



MARKING SHEEP.

Much complaint is made of the damage done to wool by marking with tar or paint which will not wash off. The following recipe is recommended as one which will resist the weather and at the same time can be readily removed with soap and warm water:

Take lampblack or Spanish red, and mix with strong vinegar; mix it well to the thickness of paint. The sheep should be marked on some part of the back; by this means the mark is not so likely to be obliterated by the animals rubbing together. By employing the above mixture, instead of the wool being depreciated in value, as it is by the use of tar and paint, it will bring its full value.—New York World.

LEATHER SCRAPS FOR GRAPEVINES.

Any kind of tanned leather, whether in the form of a scrap or otherwise, decays very slowly in the soil and the best way to use it is as a mulch about your grape vines. If spread over the surface to the depth of two or three inches it will keep the soil underneath moist and cool, and at the same time prevent the weeds from growing. As the leather decays the fertilizing material in it will be carried down to the roots by rain, and nothing will be lost by using such coarse scraps as a top dressing for plants. If spread over your garden and plowed in the leather will decay somewhat more rapidly than when left on the surface, but in hoeing and weeding of your plants the large scraps are likely to become somewhat troublesome.—New York Sun.

FEEDING MILK TO COLTS.

In England and Scotland it is an almost universal practice to feed draught colts a daily ration of new milk, generally warm from the cow. Flaxseed jelly and crushed oats are sometimes added, but the mixture is carefully skimmed before feeding. As might be expected, colts fed on this with what they pick from their barns' rations and the mother milk make an enormous growth, often fully 1000 pounds at eight months old.

For show purposes this is a good feed, but the flesh laid on is not solid and speedily falls away when actual work begins. Bones and sinews share the same condition, hence the prevalence of unsound joints, especially soft, puffy hocks, are sure to follow. Milk feeding forces a rapid growth inconsistent with the nature of the horse and the work he is called upon to perform. Nothing will build up an old or run down horse for show as quickly as milk. Nothing is so good as milk drink to remove an appearance of gauntness during shows and sales. When a horse is recovering from stomachic troubles milk may be fed in small quantities to good advantage, but as in cases of colts great care must be used in regulating the quantity given.

HARDNESS OF BUTTER.

The New Hampshire Experiment Station has conducted some experiments as to the effects of different foods upon the hardness of butter, and though the work in this direction is not as yet extensive enough to justify the drawing of conclusions, their experiments thus far indicate: That gluten meal tends to produce a much softer quality of butter than corn meal and cottonseed meal, and other things being equal tends to lessen the churnability of the butter fat. That with the same cows the hardness depends much more upon the character of the food than upon the nutritive ratio; that ensilage produces a much softer butter than does good hay; but it is also favorable to the flavor and texture of the butter product that skimmed milk has a very favorable effect upon the churnability and quality of the butter fat, and in a single trial apparently reversed the general rule that the volatile fatty acids decrease as the period of lactation advances; that cottonseed meal tends to produce an unusually hard quality of butter, and that cottonseed meal and gluten meal might be used together with excellent results; that contrary to general belief the melting point of butter fat is not a good index of the commercial hardness of butter; that while in general a soft butter melts at a lower temperature than a hard butter there is no definite relation between melting point and actual hardness; that no relation can be traced between foods and volatile fatty acids except in the case of skim milk; that usually hardness and volatile acids vary inversely, hardness generally increasing and volatile acids decreasing as the period of lactation advances.—Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

CLOVER THE INNOVATOR.

No field should be idle without clover. There is no telling how much land lies idle every year bare of clover, because the farmer had no time to prepare it at the proper time for clover seed. But it is a mistake to suppose, as is too often done, that the land must be broken and put in fine condition for clover seed. Clover seed sown at the right time will take root on almost any kind of land. It stands a hard land some seasons the best. Of course, if the land is rough and very uneven, as it generally is after corn and other plowed crops, the clover cannot be cut, but that is no reason why the land should not be in clover. It is better for the land if the clover is allowed to remain on it. It helps to put life in the soil and can be pastured as well when the land is in a rough condition as when smooth. The cost of seed is a mere trifle. One bushel will do for eight acres, and one bushel to twelve acres will make a big show and be of great help to the land. When the practice of sowing clover seed becomes general clover seed will be used without stint, as it should be in order for us to see its full value. Clover, like some of the weeds, is hard to exterminate if allowed to go to seed. If the seed are plowed under six or eight inches they will remain in a sound condition for years and grow readily when brought near the surface by deep plowing. Where the clover has ever been on the land clover plants will make their appearance every time the land lies idle. Red clover when fed alone to work stock may be in many ways objectionable, but when fed in connection with timothy hay we cannot see that any objection can be made to it. Much of the prejudice against clover as food for work stock comes from letting stock have too much. But no particularly bad results have been noticed from giving work horses all they can eat of timothy and clover equally mixed. It should not be forgotten that meadows with clover in them should be cut as soon as the clover is ready for the machine. If clover is allowed to get dead ripe its nutritive qualities are in a measure lost. Timothy loses nothing, save a little in weight, from being early harvested.—Farmers' Review.

WINTER SHOING.

Shoes in the winter season are required to discharge a double duty—to afford foothold as well as to guard against undue wear. William Dickson, in the United States Government report on the horse, says on the subject: "Various patterns of shoes have from time to time been invented to meet this dual requirement; but the commonest of all, fashioned with toe and heel calks or calking, is, faulty though it be, probably, all things considered, the one which best suits the requirement of the case. It should, however, never be lost sight of that the shorter, the sharper and the smaller the calkins are, so long as they answer the purpose which called them into existence, so much the better for the foot that wears them.

High calkins, while they confer no firmer foothold, are potent means of inflicting injury both on the foot itself and the superincumbent limb at large. It is only from that portion of the catch which enters the ground surface that the horse derives any benefit in the shape of foothold, and it must be apparent to the meanest capacity that long calkins which do not penetrate the hard, uneven ground are so many levers put into the animals possession to enable if not compel him to wring his feet, wreak his limbs and inflict untold tortures on himself.

I have laid particular stress on this subject, as I am of the opinion that the presence of the navicular disease, a dire malady from which horses used for agricultural labor should enjoy a practical immunity, is traceable largely to the habitual use during our long winter months of needlessly large calkins, only fractional parts of which find lodgment in the earth or ice during progression.

I will explain what I mean. When a horse is shod with the exaggerated calkins to which I have alluded the toe and heel calks are, or ought to be, the same height to start with, at all events. Very often, however, they are not, and even when they are the toe calks wear down on animals used for draught purposes far more rapidly than its fellows at the heel. The result is that the toe is depressed while the heel is unnaturally raised.

The relative position of the bony structures within the foot is altered, and the navicular bone, which is not one of the weight bearing bones, is brought within the angle of incidence of both weight and concussion, influences which it was never contemplated it should withstand, and which its structure precludes its sustaining without injury.—Farmers' Home Journal.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Hen manure is valuable, and should be carefully saved. Keep fewer horses, but give them better care and feed. Wood ashes are much better for fruit trees than coal. Never let a horse that has been exercising stand in a draught. A draught horse need not be imported to be a desirable animal. An effort is being made in the East to repeal the oleomargarine laws. In trimming fruit or forest trees do not cut out too much at one time.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

THE KITCHEN OF A FARMHOUSE.

The kitchen of the farmhouse should have the best attention in the laying out of a plan for building. To slightly alter Solomon's advice about the field, it may be said, first make the kitchen fit and then build the house. This is due to the most important part of the farmhouse—the wife and mother. Her health and life often depend upon the kind of kitchen she spends a large part of her time in. It is preferably built as an annex to the house on the east side, getting the morning sun and escaping the mid-day heat. On the north side should be an outside kitchen for storage, for a laundry and the refrigerator. There should be windows on three sides, and the fire should be on the side adjoining the house.—New York Times.

PRETTY AND USEFUL.

Convenient and useful cases for knives, forks and spoons are made of white cotton flannel. Half the ordinary width of the flannel is the width of the case. Make it long enough to fold onto itself the length of the knife, spoon or fork, and allow five inches at the top, with rounded corners, for the flap.

Bind with pretty braid, and stitch the fold into twelve compartments with the silk used for stitching on the braid.

When filled with silver, they are conveniently rolled up, tied at one side by a piece of braid, and put away. The silver is kept bright and unscratched in these cases.

Pin balls or pin cushions—and neither name is exactly appropriate, may be made by covering six uniform circles of thin cardboard, about two inches in diameter, with China silk. The same color, different shades or contrasting colors, may be used to suit one's tastes.

Sew two circles together, back to back, with silk. Procure baby ribbons to match, and suspend the three at different lengths from a many-looped bow.

Arrange the pins like rays from the circles, having, if desired, different sized pins for each circle. This makes a useful and pretty ornament for the parlor, as there is no room where a pin is needed more.—Yankee Blade.

KEEP THE BABIES WARM.

A professional nurse of many years' experience tells me that she finds more babies suffering from insufficient clothing among the rich than among the poor. For example, she was summoned by a physician to a wealthy family where the five months' old baby was suffering from some mysterious trouble that baffled everybody. He could live only a few days, the doctor said, if something was not done. He could keep nothing on his stomach, and was slowly starving to death. The nurse found a distracted mother and a pinched and moaning baby. His flesh was blue, and there was a settled look of anguish on his face.

The nurse picked him up from the silk and laces of his costly crib and found just what she expected. Dress and skirts of linen fine as gossamer and about as warm; shirts and socks like lace; flannel skirts of the regulation number, but so fine and thin as to give little warmth. "Is this the way you have dressed your baby from the first?" asked the nurse. "Oh, yes, I've always had the best of everything for him," answered the mother. "Well, it's no wonder he is sick. He hasn't enough on to keep a fly warm in July." The nurse called for the thickest blanket in the house and the hot-water bag, and sent the astonished mother downtown for the warmest flannel wrappers, however ugly they might be. The result was that in a few days the child was taking his food perfectly, and was thriving as well as could be desired.—Babyhood.

RECIPES.

To Make Milk Toast—Put one pint of milk into a double boiler; rub three tablespoons of butter and one tablespoon of flour to a cream; add to the scalded milk and stir until it thickens. Season with salt. Toast six slices of bread a light brown, slightly butter each slice and dip it, while it is hot, into the scalded milk. Lay them in the dish and over each slice put a large spoonful of the milk, pour over it the remainder of the milk and serve it at once.

Bread Pudding Boiled—Take a pound of stale bread and pour over it a quart of boiling milk and let it soak one or two hours, then rub it quite fine with the hands. Add five well-beaten eggs, two cups of sugar, half a cup of molasses, half a nutmeg grated, half a teaspoonful of ground cloves, the grated rind of one lemon, half a pound of sweet chopped fine and a pound and a half of raisins. Boil it four hours.

Cheese Fingers—Take bits of pastry left from other cooking and roll as thin as writing paper; spread with grated cheese, fold and roll again. Repeat this three times, then cut in strips as wide and as long as your finger. Brush with beaten egg and bake in a quick oven. Watch carefully, as they burn quickly and require to be only delicately brown.

Lamb Chop in Paper with Fine Herbs—Cut a piece of foolscap paper in the shape of a heart (and sufficiently large to fold a lamb chop in), rub a little oil over the paper; then season the chop with a teaspoonful of chopped onions, one of chopped parsley, a little pepper, salt and grated nutmeg. Wrap the chop in a paper, which plait down at the edges; lay it upon a grill over a slow fire, turning it frequently. It will take about twenty minutes to broil properly. When done serve in the paper very hot.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

The engines of a first-class man-of-war cost nearly \$700,000.

There are now 7500 miles of electric railroads in this country.

Children, plants and animals grow more rapidly during the night.

The largest coast light in the United States can be seen twenty-eight miles in clear weather.

Slag from blast furnaces is pulverized and used for fertilizing farming lands in Germany.

The tongue of the toad is attached to the front of its jaw and hangs backward instead of forward.

Water alone has been known to sustain life fifty-five days. If only dry food were taken, death would result in a quarter of that time.

The use of furnaces to destroy a city's garbage and refuse is growing in favor. There are now fifty-five municipalities in England where the system is used.

Professor Elihu Thompson says that an umbrella with brass chains hanging from the ends of the ribs makes a complete protection when held over the head during a thunder storm.

Taking the earth as the center of the universe and the polar star as the limit of our vision, the visible universe embraces an aerial space with a diameter of 420,000,000,000 miles.

A new chemical element was discovered during 1893. It was found in some specimens of alum brought from Egypt. It has been called Massrium, from Masr, the Arabic name for Egypt. It resembles beryllium in some of its properties, and zinc in others.

Both eyes are necessary to perfect vision. A man who has lost an eye requires some time to adjust himself to the new conditions. He finds it very difficult, for instance, to form a correct judgment of the distance of an object, as well as its position, and sometimes in attempting to pick up a small article, like a pin, will make a mistake of three or four inches in its situation.

During the year some further advance was made in the production of color photographs by Lippmann, who has discovered that albumenized and gelatinized plates soaked in bichromate of potash can be employed in photographing colors, which appear after immersion in water. The colors are very brilliant, and are produced by the interference of hygroscopic and non-hygroscopic layers with variable refractive indices.

Experiments in magnetizing and concentrating the low grade soft, red ores of some Southern districts are in process, and said to be so far promising of good results. The consulting chemist of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, operating upon 3000 pounds at a time of the crude ore which contained forty per cent. of iron and twenty-nine of silica, has been able to secure fifty-seven per cent. of iron and reduce silica ten per cent.

The Real David Crockett.

Mrs. Ibbie Gordon, of Clarksville, Texas, who was born in 1805, was once introduced to David Crockett. Describing the incident, she says: "It was in the winter of 1834, not long after Crockett had been defeated for Congress in Tennessee. We heard that Crockett had crossed Red River, and fearing that he might not come through Clarksville, but keep on the old Trammel trail, we intended to meet him. Jane Latimer, then a girl of eighteen, rode behind me, and Betsy Latimer followed on a pony. We overtook Crockett and his party at the house of Edward Deen, about four miles from Clarksville. It was early in the morning, and when Mrs. Deen saw us she said: 'Mrs. Clark, what in the name of God brings you here at this time of the day?' 'My horse brought me,' I answered, and then I told her I wanted some breakfast. We went into the house, and a friend, who had known Crockett in Tennessee, introduced us. Crockett was dressed like a gentleman, and not as a backwoodsman. He did not wear a coonskin cap. It has always disgusted me to read these accounts of Crockett that characterize him as an ignorant backwoodsman. Neither in dress, conversation nor bearing could he have created the impression that he was ignorant or unlearned. He was a man of wide practical information and was dignified and entertaining. His language was about as good as any we hear nowadays.—Galveston News.

The Toza Are in China.

When one sees a lad in China with his head shaved one may be sure that, however boylike he may look, he has put aside all the things of youth and become a man. In fact, this event is celebrated in the household with great solemnity, for entrance upon manhood is a grave matter for the boys of the flowery land. Invitations are sent to the friends and relatives to a family gathering and each is expected to bring a present—in money for choice—for the hero of the hour. The boy himself is dressed in fine silk robes and perfumed with spice. When everyone has arrived, the father makes a speech in honor of the occasion, the presents are given and then a Chinese priest shaves the boy's head to prepare the way for the pigtail, which marks the man of the Celestial empire.—Chicago Herald.

National Color Blindness.

Color blindness has been found to occur in about four per cent. of civilized European and American males and among 2 per cent. of females. The Finlanders and Norwegians run up as high as five per cent., while the Dutch go down to 1.43 per cent.—San Francisco Chronicle.

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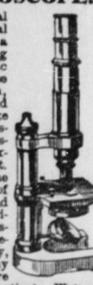
The secret formula of the poison with which the deadly snake dagger of the Sioux is coated has not been so jealously guarded as it has been generally supposed. It consists primarily of a base of tallow or suet, with the addition of the venom of rattlesnakes, the juice of certain noxious plants of the western region, among them the purple loco and finely ground earths, that are supposed to add potency to the combination. The concoction is made under certain conditions of the moon and planets with the aid of magic formula, but the chief potency probably lies in the acidity of the rattlesnake venom, which slightly oxidizes the surface of steel at the high temperature at which it is applied, so forming a very active blood-poisoning agent.—New Orleans Picayune.

Struck by a Meteor.

The British steamer Gladewe, at Baltimore, reports having experienced a hurricane and a terrific hail storm off the Newfoundland banks. The ship was struck by what Captain Harris believes to have been a meteor. Captain Harris and the crew were on deck working hard to keep the ship under control, and large hailstones were rattling on deck, making it extremely dangerous for the sailors, who were forced to remain in exposed positions. Darkness was settling. Suddenly there was a blinding flash at the foretop-masthead, followed quickly by a report like that of a piece of exploding artillery. Brilliant sparks flew from the foretop for an instant, then all was dark again. Captain Harris says he feels certain that the masthead was struck by a meteor, which, afterward fell into the sea.—New Orleans Picayune.

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