

RURAL TOPICS

THE HOG OF TODAY.

The hog is more of an individual than a machine, and his breeder should treat him as such. Methods which have been accepted as established have been worked out in swine breeding, but adherence to all of them cannot, for many practical reasons, be rigid. The breeder himself, his breeding stock, environment, feed resources, climate and other factors are so largely involved that one man's success may spell another man's failure. A common-sense breeder constitutes a combination best calculated for satisfaction and profit during a succession of years.

Live stock husbandry represents a high type of constructive effort, and swine breeding offers as much satisfaction and gain as any other branch. It may profitably engage the attention of the man who raises hogs merely from financial motives, but a breeder who attains a foremost place in his calling has an interest in his business not inspired solely by rewards in money. The compensations of swine raising are ample for the man who desires to make his work a profession, as hundreds who have a just pride in their achievements can testify.

Intelligence used in his breeding and care has raised the hog from the plane of the veriest savage, unsought except when hunted like any other wild beast, to that of a benefactor, contributing a wide variety of meats among them the most toothsome known to the epicure, and other products essential to the best tables, to commerce and the trades. The hog's disposition has yielded to the influence of good breeding and changed from that of the outlaw, ready for conflict with man or beast, to the peaceable temperament belonging with propriety to the barnyard resident. His conformation has been molded by skillful methods from bony, angular uncouthness into a structure of massive width, depth and thickness, affording a marvelous yield of pork and lard. Incidentally, by domestication and generations of breeding him for early maturity and quick fattening, the length of his intestines has been increased, it is claimed by scientists, more than 130 per cent.

Swine are as susceptible as other animals to the influences of environment, and three or four generations cover a period long enough to bring about great changes in them. Experiments made at the Wisconsin station in crossing the wild or razor-back hogs and their crosses with the improved and approved breeds showed that a marked improvement in appearance and quality in the wild hogs' progeny was possible, although in constitution and gains of flesh they did not compare with pure-breds, and when cholera struck the station herds these supposedly hardier hogs were the first to succumb. Their feeding habits were irregular: on one day they would gorge themselves so that they would be found fasting for the next day or more. These compelling forces of heredity made plain that both right breeding and right environment are essential to the attainment of right results. At the same time environment may be, in some cases, as destructive in its results as in other cases it is beneficial. Swine typical of the best breeding require but two or three generations of wrong environment to degenerate to the level of the most unapproved types. Much, therefore, depends upon the breeder and his provisions for and care in handling.—From "Swine in America," by F. D. Coburn.

CLOVER SICK SOIL.

Ever since the beginning of farming in the United States there has been a misunderstanding in some sections and among certain farmers as to why clover won't grow. Of course there are different reasons, but it is usually because the ground is either sour or because it is not good enough to give the young plants the proper start.

If a farmer finds that he cannot make red clover or alfalfa do well, it is comparatively an easy thing for him to experiment with an acre or so. Let him buy, say fifty bushels of lime just before he sows his grain. Make a big bin of boards on the ground, dump the lime in it and slack with water. Water-slacked lime is much better than air-slacked. Then, after the soil is prepared for seeding, scatter 25 bushels of this slacked lime on one acre and sow it with three pecks of barley and 25 pounds of good, well tested alfalfa seed. Then scatter say 300 pounds of soil from an old alfalfa field, or soil from the side of the road where sweet clover grows in abundance.

Of course farmers cannot afford to do a great deal of promiscuous experimenting, but it pays to know your soil as well as your climate. Climate may cover a whole country, but soil is peculiar to each farm. The experiment station can tell a farmer what he can grow to advantage so far as climate goes, but he must find out for himself the right methods of treating his particular soil in order to take advantage of favorable climatic conditions. A man risks very little in trying lime on a single acre. If it fails to work an improvement, the experiment is more than likely to

point the way to success in some other direction.—Epitomist.

BREED IN HENS.

Felch says the Light Brahmas will grow a broiler to weigh two pounds at eight weeks old. Twenty-two have been produced to weigh 53.7 pounds at two months old; the same twenty-two weighing 107 pounds at one hundred days of age. Duxton prefers the White Wyandottes to any other breed for broilers. Even for light weights he found the other breeds unsatisfactory. At fifteen weeks of age the Leghorns weigh 1 1/4 pounds each, while the cross of White Wyandottes and Brahmas weighing over five pounds each at the same age. For general purposes, Mr. Duxton prefers the White Wyandottes best.

Every particle of the egg—yolk, albumen and shell—must come from the assimilated food through the blood cells. Scientific men tell us that an egg in an ounce and a half of concentrated food, made up of lime, soda, sulphur, iron, phosphorus, magnesia, oil and albumen.

Experimentalists say that peas, beans, wheat, oatmeal and some other vegetables contain much flesh-forming substance, but it is difficult to say what proportion of them should be used or what quantity given without doing mischief. There are certain foods that give warmth and aid respiration, and certain kinds that restore the muscular waste of the matured (or increase the bulk of the growing) animal. If we give only warmth-producing substances the consumers will fall in the increase of bone, muscle, etc., and if we give much flesh producing nourishment it goes to waste or becomes injurious.

FARM NOTES.

As soon as colery plants can be handled from the seed bed, they should be transplanted two or three inches apart in a new bed, and have the tap roots nipped. You will thus get far stronger plants and easier to make live in the final transplanting. Cultivation of the soil is not merely done to kill weeds, but it is a soil conservator; it makes the soil more porous, so that the plant roots more easily penetrate in search of plant food. In time of protracted drought the cultivator should be kept going whether there are weeds or not.

To keep moss from growing in stock water tanks, cover the tanks or shade them and the moss will not grow without sunshine.

The poultryman who is making a profit from his poultry will no doubt see the importance of making poultry raising an industry which he is proud of, and do all in his power to maintain and advance all lines of poultry raising. Poultry production in the United States has become one of the greatest industries in the world.

Commercial Poultry has discovered a new way to break up a sitting hen. "Place a Teddy bear in her nest and the hen will leave it never to return." There is nothing better than dry earth to use on the drooping boards under the roosts. Cover the boards to the depth of an inch or two and the droppings can be raked out as often as necessary with a fine rake made by driving nails through a piece of wood and attaching a handle.

MAKING TIMOTHY HAY.

Timothy may be cut in the morning and put in the mow in the afternoon if you know how to do it. Start the mowing machine as soon as the dew is off in the morning, then follow the machine with the tedder and follow the tedder with the side-delivery rake. If the day is a dry one the hay may be made in perfect condition for mowing away before night and the hay made in this way will come out a nice green color in the winter time and the stock will go for it like cornstalks in summer.

A little clover sprinkled through the timothy will cure all right, but if there is too much clover it may lead to trouble. Timothy is easily handled if there is no dew on it or no rain. The juice in the stalks will be absorbed and will not work in jury, but rain or dew seems to have a different effect. There is a fungus growth induced by water on green clover that grows and develops in the mow and causes heating. This fungus is responsible for the dust in cured hay. It is the one thing to avoid.

One great trouble in making hay is that farmers are liable to cut down too much. It is better to cut an acre or two, cure it properly and mow it away than it is to cut down more and take chances. This is a case where it is better to be safe than sorry.—Epitomist.

Sad Accident.

In an effort to shoo a fly off his nose and at the same time to grease a wagon axle, James Horrall, a well known Knox County, Pa., farmer, suffered a broken arm. He had axle grease on his hand when a fly settled on his nose. In brushing at the pest with his elbow the farmer accidentally touched the handle of a heavy jack which held up the wagon. The handle released the clutch and the weight of the wagon, suddenly freed, caused the handles to fly up against Horrall's right arm, breaking it near the shoulder.



THE SOCIAL CIRCLE.

WORLD'S OLDEST METHODIST. Mrs. Mary Ramsey Wood, familiarly known as "Grandma Wood," who died lately at the home of her daughter, at the great age of one hundred and twenty years, is said to have been the oldest Methodist, if not the oldest woman, in the world. From a reader in Sherwood (Mr. F. B. Clark), we have received the story of Grandma Wood's life. She was born at Knoxville, Tenn., May 20, 1787. At the age of 12 years she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. She married Jacob Lemons in 1804, and bore the following children: Mary Jane Lemons, born in 1806, died 1894; Isaac Lemons, born in 1809, died 1866; Mrs. Nancy Lemons Bullock, born 1816, died 1868; and Mrs. Catherine Reynolds, born 1830, at whose home the aged woman resided for many years.

Mrs. Lemons moved from Tennessee to Alabama with her husband in 1837, and to Georgia in 1838. Lemons died the following year. In 1849 she moved to Missouri. In 1852 she crossed the plains to Oregon, riding the entire distance on horseback on a mare she had christened "Martha Washington Pioneer." She settled in Washington County, and on May 23, 1854, was married to John Wood, who died in the sixties.

Mrs. Wood came from English stock, her ancestors settling in the Carolinas. Her mother died at the advanced age of 110. Grandma was a great reader in her time, and had often seen Gen. Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other statesmen of her youthful days. Her best recollections, however, as to public men seems to have centered on Andrew Jackson, with whom, it is said, she once danced in her younger days. She was cheery, good-natured and affable, and greatly beloved by all who knew her. There has been some doubt as to the authenticity of her birth-date, and Mrs. Reynolds wrote relatives of the Ramsey family at Warm Springs, Mo., who quoted from the family Bible, sustaining Grandma Wood's great age.—Christian Herald.

MORALITY OF THE STAGE.

It is the women today who make the success of the individual theatre and the individual play. If any doubt as to that exists in any one's mind, witness the attendance of these very theaters when immoral plays are running. Out of six such in New York, inspected by the Delinquent, not one but showed an attendance of one-third to one-half of women. And as these women in the great majority were escorted there as the guests of the men, either their wives, sweethearts or friends, it stands to reason that the men would accept the dictate of the woman as to what play she would wish to see.

We repeat what Mr. Charles Burnham, president of the Association of Theatre Managers, says: "No play can exist that is not patronized by women," and we add to it: No play can exist that is not patronized by good women. There are not enough of the other kind to keep any show running. If, therefore, the good women of this great country will awake to their responsibilities in this one thing: if they will themselves refuse to attend; if they will use their unlimited influence to persuade their women and men friends not to attend any show of the kind, they will drive from the stage every indelicate, indecent, immoral or impure play. In that act they will be casting votes effectively for a great moral end, and will build a platform on which they can well stand and claim a right to cast the ballot on every other thing.—The Delinquent.

BELLS OF HOME APPEAL.

If they cannot be Mother Goose enough to have bells on their toes, two young American women who have reached that awesome height to which rapturous servant girls refer as "marrying into the nobility," are making collections of tin snuff-box things. When the Countess of Granard was in Washington last week she spent a few hours in curio shops looking for bells. She wants to outfit the collection of Mrs. John Ward, who was Jean Reid. The latter young woman has been getting bells for the last two years, and the bellroom in her country home is artistic. She has bells that range centuries ago; deep-carved pealers suspended by brass chains from the raftered ceiling of her curio room. She has exquisite silver east-ecclesiastical bells and quaint little tinklers that called grand dames to coffee. In Washington the Countess purchased a bell that once did service on the table of George Bancroft and a colonial bell which the curio dealer assured her solemnly, summoned Lafayette to his meals when he was staying with a prominent family of Richmond.—New York Press.

WORK FOR THE NERVOUS.

Now, what is true for normal, healthy life is equally true for abnormal, morbid life. The popular doctrine for a long time has been that for nervous persons rest is a neces-

sity. This doctrine has been embodied in the famous Weir Mitchell cure. And doubtless for certain cases rest should be commended—as, for example, in certain acute exhaustive states of the nervous system, where there is a genuine or physical fatigue as distinguished from psychological fatigue. But modern students are more and more coming to realize that not absolute rest but modified rest—that is to say, rest, and work combined—is the sovereign remedy for nervous disorders. The great majority of persons who suffer from neurasthenia complain of a sense of fatigue, and they need above all things rest, or cessation from activity; but they forget that, in a vast majority of instances the fatigue does not spring out of any real muscular weakness, but rather from psychological or mental causes.—Rev. Samuel McComb, in Harper's Bazar.

MUSIC IN YOUR HOME.

A social leader, looking into the social history of bells, unearthed fascinating stories. She has bells that were used in old Roman houses when Rome ruled the world. She has discovered that bells were used as personal trinkets and for household purposes soon after the Pharaohs. This woman has bells that hung in the fields of slaveholders in the South, and which sounded an alarm when the human chattel escaped. She is getting together material about her slave bells which will make "Uncle Tom's Cabin" look like a Sunday school story, she asserts. Decorations of bells are getting popular in comes where the mistress tends toward the uncommon. In many homes glass slabs tinkle with every passing breath as they hang from chandeliers.—New York Press.

TO IMPROVE YOUR CARRIAGE.

Every woman can possess a supple, agile body under perfect control. The first essential is to learn to stand properly, with the head erect and the shoulders flat, not pressed backward. To acquire this, balance an object on the head, in imitation of the peasant woman, and stand against a solid wall, the heels, trunk and back of the head touching it. When you feel that you are "in position," step forward, retaining the object (it may be anything—a small pillow or a weight) upon the head. Now raise the heels slowly, pressing the floor with the toes; repeat this 10 times. Now hold the arms flat against the sides, bend the knees and lower the body toward the heels without actually touching them; raise the body slowly, keeping the back straight and upright (otherwise the object will fall off your head) and not allowing the hands to touch the floor. Repeat 10 times.

Next, fill the lungs full of fresh air; hold it, and with the body and head erect, raise one arm, forcibly above the head while the other is held close to the side; lower the raised arm, and, while so doing, raise the other. Continue vigorously this alternate movement (aiding yourself in the erect posture with the object upon the head) until the air in the lungs must be expelled. Slowly refill the lungs and repeat. This exercise has also a particularly stimulating action upon the liver.—The Delinquent.

WEDDING VEILS.

As to the wedding veil, its disposal is a matter of taste. If worn over the face, a separate short piece for this purpose is pinned on at the front of the coiffure, to be taken off at the chancel rail by the maid of honor or one of the bridesmaids, and not put back again. Most brides in this country wear the veil off the face. The same rules as to dress apply at home as if the bride is married at church.

The bridesmaids usually wear hats, but a very pretty custom, followed much in Europe, is the wearing of a tulle veil instead of a hat. This veil, which is adjusted with a wreath of flowers, and of course worn back from the face, is always becoming. The veil matches the gown in color, and the flowers are the same as those in the bouquet. The bridesmaid and maid of honor both wear gloves.—From Vogue.

GRATIFYING PROGRESS.

The suffrage papers of England report that the number of women elected to office in Ireland during the last twelve months has been gratifying to all advocates of equal suffrage. Five women, Mrs. L. A. Barr, Mrs. Griffin, Miss Hamilton, Miss G. Leake and Lady Dockrell, were elected as urban, district and town councillors. Forty-three women were elected as rural district councilors, twenty of them for the first time. As poor law guardians 103 women were elected.—New York Sun.

ASKED THE FRANCHISE.

Mrs. E. S. Fiske, Mrs. H. Colby Smith and Mrs. H. H. Pickett recently appeared before the local Government officials in St. John, New Brunswick, and asked that the franchise in provincial affairs be given to women on the same terms on which they now have it in the municipal elections. The Government officials took the matter under advisement.—New York Sun.

Mrs. Helen G. Talbot of Slough City, who was graduated from Drake University at the head of a law class of thirty-eight, is in Des Moines taking a post-graduate course and preparing a book on real estate law. After completing her course Mrs. Talbot intends to enter upon the active practice of her profession.—New York Sun.

Household Notes

TORN GARMENTS MENDED.

Mend torn garments before they go to wash and half the labor of mending is done away with. When the garments come from the laundry they are stiff and hard to sew on, but mended beforehand the task is comparatively easy, and ironing sometimes makes stitches almost invisible.—Home Herald.

REMOVING INK STAINS.

To remove ink stains from white goods immediately soak in lemon juice 10 or 15 minutes. Then squeeze out and have a bowl of cold water ready to plunge the article in. Pour over the stain household ammonia then dip into the cold water. Soap it well and rub until the stain disappears.—Boston Post.

TO EXTRACT A SPLINTER.

When a splinter has been driven deep into the hand it can be extracted without pain by steam. Nearly fill a wide-mouthed bottle with hot water, place the injured part over the mouth of the bottle and press tightly. The suction will draw the flesh down, and in a minute or two the steam will extricate the splinter and the inflammation will disappear.—Boston Post.

CARE OF THE SINK.

A solution of chloride of zinc, which can be obtained at the druggist's, and used in proportion of one pint to four gallons of water, forms a most efficient cleansing and purifying agent for the sink waste pipe, promptly neutralizing noxious effluvia and arresting vegetable decomposition. Carbonic acid mixed with water in the proportion of two table-spoonsful of acid to a cup of water will prove a good disinfectant in case of odors arising from sink waste pipe.—Boston Post.

A UNIQUE ICE CHEST.

Here is a suggestion for your household-keeping in one room. This is how it was managed in August in New York city. Buy a small galvanized-covered garbage "can" and a stiff, woven wire basket and "here you are" with a perfect ice chest. It can't smell, and with proper care will last a long time. Now put your wire basket in the barrel bottom up. This keeps the ice out of the water as it melts; the ice lasts longer. Take a roll of Sunday Posts and wrap them around the side of the can, and fit a piece for the bottom, and for the cover on the outside of course. Wind all on and tie with strings so that they may be always in place. The thicker this paper coating is the better the ice will keep as it keeps out the hot air. The can described was 15 inches across the top and it had a handle or ball which was useful in moving it to empty the water.—Boston Post.

A DRYING HINT.

Every washerwoman knows the nuisance of hanging out a large family's handkerchiefs, collars, finger-bow dories, and other small articles. To pin them to the line takes time and patience. One old colored woman has hit on a plan of drying that saves her many minutes. She had her mistress make her a long, shallow bag of strong, white mosquito netting, with a drawstring at the top and tapes sewed at the corners and at intervals of three or four inches between.

When the smaller articles were ready for hanging on the line they were laid carefully in the bag, the string drawn up so they would not blow out, and the bag pinned to the line by the tapes for the sun and air to filter through the open meshes of the net.—New York Times.

RECIPES.

Breakfast Cakes.—One egg, 2 table-spoonsful of sugar, 2 table-spoonsful melted butter, 1 cup of sweet milk, 2 cups of bread flour, 2 heaping table-spoonsful of baking powder, a pinch of salt. Bake in a gem pan 1-2 hour.

Cocoa Jelly.—Mix thoroughly 2 table-spoonsful of cocoa and 1-2 cup sugar. Measure 1 pint of milk; add enough of this to the mixed cocoa and sugar to make a paste. Put the rest of the milk on to heat. When hot, stir in 1 envelope of minute gelatine and then paste. Cook 5 minutes in double boiler, stirring constantly. Flavor with vanilla. Turn into mould and set in cool place until firm.

Frozen Maple Parfait.—Pour 1 cup hot maple syrup into well-beaten yolks of 6 eggs; cook over boiling water till thick. Remove from fire, beat until cold. Fold in 1 pint stiffly beaten cream. Flavor with 1 teaspoon vanilla. Turn into a mould; let stand packed in salt and ice from 4 to 5 hours. Chop fine 1 cup blanched almonds. Cook in olive oil until brown, and drain. Sprinkle the parfait with the nuts before serving.

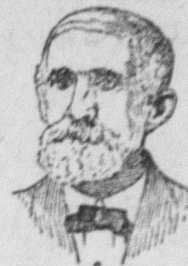
Orange Water Ice.—One quart water, one pound sugar, juice of four oranges, one teaspoonful extract of lemon, two teaspoonfuls extract of orange. Dissolve the sugar in the water, add the orange juice and flavoring extracts, and freeze.

The Dutch will celebrate the centenary of the re-establishment of national independence by a world's fair at The Hague in 1913.

A SURE SIGN.

When It Appears Act at Once.

Trouble with the kidney secretions is a certain sign that your kidneys are deranged—that you should use Doan's Kidney Pills. They cure all irregularities and annoyances, remove backache and side pains and restore the kidneys to health. Robert G. Miller, 315 Ferry St., Danville, Pa., says: "Kidney complaint made me a cripple. I was stiff, lame and sore and had to endure terrible sufferings. I was threatened with Bright's disease and was refused insurance by the examining physicians. I was nervous, weak and run down. Doan's Kidney Pills helped me, and in a short time I was entirely cured."



Remember the name—Doan's. For sale by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

The census of 1907 shows that there were then employed in 4,025,591 industrial concerns in Germany a total of 14,348,389 persons, of whom 3,510,466 were women. Of these concerns 3,423,645 were independent or main concerns and 601,946 were branch shops or factories.

Snow slides, blizzards and rock slides play havoc with the telegraph lines in the Yukon country that wireless systems will be substituted where these troubles prevail.

People will stick to their old belief in metallic poisoning of food in cooking, but poison from tin, verdigris, copper and lead is rare.

FOR COLDS AND GRIP.

Stick's CAPTURE is the best remedy—relieves the aching and feverishness—cures the cold and restores normal conditions. It's liquid—effects immediately. 10c. 50c. and \$1.00 at drug stores.

The population of Buenos Ayres on March 31 was 1,198,802, or 58,525 more than a year previously.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

Natural History.

A party of young men were camping, and to avert annoying questions they made it a rule that the one who asked a question that he could not answer himself had to do the cooking.

One evening, while sitting around the fire, one of the boys asked: "Why is it that a ground squirrel never leaves any dirt at the mouth of its burrow?"

They all guessed and missed. So he was asked to answer it himself. "Why," he said, "because they always begin to dig at the other end of the hole."

"But," one asked, "how does he get to the other end of the hole?"

"Well," was the reply, "that's your question."—Cleveland Leader.

At Napoleon's Tomb.

It was in Paris. The loquacious guide was exhibiting to the interested Yankee tourist the tomb of Napoleon with all the customary flourishes of both language and hands. "This immense sarcophagus," exclaimed the guide, "weighs 40 tons inside of that, sir, is a steel receptacle weighing 12 tons, and inside of that is a leaden casket, hermetically sealed, weighing over 2 tons. Inside of that rests a mahogany coffin containing the remains of a great man."

For a moment the Yankee was silent as if in deep meditation. Then he said: "It seems to me that you've got him all right. If he ever gets out cable me at my expense."—Pittsburg Press.

THE NEW WOMAN.

Made Over by Quitting Coffee. Coffee probably wrecks a greater percentage of Southerners than of Northern people, for Southerners use it more freely.

The work it does is distressing enough in some instances; as an illustration, a woman of Richmond, Va., writes:

"I was a coffee drinker for years, and for about six years my health was completely shattered. I suffered fearfully with headaches and nervousness, also palpitation of the heart and loss of appetite.

"My sight gradually began to fail, and finally I lost the sight of one eye altogether. The eye was operated upon, and the sight partially restored, then I became totally blind in the other eye.

"My doctor used to urge me to give up coffee, but I was wilful, and continued to drink it until finally in a case of severe illness the doctor insisted that I must give up coffee, so I began using Postum, and in a month I felt like a new creature.

"I steadily gained in health and strength. About a month ago I began using Grape-Nuts food, and the effect has been wonderful. I really feel like a new woman, and have gained about 25 pounds.

"I am quite an elderly lady, and before using Postum and Grape-Nuts I could not walk a square without exceeding fatigue; now I walk ten or twelve without feeling it. Formerly in reading I could remember but little, but now my memory holds fast what I read.

"Several friends who have seen the remarkable effects of Postum and Grape-Nuts on me have urged that I give the facts to the public for the sake of suffering humanity, so, although I dislike publicity, you can publish this letter if you like."

Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.