

# RURAL TOPICS

## THE SUFFOLK PUNCH.

The Suffolk horse, or Suffolk Punch, is of English origin and seems to have been known as a pure breed for several centuries. They have been exported to South America, Australia, and Africa, besides the various countries of Europe; but in Canada and the United States they have never been especially popular, although there are scattered herds throughout the West and one or two in New England to make them better known, but the first was imported only thirty years ago, at a time when other breeds had already obtained a strong foothold.

The Suffolk is a compact, general-purpose horse of good quality and action, medium size, short of leg and weighing from 1800 to 1900 pounds. It is not so large as the Clydesdale, Shire or heavy stables of Percheron but is about the weight and conformation favored for farm horses. The color is always chestnut brown. The body is very deep and full, with unusual spring and depth of ribs, thus giving the body a full, round form. A horse of this style is, as might be expected, an easy keeper and very hardy and vigorous.

The Suffolks are known as a prolific and long-lived race. A mare and foal were shown at one of the English agricultural shows, the mare being thirty-seven years old at the time the foal was born. Many instances are stated of Suffolk horses in full vigor and usefulness at advanced ages. In its native home the Suffolk is believed to be able to do more work on less feed than other heavy breeds. It is a steady persistent puller, and of a docile, willing disposition. The weak point which has injured the progress of the breed is its reputation for small brittle feet, liable to sustain injury when used on macadamized roads or pavements. This weakness has received attention of late years from breeders, and is being rapidly done away with. The Suffolk at all events is a very suitable horse for use on farms and ordinary road surfaces.—American Cultivator.

## SANITATION IN THE COW STABLE

Sunlight doesn't cost anything, so we should not deny it to cows. The amount of window space recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture is six square feet per cow. Windows should be long, placed vertically most of them preferably on the south and east sides, where they are protected from the coldest winds.

Whitewash is the most effective, inexpensive agent of sanitation, and should be used about twice a year on ceiling, walls and fixtures. It can best be applied with a spray pump. A little common salt added to the whitewash renders it less liable to rub off.

The plank floor is now quite expensive not durable, and, as commonly laid, permits liquids to leach through into the soil, which becomes foul and from which gases rise upward into the stable. As a rule it is a decidedly unsanitary floor. Whenever a new floor is to be laid cement concrete should be used by all means. Then there should be no leakage and no decay.

The stall floors may be overlaid with boards or plank. The pitch of the stall floor should not exceed half an inch from manger to gutter. The size of the gutter, according to some of our most progressive dairymen, should be eight inches deep by twenty inches wide. Others maintain that it is not necessary to have it so big. The passage back of the gutter should slope but slightly toward the gutter. It should have a rough surface to prevent slippiness. The inner surface of the manger should be very smooth to facilitate cleaning.—F. L. Aderhold in Wisconsin Dairyman.

## FARM NOTES.

Set the water vessel in the shade and keep it clean for hens. Use kerosene frequently on the chicken roosts both under and upper side.

Clean out the hen nests, burning the old nesting material and replace it with fresh. Pour coal oil around in the empty box before refilling it.

Dry goose feathers in the shade, as the sun draws the oil from the stems of the feathers.

Give the poultry house good ventilation, especially after night when the fowls are all in the house sleeping.

There is no profit in feeding sickly and crippled chickens. Their growth will not make their retention profitable, and they endanger the health of the well fowls.

When the chickens show an inclination to roost elsewhere than on the roosts in the poultry house and to lay elsewhere than in the nests provided for them, it indicates that these places are infested with lice.

Hogs should be greased frequently to keep them free from lice. Warm a little kerosene and lard together and rub along the back of animals while they are feeding.

The sheep stables should be cleaned out at least once a month. If the manure is allowed to remain too long it begins to give off ammonia and other foul gases which injure the sheep.

White specks in butter are sometimes merely fine particles of milk curd resulting from lack of care in skimming. Sometimes they are small specks of dried cream having been scraped off the sides of the pan and being too dry to thoroughly soften and mix with the rest.

A Massachusetts milk man was fined \$15 for having in his possession milk below the standard, although it was shown that the milk was exactly as it came from the cow. This is one of the cases which illustrates the absurdity of the milk standard on percentage of butter fat.

## DIPPING VATS FOR SHEEP.

Where sheep swim 10 or 12 feet through a solution, I find it quite satisfactory. When sheep swim through a tank, the dip seems to work into the wool better than if they were just simply held in it and then taken out. Several years ago I built on my farm a wooden tank 25 feet long, 20 inches wide at the top, 4 feet deep, and 6 inches wide at the bottom. I made it out of plank, tongued and grooved and painted well. It gave me good satisfaction, but the trouble with the wooden vat is that it soon rots out where the ground touches it. Since I have been using my steel vat I would not think of making another wooden one, as the steel vat is much more durable, and therefore causes much less trouble.

I have used many kind of standard dips, and the results have been very satisfactory where the instructions were carefully followed out.

Three weeks old is rather young for lambs to be dipped, but I do not hesitate about dipping mine when they are five or six weeks old. In fact I find it a good practice to dip the lambs when about this age, if the ewes have been shorn a couple of weeks previous.

On the shearing of the ewes the ticks will pass to the lambs, then by dipping the lambs the ticks are effectively destroyed, and I find it very necessary to keep the lambs free from ticks in order that they can do their best.—R. B. Rushing in the Indiana Farmer.

## SCALY LEG.

One of the most injurious and of fensive ailments is the scaly leg, which creates a feverish condition that causes many deaths. The odor of fowls affected is most obnoxious extending even to the meat. The disease is caused by a parasite which creates a growth on the shank and feet of the fowls much as coral is grown in the sea. As it accumulates, it stiffens the joints of the shanks and toes, often causing lameness and inability to move actively about. Fowls seriously affected cannot dig or scratch to any extent for their food. Perfect cleanliness and an occasional use of some good liquid lice killer on the roosts will keep it away. The liquid lice killer destroys the mites that create the ailment. One of the simplest remedies is to smear thoroughly the affected parts with soft soap, using a stiff-brush to paint it on, and rub it in. This can be followed up every night, or every other night, for a week or ten days. After this has been done, catch the fowl, thoroughly scrub the shanks and feet with a stiff brush and more of the soft soap. When thoroughly cleansed and relieved from the accumulation of the scales, anoint with carbolic vasoline or coat over with paraffin.—Country Gentleman.

## SEPARATE THE BIRDS.

Very often a serious mistake is made in putting new birds in the flock before they have been quarantined. It is always best to keep new stock separate for several weeks until it is proved that they are in good healthy condition. Disease is apt to be introduced to a flock of healthy birds when this is not done.—Farmers Home Journal.

## BLEACHED FOOD UNWHOLESOME

At the meeting of the National and State Pure Food Departments last year it was recommended that the bleaching of dried or evaporated fruits should be stopped by national and State legislation. It is now the custom to whiten the fruit by use of sulphur fumes, and it is claimed that the process is somewhat injurious.—American Cultivator.

## KEEP CHICKENS AWAY.

Chickens are a nuisance in the dooryard. The habit of throwing scraps of food out at the back door makes them worse. Never feed the chickens near the house is a good rule if you do not wish to be bothered with them.—Farmers Home Journal.

The brownish spots which appear in old books are really due to the ravages of bacteria. The tiny destroyer is especially fond of starchy material and its propagation is promoted by damp.

Outside of the steamer there were 2,957,328 passengers carried in and out of New York Harbor 1907 on steamers.

The Portland (Ore.) police court is to have a stove made from re volvers taken from criminals.

# Roads of Molasses

## One of Several New Materials the Government Is Trying.

Experiments are now being conducted by the Office of Public Roads of the United States Department of Agriculture in an effort to build a dustproof road by combining blast furnace slag with asphalt or tar.

This endeavor is of the utmost economic importance, because if the hoped for success is attained unsightly mountains of slag will soon disappear from the vicinity of scores of cities and a ready market will have been established for vast quantities of this material.

For several years the scientists in the Office of Public Roads as well as in many of the more progressive States have been working to achieve two great objects, the utilization of by-products in road building and the development of dustless roads. Experiments already conducted indicate that crushed rock combined with tar or asphalt preparations bid fair to solve in a measure the dustless road problem. Exhaustive laboratory tests have indicated that slag in combination with preparations of tar or asphalt may be made to serve as a substitute for crushed rock.

One of these experimental sketches of road is now in course of construction at Chicago, under the supervision of Chief Engineer Vernon M. Pierce of the Federal Bureau, and one at Birmingham, Ala., under the direction of B. P. Heldt, first assistant engineer.

The road at Chicago will be of slag and asphalt; that at Birmingham of slag and tar. The greatest skill and care will be used in putting down these short sketches and they will then be carefully observed during the trying months of winter. If in the spring it has been established that this class of road remains firm, does not rut, sheds water and makes but little dust a vast step forward will have been taken in road building and an ever falling market will have been created for blast furnace waste.

Besides this activity in slag experiments the Public Roads Office is also busy at Newton, Mass., with a special asphalt preparation never before tried which the director and his lieutenants hope may prove effectual as a dust binding surface material.

The office is also preparing at the same place to lay a stretch of what might be called a "candy road." Nobody except a scientist would go so far afield in research as to adopt molasses as a road building material, but that is exactly what has been done here, and Assistant Chemist Prevozt Hubbard of Director Page's scientific corps is leveling a half mile stretch of road near Newton and in a few days will be in active supervision of the laying of the first molasses road of history. This molasses is the almost useless by-product of the great cane sugar refineries of the South and the best sugar refineries of the West and Southwest. It is sickly sweet, nearly as black and as thick as tar and almost as powerful as a binder. Having always been a waste product it can be bought at a lower price than coal tar and in greater quantities.

When the quantity and the sticky consistency of this material were called to the attention of Director Page a number of months ago he conceived the idea that it might aid in solving the always difficult problem of dusty roads. He sent for a supply for laboratory experiments and detailed Mr. Hubbard to conduct them. The molasses was blended with oils and lime water was mixed with rock dust, with earth and with sand and tried out under heat and under water. It behaved so well and held out such promises for ideal roads that the practical test of a real road was recently decided upon.

Another scientist, also from the Office of Public Roads, is engaged at Independence, Kan., in trying to devise a method of constructing oiled roads analogous to the methods which have produced the famous oiled roads of southern California. He is mixing heavy oils possessing pronounced asphaltic bases with natural soil and compacting the preparation with a tamping roller. One stretch of this peculiar class of highway will be under construction within a few days. The oiled roads of California have saved millions of dollars to the farmers and fruit growers of that fertile State in the last few years by suppressing the dust that formerly arose in blinding clouds with the passing of every vehicle. These dust clouds floating to adjacent fields and orchards depreciated the price of farm produce and lowered the value of real estate to a startling degree. The sprinkling of oil was tried and the dust was held in check. Then some of the roads were ploughed and the oil mixed with the earth and the mass firmly rolled to a properly crowned surface. Splendid results followed in most instances.—New York Sun.

Mr. Carnegie gave to libraries in 1907 \$1,631,630, making the total of his gifts for this purpose \$49,605,622.

## CLOWNS AND HOT CODLINS.

"There Are No Clowns Now," and "Who Remembers the Codlin Song?" Jas. Doughty, the oldest actor and clown in the United Kingdom, will celebrate his ninetieth birthday on August 28 with three benefit performances on the West Pier at Brighton.

Mr. Doughty is an interesting link with the theatrical past, says the London Daily Mail. He followed in the footsteps of the great Grimaldi. He has worn Grimaldi's wigs. He has sung Grimaldi's songs. He regretfully recalls the days when the harlequinade was the attraction of a pantomime and the clown its chief performer. Motley which he will wear once more on his birthday, is to him a garb as sacred as the mournful doublet of Hamlet.

"There are no clowns now," he remarks with a shade of bitterness. "Last year I heard the tale of a theatrical manager who forgot all about the clown when he was arranging his pantomime, and at the last minute gave a sayer half a crown extra to play the part!" The contemptuous tone must be left to the imagination.

Old though he is—he is now wheeled to his daily performances on the pier in a bath chair—Mr. Doughty is still a picturesque figure. He wears a smart cutaway coat and a Gladstone collar. He puts his troupe of dogs through their paces with great punctiliousness, and sends the children into shrieks of delight with ripe old jokes that used to amuse their grandfathers.

Who remembers the famous song "Hot Codlins?" Grimaldi sang it. Doughty sang it after him. Doughty in his now quavering tenor sang the first few lines of it:

A little old woman, a living she got,  
By selling of codlins, hot, hot, hot;  
This little old woman, so we have been told,

Though her codlins were hot she was monstrously cold,  
So to keep herself warm she thought  
It no sin

To run and get half a quarter of—  
Here the audience shouted the names of various beverages, starting with gin, and the expert clown finished off the line triumphantly with some potation they had not mentioned.

"And what are codlins?" asked the interviewer.

"Hot baked apples."

"There, now," said a member of the clown's family, "I have heard that song hundreds of times and I always thought it was fish."

The greatest success Mr. Doughty ever had with the song was one day when, after singing it thousands of times, he forgot the beginning and devoted three minutes to asking the band and the audience, who, of course, would not believe him.

Here is a story which suggests the kind of humor the old clowns loved. "Lady Diana Huddleston asked me to train her dog. I went to the Princes Club every day to train him. One day he was obstinate. Lady Diana told me to flick him 'I believe in kindness, your ladyship.' I said, 'Ah, well, you are the best judge.' 'No, my lady,' I said, 'the baron is the best judge,' and Baron Huddleston, the Judge of the Exchequer, put down his paper and laughed."

Mr. Doughty is very proud of two things—a letter of thanks from Queen Victoria after a performance at Osborne, and a certificate of approval from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

## Manet's Painting.

Manet infused new blood into painting at a time when Cabanel was nominally and officially the head of French art. Without the academic correctness of men trained as were Bouguereau, Hebert, Gerome and Cabanel, Manet, on the other hand, looked nature squarely in the face and painted facts as he saw them. The result was that human beings existed before you in all the vividness of life. He believed it was the business of the painter to paint; and so his "Lady in Pink" and the "Boy with a Sword" are masterpieces of frank vision achieved by means of pigment. Faulty often in drawing, he built up his presentations by sound construction and faithful color, attaining in the course of this effort certain captivating passages of paint that recalled at times a no less skillful manipulator than that wizard of eighteenth century art, Fragonard himself. One has but to study the integrity of color in his "Boy with a Sword," the tonal quality of floor, background and blue hose, and the marvelous painter-like quality of the half-peeled orange in the "Lady in Pink" to become conscious of his faculty for painting which I am endeavoring to suggest. It belongs to the great traditions of the painter's craft.—Scribner's Magazine.

## An Excuse.

Little Dick, the village "bad boy," was wading through a shallow swamp catching frogs with a small landing-net. He had just caught a fine specimen and transferred it to his bucket, when a young lady who was out for a walk happened along.

"Little boy," she said, "don't you know it's very cruel to catch those poor little froggies?"

Dick straightened up and looked at her. She wore a gorgeous "creation" on her head and something in its trimmings acted his attention.

"I want 'em to wear on my hat," he said.—Youth's Companion.

# WOMAN

## CHICKEN RANCH HEROINE.

Gertrude Atherton in her last novel, "Ancestors," makes her heroine run a chicken ranch. A more unromantic occupation for a heroine could hardly be devised, but the heroine was a California girl, and both her occupation and her character were entirely in keeping. California is distinguished for the number of its women who have made money in independent business enterprises. Another girl in "Ancestors" was a caterer. Mrs. Atherton knew perfectly what she was talking about. In San Francisco women have been remarkably successful as caterers. Miss Mary Bates was the first, and followed the calling successfully for years. The University Club, one of the most distinguished men's clubs in the city, has a woman's cafe, to which only those women holding cards from members may go. It is a high-class cafe, and it is conducted by the Misses Friedlander, daughter of Friedlander, the grain king, who lost his money and died soon after. The caterer girl in the book came from one of the old families, too.

The three Warren sisters, granddaughters of one of the forty-niners who made a fortune and lost it, are among the leading decorators of San Francisco. They decorate houses and tables for fashionable events. They did the decorating for the famous "gold dinner" given to President McKinley, and their scheme carried out in California poppies and other yellow flowers, was one of the most magnificent ever seen in the State. The Sign of the Peacock is one of the fashionable luncheon rooms of the city, conducted by two women.

A woman was the first person in California to start the culture of tuberoses. She has great greenhouses and sends the cut flowers to the San Francisco markets. Mrs. Kersey, at Hayward's, raises tulips, Japanese iris, daffodils and all the bulbous plants for the bulbs, which are all sold in the East. A woman at San Mateo was left land poor by her husband. She had a ranch, but no money. She began to raise sweet peas for the San Francisco flower stores, and now has a hundred acres planted to them. Mrs. Strong made a great success of raising pampas grass for the markets. When the fashion of using pampas plumes for decoration went out she planted her land to walnuts, and has made a success of those. Mrs. Abbie Krebs is the president of a lumber company and owns 3,000 acres of redwood forest. She has been very successful financially. She is a member of a lumber association containing twenty-one constituent companies. It was this association which built the Hoo Hoo house at the St. Louis Exhibition—"Hoo Hoo" being the cry used by the lumbermen when they call to each other in the forest—and it was Mrs. Krebs who furnished the redwood room in this building, and herself painted around it the six-foot frieze representing the redwood forest.—New York Press.

## MAY MAKE CALLS BY MAIL.

Long ago the telephone came into use in the extending of invitations by society women, who found it not only saved much trouble, but did away with a lot of stiff formality. Maybe they will try to reproduce here the Postal Calling League that has been introduced by the women in Simla, the fashionable resort for English-speaking residents in India. To become a member of the league means an end to the necessity of calling in person upon the entire circle of acquaintances. The new arrival registers with the Librarian of the Town Hall and this brings the privilege of mailing her cards to all the women in the league. Should she choose to travel around Simla in her rickshaw she will find at the doors of members of the league little boxes labelled "Not at home." This means that should the caller prefer it she may drop her card in the box and go her way. Where society is loose-jointed and continually growing, as in this city the Simla scheme would come as a positive boon to scores of women. The average society woman now never ventures out calling without her social register as her guide. So many are the so-called friends that it is necessary to look up their addresses, just as one turns to the telephone directory in the ordinary course of prosaic business. Calls must be made on many persons whose friendship is not wished but whose acquaintance cannot be slighted. Calls by mail would smooth over a duty that is not always pleasant.—New York Press.

## MARRIAGE OR A CAREER.

The friends of Miss Grace Llewellyn Jones, I am told, consider it a very prosaic thing for that clever young woman to decide upon marriage instead of a career. More surprising even than the announcement of her wedding day was the news that after the honeymoon trip she will settle down with her husband Robert Gibson, Jr., in that plain American metropolis, New York. In the ante-earthquake days, when Miss Jones acted "Phedre" in the original and read from the Italian classics for the pleasure of her fellow members of Prof. Ventura's polyglot club, she invariably extolled a "career" beyond dull matrimony and domesticity and Italy as the land of her heart's desire. Miss Llewellyn Jones and her mother know their Italy as most of us knew our Market street before the fire. During their long residence in the country of Petrarch, Dante and Boccaccio they occupied a residence of historic note, pointed out by guides to the tourists as is pointed out the erstwhile home of the Brownings. The palace occupied by Mrs. Jones and her mother had once been the home of John Sebastian Cabot. Think of a young bride of poetic fancy who had once lived in a historic Venetian palazzo and used a picturesque gondola for her shopping excursions settling down in gay New York a few blocks from the Great White Way and travelling in a commonplace motor car, the elevated or the subway! It is a picture the friends of the young woman find hard to reconcile with her former conception of happiness.—San Francisco Call.

## AT SCHOOL AGAIN.

Miss Sarah P. Morrison 75 years old, is starting in to attend college at Bloomington, Ind. Miss Morrison graduated with the '69 class, but when she returned to the university recently to attend the commencement exercises she became convinced that another term would be a good thing for her and she accordingly made plans to spend the summer in Bloomington and take up a few courses of study. It may be supposed that the lady will give the faculty little trouble out of the classroom. It is not probable that she will contract the habit of letting herself down, by tying sheets together, from a high window, and there is no likelihood that she will have to be reprimanded for remaining out with young men after the regular hour for retiring. We shall be disappointed if she does not prove to be a model student. There is however, a curious fact connected with her case. It is announced that it is her purpose, while she is in college this time, to investigate "the laws of versification." Why is it necessary for any one who lives in Indiana to go to college for the purpose of securing information concerning the laws of versification? Are not all Hoosiers male and female, born poets? Why has Miss Morrison waited seventy-five years to "investigate the laws of versification"? We can only conclude that there has been a mistake concerning her age or that she has not been a true daughter of Indiana.—Boston Herald.

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## INTERESTED IN SAILORS.

Mrs. Walter Courtenay Bennett, wife of Great Britain's Counsel General, is greatly interested in the welfare of seamen. While Mr. Bennett was in San Francisco she devoted all her spare time and much of her money to this work.

After the Seaman's Institute was destroyed by the earthquake she was one of a little group of devoted women who stood by the mission in all its vicissitudes and it was partly due to her efforts in raising money and interesting others that a new and finer building rose so quickly from the ashes of the old. Many an entertainment which netted a handsome sum for the institute besides providing amusement for the sailors, who were admitted free was engineered by her.

The new institute has forty bedrooms for seamen, with bathrooms, sitting rooms, a baggage room, where any sailor may bestow his belongings; a post office, savings bank, coffee bar and chapel, and a large main hall, where entertainments are given and where there are newspapers in various languages, magazines, a billiard table and games.

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## LADY MARJORIE MANNERS.

Lady Marjorie Manners, whose name has been linked with that of Prince Arthur of Connaught as his probable fiancée, is small and dark, with a strangely white little face and large dark eyes. She is an intimate friend of Prince Arthur's sister, the charming Princess Patricia. Another of her intimates is Miss Vivia Tree, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boonboom Tree. She is a daughter of the Duchess of Rutland, a leader in the ultra-artistic set, and has of late developed what is said to be a beautiful singing voice and is devoting much time to its culture.

## SUPERINTENDENT OF INSTRUCTION.

Miss S. Belle Chamberlain, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Idaho, is said to have done more for education in her State than any other person in a similar position. Through her efforts all the county superintendents in Idaho were enabled to attend the recent meeting of the National Educational Association in Cleveland and had their expenses paid.

## WON THE FIRST DEGREE.

Miss Dorothea Klumpke of California, the astronomer, who was the first woman to win the degree of doctor of mathematics in France, has a special building for her exclusive use in the great observatory garden in Paris. One of her duties is to photograph the stars in that section of the heavens known as the Paris belt. For this purpose she has made frequent balloon ascensions.