wages cannot be established without a corresponding standard of work. If housekeepers would bring themselves to a willingness to adopt the hour plan, it would help the situation greatly. If women would come in by the hour, and be paid according to their ability, the domestic service problem would be partly solved.

If the girls who are working for wages in the household, as the majority are, were to be paid for the extra time they put in, when the housekeeper is entertaining or housecleaning it would only be fair. In the stores and factories they are paid for extra time. Another plan might be to let them take an afternoon or day off to make up for the extra labor performed.

If the people in the home would realize that their helpers only want to be treated fairly and do not want to be imposed upon, they would have better service and the good will of their helpers.—Mary J. Brush in the American Cultivator.

KEEP IN THE SUN.

"If you want to keep well take sun baths," is the latest health dictum.

Not all of us can carry this treatment to the extreme of the enthusiasts who spend the greater part of each day exposing their bodies to the air, but all of us can, with a little management, get more sun than we do.

If you have a sheltered yard or back porch spend as much time as possible on it. Wear the airest kind of costume. The neighbors may be horrified but shut out their prying gaze by screens.

Bare feet or sandals which make walking easier, may quickly be tossed off, and a low-necked and sleeveless nightdress or wrapper of sheer material will allow lots of sun to get at your skin and do its healing work on the pores. Let your hair down, also, for that too, is benefited by air and sunlight.

If you are not very strong, just lying in the sun in a steamer chair will build you up. If vigorous enough, calisthenics in your airy costume is better still.

The values of this exercise and sun bath combination has been proved in an open air institution for men and boys in Germany, where wonderful cures are being made of rheumatism, neuralgia, slight paralysis and nervous affections.

The patients exercise in a high-walled space, clothed only in light bathing trunks. The grounds are equipped with an open-air gymnasium, tennis courts, shower baths and couches for resting. Even when the snow is on the ground this somewhat chilly cure is vigorously carried on.—New Haven Register.

WOULD TEACH HOME-MAKING.

Women physicians in Chicago have taken a stand advocating the right of girls to enter any profession or to engage in any business. At a session of the American Academy of Medicine several men physicians read papers deploring the fact that many women left home life for industrial work and asserting the future of the race depended on the checking of "this widespreading evil." Dr. Helen C. Putnam of Providence, R. I., then said: "Every woman has the right to develop her best faculties, to become educated and to enter a business field where she meets many men, so she can select the father for her children. I favor establishing a study of 'home-making' in the public schools of our country." Dr. Emma Culbertson of Boston said co-operation of the two sexes alone was needed to settle the question of the place of women in business life. Dr. Otto Juettner of Cincinnati said he had no sympathy with women who worked in stores or other industrial institutions for "starvation wages" when there were thousands of homes in which they could get employment better fitting them for married life. "Women competing with men simply lower the wage scale, cause a lack of support by men and a tendency toward singleness," he added.—New York Press.

MONEY AND GOOD DRESSING.

Spending money is not all that gives a woman the reputation for good dressing. Some very dowdy women are lavish in expenditure, and one almost feels like taking them in hand. Great dressmakers like Worth have refused the patronage of just such women, knowing that genius would be wasted on them. They are no credit to either dressmaker or milliner. Another class of women who pride themselves on their thrift are no encouragement to save money in this direction, because they sacrifice good looks to economy. It is a fact that renovating old dresses often equals the price of new ones, without the result of fresh wearing apparel.

A prudent woman would realize this and discard all but clothing that will bear close inspection after it has been freshened. Nothing is so detrimental to one's appearance as an air of shabbiness, and it clings to made-over clothing in the majority of cases. I have heard arguments for and against buying materials that can be made over, but the answer is found in the eyes of the beholder. When a costume is recognized as an old acquaintance it is not a success, no matter how much money has been spent on it.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

BRIDES OF THE MONTHS.

Here is a collection of proverbs purporting to speak oracularly concerning the brides and the months:

A January bride will be a prudent housekeeper and very good tempered.

A February bride will be a kind and affectionate wife and tender mother.

A March bride will be a frivolous chatterbox, somewhat given to quarreling.

An April bride will be inconstant, not very intelligent, but fairly good looking.

A May bride will be handsome, amiable and likely to be happy.

A June bride will be impetuous and generous.

A July bride will be handsome and smart, but a trifle quick-tempered.

An August bride will be amiable and practical.

A September bride will be discreet.

An October bride will be pretty, coquettish, loving, but jealous.

A November bride will be liberal.

A December bride will be fond of novelty and entertaining.—London Scraps.

DESIGNED HER OWN CHIFFONIER.

Boxes for many things are needed by the woman who makes elaborate toilets. That fact has inspired at least one woman, known always as bright. A chiffonier that adorns her home is one she designed. It has three tiers of drawers of varying sizes, covered with fine Japanese matting that matches the cretonne and wallpaper of her boudoir. One drawer has a compartment for three lengths of gloves, each holding six pairs in order. Then comes a separate place for starched ties and collars, and another for soft neckwear. In a row, as if the owner had a fondness for alliteration, are the compartments for handkerchiefs, hosiery and—hair.—New York Press.

FASHION NOTES.

To be smart one must have two tucks taken horizontally in the sleeve.

A popular device is to simulate the wide armhole by a band of material.

The tight-fitting sleeves in some of the Paris gowns look like stumps.

The net and mousseline de soie tuckings are a great help in giving a fanciful touch to the bodices.

An Oriental design worked out in several shades of brown makes a charming banding for trimming a pongee gown.

The wistaria is a graceful design much favored at present among the embroideries.

A number of the pony coats of the season have a slashed opening each side of the front at the bottom, and they are either closed with single or double breasted front, or finished with a tiny flat vest.

An exceedingly smart waist for wear with one's tailored street suits is that of striped silk whose net jabot is strapped with the silk.

Undersleeves upon evening wraps, as upon house gowns, are of full frills of lace, often slashed to the shoulder, beneath dolman-like sleeves on the wraps, and capped by oversleeves of cloth on the house gowns.

The chemise or corset cover with the tiniest of sleeves is one of the new fashions that seems to be growing in favor.

"The feature of the season," the head of a big wholesale stocking house said this week, "is tan colored hosiery and they are scarcer than hens' teeth."

In the evening the satin slippers and silk stockings must match the gown, unless black or bronze slippers are preferred.