

FARM GARDEN

THE BEST COW.

The best cow is the one that yields the greatest amount of butter fat in the course of the year at the least expense to her owner. The very prevalent idea that a thin cow is necessarily a good dairy animal is a mistaken assumption. Some cows remain in flesh because they use their milk for milk and fat, but a good dairy cow is one that yields milk and fat in equal quantities. The best cows are those that are equally hearty and that are able to properly assimilate and digest their food. The same rules apply to all other animals with the exception of those that are bred for show purposes. The largest eaters are not necessarily the biggest or strongest.

CANADA THISTLES.

A writer in Garden and Forest describes the novel and effective method of clearing some neglected land of Canada thistles. As an experiment he took a clod-crusher, made of a plank, loaded it with a heavy stone so the horses could draw it, broke the thistles down flat and plowed them deeply under. The plan succeeded perfectly. It was their entire vigor, vitality and substance were then in their tops, they were ready for scattering the seeds. They were entirely destroyed, and a market gardener raised vegetables on the land the next season. A sign of a Canada thistle has been seen on the ground to this day.

A GOOD FERTILIZER.

Very cheap and easy way to prepare bones to supply as a fertilizer is the use of ashes. Break the bones small as is possible. Then cover the bottom of a barrel or box with a layer of ashes, then put in a layer of bones, and so on until the receptacle is filled. The time required for the decomposition of the bones depends upon the strength of the ashes, the size of the bones and the amount of moisture in the mixture. The mixture should be made quite damp by spraying water on it, but not enough to make it soggy. Hard wood ashes which have been exposed to the weather are better for reducing bones.—American Farmer.

PATTERNING STEERS FOR MARKET.

A bulletin No. 39 of the Kansas Experiment Station is published of experiments in fattening two classes of steers for market, the experimental and the commercial. One class of steers was fed outdoors without much protection from inclement weather, the other lot was fed indoors given all the protection possible. The lot was fed in a yard with a shed on three sides, but open on the fourth side, and the others were tied in the stables. About the same amount of feed was given to both sets, though those out of doors were substituted into other lots, and various amounts of food were fed to ascertain the best winter food. The results of the feeding seemed to show that the cattle needed protection in the winter they did not require to be shut close. They grew fatter and had more exercise. The animals that were exposed to the cold gained as much as a heavier expense, as they had more food. The directors added that cattle in the winter should have good protection from bad weather, but also exercise in the open air as much as possible. If they are to be kept in the stables they should be introduced gradually, or they will lose their first few weeks.

NEW ONION CULTURE.

Would call attention to the new method of raising onions, says C. T. in the Epitomist. Having tried it myself I know it to be far from the common mode of culture. The new way consists in sowing the seed in a hot-bed six or eight weeks before the usual time of sowing in the ground. Prepare the ground as would for planting in the old way. The ground cannot be made too fine and must be as free from weeds as possible. A sandy loam, plenty of decaying vegetable matter and well drained, is the right soil for onions. Transplant the onions into rows one foot apart and three inches apart in the row. While the transplanting is a good deal of time and labor, the results after cultivation so much that there is a real gain, as it is more labor to put a weedy onion in the ground than it is to transplant onions. By this method of raising onions they have a much longer season in which to mature, consequently they will grow larger and produce a heavier crop. It makes culture almost a sure thing. The season is late, the onions can be put into proper condition, as they are easily transplanted at any time in their growth the bulb begins to swell. A difference of ten degrees in the temperature of the poultry house may be the turning point between laying and non-laying.

LIBERAL FEEDING IS NECESSARY IN COOL WEATHER.

Liberal feeding is necessary in cool weather, but liberal feeding does not mean giving the fowls all the corn they will eat twice a day. If you keep food constantly before the hens they will grow too fat and cease laying. Exercise and egg production go hand in hand.

ODD LAPSE OF MEMORY.

CASE OF A FARMER WHO THINKS WITH ONE BRAIN HEMISPHERE.

Operation of Trephining Performed on the Skull Results in a Queer State of Affairs.

A MOST remarkable medical case has originated at Keokuk, Iowa, which is giving physicians something to study about. It is what some surgeons call Jacksonian epilepsy. The patient is P. R. Turnbull, a farmer residing at Packwood, Iowa. When he came to Keokuk he stated that he was thirty-one years old, and that when he was only ten years old his brother accidentally struck him on the back of the head with an ax, fracturing the skull above the right ear. He says he did not suffer much from the wound until the fall of 1891. Then he began to notice a numbness in the little finger of the left hand. This numbness extended to the other fingers as time wore on, and finally his hand would experience spasms of contraction. He lost control of the muscles to the extent of paralysis. Finally his entire arm, the left side of his neck and face, and his left leg became involved, and in September, 1892, began a series of terrible epileptic fits. These became so frequent and depressing that lately Turnbull shot himself in the breast, but the ball struck a rib, doing no serious harm.

Turnbull had a wife and four children, and on account of his infirmity so abused his family that his wife secured a divorce. He was operated upon by surgeons at a hospital there Thursday and has so far recovered as to relate some very queer things. The operation consisted in removing the skull in the vicinity of the old wound, which was nothing but a scar. This was trephined and a section of bone taken out. The bone was found to be much thickened in front of the cut made by the ax twenty-one years ago and was spongy at the side. The membranes of the brain were unusually adherent. After the operation Turnbull came out from under the influence of anesthetics, and opening his eyes as one who had been sound asleep, asked of the attendant, a Sister of Mercy, in the hospital: "Where am I?"

When told that he was in a hospital his amazement was something surprising. He wanted to know how he got there, why he was there, and in reply to the explanations of the attendant seemed more dumfounded than ever. Then one of the operating physicians recalled the story that Turnbull had told of his accident when a child, and of all he had said concerning his ailment just previous to the operation. Turnbull looked at the physician a moment in blank amazement and then exclaimed: "Why, I never saw you before in my life."

"Do you remember all those epileptic fits?" asked the surgeon. "I never had but two," replied Turnbull, "and they were in September, 1892. Have you told my wife of this?" asked Turnbull. He did not know that his wife had secured a divorce, and realizing that fact the surgeon made an evasive answer.

"My God, is she dead!" exclaimed the poor man. When assured that his wife was alive he exclaimed: "But something might have happened worse than death!" Turnbull has returned to his home in Packwood, but he cannot remember a single thing that has happened since September, 1892. He thought Harrison was still President, had not heard of Cleveland's election, nor of Boies's defeat! He has learned for the first time that times are hard, as he spoke of money being plenty and prices for farm products high. The World's Fair and its glories are a myth to him. Physicians explain the theory of this phenomenon on the statement that some people use one hemisphere of the brain to the exclusion of the other, and if some injury occurs to it the other hemisphere is brought into service and old impressions are effaced. There is no doubt that Turnbull will be restored cured by his wife and family.—Chicago Times.

Money in a Rabbit Ranch.

It is not generally known that a rabbit ranch exists near South Bend on what promises to be quite an extensive scale, observes the Journal of that place. J. B. Baumgartner and Matthias Foerg are the owners of the ranch, which is located above the Narrows, and already have a barn forty feet long and divided up into stalls, all of which are now occupied by bunny and his numerous progeny. The rabbits are of the lop eared variety, a breed exceedingly scarce and held at fancy prices in the United States. Mr. Baumgartner imported two pairs from Switzerland a year and a half ago, paying \$200 for them. He now has over sixty rabbits from those two pairs, which shows that in rabbit farming, at least, two pairs beat three of a kind. The rabbits breed seven times a year and have from eight to ten to a litter. When full grown they weigh from fourteen to eighteen pounds. They are most delicious eating, their flesh being considered superior to chickens. As they command from fifteen to twenty cents per pound, rabbit farming is much more profitable than chicken raising. Like ordinary rabbits, they are practically omnivorous. They are beautiful animals, with their long, silky ears and fluffy fur. Unlike other rabbits, they do not burrow except at breeding time, and are exceedingly tame by nature and easily kept. Messrs. Baumgartner and Foerg say that they have only made a fair beginning in the business and are already planning to enlarge their building and ranch.

NEWS & NOTES FOR WOMEN

The Astor women have \$3,000,000 in jewels. Braids come in all shades for trimmings. Tagowns are of light colored velvet. Petticoats are made of striped silk and velvet. Heavy white satin is seen with a sort of ground-glass effect. The leading forists of San Francisco and Cleveland are women. Curled cock's feathers are used a great deal on black hats. Fancy handles of fans are extensively adorned with gold fleur-de-lis. France has had sixty-seven queens, of whom thirteen, an odd number for luck, led happy lives. There is positively an epidemic of moire antique raging in London. You may have it in black or in mother of pearl tints, in combination of blue and green and brown or heliotrope, but have it you must if you would be in the fashion. The new basket-plaited Enlilie coiffure is worn with a high Spanish comb set with Irish brilliants. Often this comb is set in sideways in coquetish fashion. To some women this is becoming, but to others it is little short of ridiculous. Gloves are growing longer. The short sleeves are pulling them up the arms. All the shades of red and brown are worn in the dogskin and heavy kid walking gloves, while suede and glace kid dress gloves are in colors to harmonize with the costume. Miss Roberta Ackerly has been appointed by Hon. John Paul, Judge of the United States District Court of the West District of Virginia, deputy clerk of the courts at Lynchburg. This is the first instance of a woman filling such a position in Virginia. Miss Ackerly has for some years been a copyist in the offices of the Circuit and District Courts.

Skating Without Ice.

Some California genius has invented a composition which may be spread over the floor of a skating rink and will give a surface on which ordinary runner skates, such as are worn on ice, may be used. Sulphur is one of the principal ingredients, but there are four others, which the inventor keeps secret. The material is hard and elastic, and gives a surface as slippery as ice, and perfectly smooth. Ernest Westleins, who has won a medal as the champion skater of Scandinavia, and who, with his pirouettes and his intricate doublings and curves on the ice, has skated his way into more or less fame in many countries, has tested the substance and declares that, as a whole, he prefers it to ice, although in the smoothness of the surface there is little difference between the two.—New Orleans Times.

Rosa Bonheur is still painting in her quaint study near Fontainebleau, France. She is now an old woman, small, sunburned and wrinkled as a peasant. The grey hair is cut short and is still thick. As she wears a blouse she dons a cloth cap. Mme. Fateno, wife of the new Japanese Minister, likes American dress, with the exception of corsets. She is trying to accustom herself to them, but finds it very hard to sit on the floor gracefully and comfortably, as she can in her national garb. A letter holder is made of a square of cardboard covered with dull, dark green silk. To this is overlaid a cloveleaf piece of cardboard covered with a somewhat lighter shade of the silk and sewed at three sides so that the letters may be inserted at the top. There are ladies who would be strongly tempted to turn back, while on the way to church to be married, they should happen to meet a funeral, and others who would be almost as greatly shocked on seeing a black cat or a crow, both of which animals are known to be unlucky.

Mrs. N. E. Bronston, of Atchison, Kan., has been setting type for forty-three years. She learned her trade in her father's office, in Newport, Ky., beginning when she was twelve years old. She has been part owner of one or two newspapers in her day, and has set type in many offices in Kansas. A new career has been opened to German women by the foundation of a school of decorative art in Berlin. At a moderate fee girls receive instruction in all branches of the decorative industry, such as arrangement of curtains and draperies, the manufacture of fringe, pattern drawing, etc. The course lasts from four to six weeks.

Nothing to build on. Two years ago I was taken sick with internal neuritis and a complication of diseases, including nervous prostration. I had four doctors here and then went to Boston, where I was treated by two physicians. They said I had catarrh of the bladder. When I began taking HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA I weighed 150 pounds. I could not stand on my feet long enough to wash my dishes; now I can do all my work, washing included, for five in the family. Mrs. J. E. Brown, Boston, N. H. Hood's Pills cure all liver ills, biliousness.

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Quakers Adopting Modern Ways.

The rising generations of the Society of Friends are fast modifying, in a marked degree, the customs, costumes and manners of their fathers. Peculiarities of dress and language have been almost entirely abandoned, the cultivation of music and the other arts is no longer discouraged, except by a very few, and George Fox would not recognize his present followers, so great have been the changes wrought since the days of Penn. In connection with the cultivation of music, an interesting fact was noticed. In an academy in a nearby town, attended only by the children of Friends, a school entertainment was recently given, the programme of which contained several musical numbers. The music comprised such familiar tunes as, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," etc., and a lover of music who attended commented afterward on the absence of harmony and euphony in the singing. While not exactly a discord, there was a notable lack of melody, rendering the hymns anything but enjoyable. It is quite possible that the far-reaching law of heredity may account for this fact, and that the ancestry of these pupils, who for over 300 years have considered music as only a vain amusement, have transmitted to their children organs unable to properly voice the beauties of this, to them, long unused art.—Philadelphia Record.

A Curious Fact About Portrait Painters.

I have never seen mention made of the curious circumstance that many portrait painters seem to have unconsciously given to their sitters a shade of resemblance to their own features. Van Dyck's portraits nearly all bear a trace of the master's own elegance of face and figure, the works of Holbein and Ribens give countenance to the same theory, and Rembrandt's magnificent portraits, though showing such a wonderful variety, yet all bear a more or less remote resemblance to Rembrandt himself. The same is true of Sir Joshua's. This may be partly, but not entirely, accounted for by the fact that not only do the individuals of any one Nation bear a certain resemblance to each other, and that the same is true of the whole people of any given epoch; but the main reason seems to be that the artist unconsciously imitates his own face.—Scribner's Magazine.

There are about 750 hotels in Chicago, which have accommodations for 150,000 guests. This does not include boarding houses, restaurants, and cafes, where at least 100,000 more can be daily provided for.

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