

Farm and Household.

The Importance of the Farmer's Work.

The following extract from Edward Everett's address before the New York State Agricultural Society, in 1857, is worth reproducing: "Strike out of existence, at once, ten day's supply of eight or ten articles, such as Indian corn, wheat, rye, potatoes, rice, millet, the date, the banana, and the bread fruit, with half-a-dozen others which serve as the forage of the domestic animals, and human race would be extinct. The houses we inhabit, the monuments we erect, the trees we plant, stand in some cases for ages; but our own frames—the stout limbs, the skillful hands that built the houses, and set up the monuments, and plant the trees—have to be built up, recreated, every day; and this must be done from the fruits of the earth, gathered by the agriculturist. Every thing else is luxury, convenience, comfort—food is indispensable. Then consider the bewildering extent of this daily demand and supply, which you will allow me to place before you in a somewhat coarse mechanical illustration. The human race is usually estimated at about one thousand millions of individuals. If a sustenance of a portion of these multitudinous millions is derived from other sources than agriculture, this circumstance is balanced by the fact that there is a great deal of agricultural produce raised in excess of the total demand for food. Let, then, the thoughtful husbandman who desires to form a just idea of the importance of his pursuit, reflect, when he gathers his flock about him to partake the morning's meal, that one thousand millions of fellow-men are awakened from sleep that morning, craving their daily bread, with the same appetite which reigns at his family board; and that if, by superior power, they could be gathered together at the same hour, for the same meal, they would fill both sides of tables reaching all round the globe where it is broadest, seated side by side, and allowing 18 inches to each individual, and that these tables are to be renewed twice or thrice every day. Then let him consider that, in addition to the food of the human race, that of all the humble partakers of man's toil—the lower animals—is to be provided in like manner. These all wait upon agriculture, as the agent of Providence which giveth them their meat in due season; and they properly consume in the aggregate an equal amount of produce; and, finally, let him add, in imagination, to this untold amount of daily food for man and beast, the various articles which are furnished directly or indirectly, from the soil, for building material, furniture, clothing, and fuel. The grand total will illustrate the primary importance of agriculture, considered as the steward—the commissary—charged with supplying this almost insatiable daily demand of the untold number of the human race, and the animals for their daily bread; a want so imperative and uncompromising, that death, in its most agonizing form, is the penalty of a failure in the supply."

Cure for Warts.

It is not a matter entirely within the limits which you prescribe, and yet one of public interest; and hence I am led to say to those afflicted with warts (if it is sometimes a source of great annoyance, and often of pain, to have them on the hands or exposed parts of the body) that I have been entirely relieved by the use of kerosene. After trying all the recognized cures in the medical works within reach—chromic acid, sulphuric acid, nitric acid, caustic, potash, etc., I was advised by "corn doctor" to try kerosene oil. When I began its use, three months since, I had thirty-seven on my hands, some very large and painful. When they were covered with hard cuticle, I carefully pared it off and saturated them daily, using a camel's hair pencil and common coal oil. They began to disappear, by absorption, in about two weeks, and are now entirely removed, leaving no scar or mark, as was the result in three places in which I succeeded in eating them out by caustic. I do not suggest it as a specific, but as a means of cure to me, that others may try it. The remedy is always at hand, and, if persistently used, may do more for the corn service I have had from it.—N. Y. Observer.

The Sick Chamber at Night.

The glare of a bright light at night tends to keep an invalid from sleeping; and yet, in many cases it is not desirable to be in total darkness. If a burning candle has common salt on the melted part of the candle, until it reaches the black part of the wax, it will not only cause the candle to burn very slowly, but make it give a dim, and mellow light, proving very agreeable to the invalid. Another expedient in this connection, a room can be very well ventilated in the latter nights, by lighting a candle and placing it on the hearth in the fire place; this causes a draught upwards, which is promoted by the fresh air coming in at an open window or door. In the winter a fire-place, more necessary at night than in the day-time, it not only keeps the air of the room pure and good, but it prevents the room from getting too cool, thus engendering pneumonia or lung fever, in proportion as the invalid is debilitated.

Management of Brooms.

If brooms are wet in boiling suds once a week, they will become very tough, will not cut the carpet, last much longer, and always sweep like a new broom. A very dusty carpet may be cleaned by sitting a pail of water out by the door, wet the broom in it, knock it to get off all the drops, sweep a yard or so, then wash the broom as before and sweep again, being careful to shake all the drops of the broom and not sweep far at a time. If done with care, it will clean a carpet very nicely, and you will be surprised at the quantity of dirt in the water. The water may need changing once or twice, if the carpet is very dirty. Snow sprinkled over a carpet, and swept off, before it has time to melt and dissolve, is also nice for renovating a soiled carpet. Moistened Indian meal is used by some housekeepers.

Coloring Butter with Carrots.

The practice of coloring butter in winter time, prevails very generally and if done with carrot juice the appearance of the butter is improved and the flavor is said to resemble that made from grass in summer. The following is the process: To cream five pounds of butter, take a good-sized orange carrot, wash clean and always sweep like a new broom. A very dusty carpet may be cleaned by sitting a pail of water out by the door, wet the broom in it, knock it to get off all the drops, sweep a yard or so, then wash the broom as before and sweep again, being careful to shake all the drops of the broom and not sweep far at a time. If done with care, it will clean a carpet very nicely, and you will be surprised at the quantity of dirt in the water. The water may need changing once or twice, if the carpet is very dirty. Snow sprinkled over a carpet, and swept off, before it has time to melt and dissolve, is also nice for renovating a soiled carpet. Moistened Indian meal is used by some housekeepers.

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