

**Agricultural Department**

**Farm Notes.**  
Laid not advocate keeping or breeding from poor stock, but I believe that good hens for farm purposes are more common, and can be had at a much lower price than dealers in fancy fowls are willing to admit. - *Live Stock Journal.*

Liquid manure tanks are, in our experience of many years, a pumping little more than an expensive toy. The proper way to save the urine is to keep it in the litter, not to catch it diluted with the rainfall, and thereafter pump and carry it to the land in carts. - *London Agricultural Gazette.*

Never on any consideration put imperfect or small fruit with larger or better, as it reduces the whole package to the grade of the poorest in it. The strength of a chain is not that of the strongest, but of the weakest link, and so the worst specimens in a package will drag all the rest down to their level, and you will in the end be left with a mass of inferior produce. - *Wisconsin Horticultural Report.*

A fruit tree never suffers from too much manure, and the roots are healthy if a tree seems to suffer after a heavy manuring, it is only that it was in a bad way before this. Of course, if you were to empty a cesspool, a cart full of fresh lime, or some other inorganic mass of food under a tree, it would suffer; but our meaning is, that so much manure that would be found of benefit to any regular garden will be otherwise than beneficial to a fruit tree, if the roots be healthy. - *Chicago Monthly.*

The learned judge maintained that the fruit on the tree by the line fence clearly belonged to the plaintiff, but she could not gather the fruit overhanging the defendant's garden without leaving the tree in action for trespass while on the other hand, the plaintiff had no right to allow the branches to overhang the defendant's garden so as to cause an obstruction to the light and air, and the defendant had every right to have cut off every branch which grew over his garden. As, however, the fruit indisputably belonged to the plaintiff, the learned judge decided that the defendant must pay for the cost of having the branches cut off. - *London Gardeners Chronicle.*

Middlings, fine feed, Indian meal, or indeed, roots, may be used with straw and similar foods, though they are not so rich in nitrogen, and in lack of direct experiment we may infer that they would not cause so complete a utilization of the straw and stalks as would the more nitrogenous food.

A young Canada farmer has invented a machine which is said to work satisfactorily in model, for reaping grain. It is a simple machine, gathering them in a bundle, binds a bundle of straw and binds the sheaf, cuts the ends of the band and throws the sheaf aside.

The time to go into a business, or object, to keep on with it, is when the business has been overdone and the majority are rushing out of it and turning their attention to something else which promises a little more profit. - *New England Farmer.*

We could produce facts and figures showing how absurdly the profit of a modest farm is regulated by the excess of crops growing upon it, and how no other system of farming, and no skill in other branches of industry, can compensate for failures of partial failure in root production. - *London Journal of Horticulture.*

**The Household.**  
Meat should be cooked by a quick fire, as the rapid closing of the outer pores retains all the juices within, and these, becoming heated, create a natural process of steaming in its own gravy.

In preparing minced veal cut the meat as fine as possible, but do not chop it. Put in a very little more of onion sliced, two grains of nutmeg, some salt, and four or five spoonfuls of either a little weak broth, milk or water; simmer these gently with the meat, but take care not to let it boil, and add a little butter melted in flour. Put slices of this loaf bread, cut into a three-cornered shape round the dish.

It is a decided mistake to suppose that plants are unhealthy in sleeping apartments or sitting rooms. Of course, if the flowers exhale a strong perfume such as that of tobacco, hyacinths, and dahlias—they make the air too odorous to be desirable at night; but healthy growing plants breathe the carbonic acid in the atmosphere, and keep it pure and agreeable. They are, in fact, the best disinfectants that can be employed.

Until the kitchen becomes thoroughly and systematically organized, and is regulated by the most important departments, there can be no such thing as habitual health in the family. Bad cooking poisons more people than all the noxious drugs ever administered to man, and it affords the remote cause for the employment of two thirds of all the divorce lawyers in existence.

**Treatment of Epizootic.**  
In the mild form of the disease in horses, it is sufficient to keep the animal in a warm, well ventilated, light, loose box, to feed on laxative food, and give small and repeated doses of the nitrate of potash, hypophosphite of soda, or chlorate of potash in the food or water. The body must be clothed according to the weather, and the general comfort of the animal attended to. In the greater form the animal must be carefully washed, more especially with regard to its breathing. The throat is to be washed with hot water, and the animal should be put in a steam of hot water. If much depression is present, spirits of nitrous ether may be given, for milk with eggs is to be allowed in abundance in order to support the animal's strength. When the sickness of the animal is slight, a simple jelly, containing a drachm of carbonate of ammonia (the half being well stirred), may be given twice a day with great benefit. Exercise should not be enforced until all febrile signs have disappeared. We have seen the most severe and rapidly fatal pneumonia caused by exercising the animal to soon and too severely. We have said nothing about the treatment of the external swellings of the limbs. In our opinion they should not be interfered with, as they are not expressions of a condition of the blood, which does not endanger the life of the animal, and will disappear spontaneously.

**Educational Department**

**Committee of Associated Editors.**  
E. E. QUINLAN, J. A. WELLS, J. C. CHAFFORD, J. W. HAYES, Editor, present week. (For the Educational Department.)  
SMALL VS. LARGE SCHOOLS.

How many scholars are necessary to make up a school? I believe the notion prevalent to some extent that it is impossible to have a good school without a large number of scholars. And it is true that a good school is likely to be numerous; but I believe that such a school is large, because it is good, rather than good because it is large. Some of those private schools which are supported by persons who have sufficient means to employ well qualified teachers to instruct a small number of pupils, are among the best of schools.

In the *American Monthly* for last June, there is an article on "True and False Economy in Education," by President Eliot, of Harvard University. He holds that twenty-five scholars are as many as one teacher can properly instruct.

Fortified by this high authority, I shall venture to offer some other views. I believe that, other things being equal, small are superior to large schools. One of the most important elements of success in any pursuit, is enthusiasm—a zealous love for the work in which one may be engaged. This is true of men of all trades and occupations, but most especially of those who are engaged in the study of a small school has an advantage over the teacher of a large school. In a small school, the relations between the teacher and his pupils may be somewhat intimate and personal, and hence he has more control over the character and industry of his scholars. The teacher himself possesses the spirit of the true scholar, there is a greater probability that he will inspire his pupils with the same spirit, than there is in a crowded school.

In a small school there is not such a multiplicity of subjects and objects to distract the attention of the teacher, as in a large one. He is likely to have more time to form and carry out his plans of instruction and discipline, and more leisure to make himself thoroughly familiar with the subjects which he is teaching. This is one reason why a college is superior to an academy or high school, and why an academy or high school is superior to an ungraded district school.

In a small school more of the energies of the teacher may be expended in the work of instructing, and less in the work of governing the school. To most teachers, and perhaps to all teachers, the task of keeping a large number of scholars in order is somewhat burdensome, and interferes necessarily with the work which they could wish to do for their classes.

But whatever the reasons may be, the great obstacle in the way of grading many of our country schools, is not the want of a sufficient number of scholars, but the want of means; not the sparseness of the population, but its poverty; or possibly, in some cases, it may be the want of sufficient educational enthusiasm and enterprise among the people to furnish their children with the best education which their means will allow.

An attempt is being made in one of the country school-districts of this country, to maintain two grades during four months of the year. The number of children of school age in the district is about forty. It is needless to say anything in particular in regard to it, until it has been seen whether the experiment is likely to prove permanently successful or not. If it should prove successful, the value of the example to some other districts similarly situated would be considerable.

If the country schools are ever to be lifted out of the rut, some experiments must be made. And it is better for the people to put their own shoulders to the wheel, than to be calling forever upon some Hercules for assistance. But whatever the people may do for the education of their children independently of the public school system, ought to be subordinate and supplemental to it, and not in opposition to it; otherwise more harm than good would be done.

**Penmanship.**  
Who of us has not felt disgusted with the sender of a manuscript which was almost illegible. To us it seems a shame to the writer and anything but a compliment to the one for whom it is written. It seems to declare that he does not consider the effort of penmanship as of less importance than proficiency in other studies. Now, some people seem to be really ashamed of good writing, and the English opinion prevails that it is beneath a man of ability to write so that people can read it; that a man must write as the choir sings in church—with a studious effort to prevent his words from being intelligible. Suppose the teacher and the advocate should adopt a similar style of writing. The lawyer would consider it folly to mumble words before the court and jury, but seems to forget that he is committing a similar error when he writes his brief in a hand which cannot read. Nothing can be more ridiculous than the idea that a bad manuscript indicates something that is worth the trouble and vexation of deciphering it. We know men of the highest capacity, whose writing is in characters as clear as the sun in the sky. It comes with greater effect upon the reader, because it is not distracted by the difficulty in reading it. We feel it to be a much neglected branch of study, and can but wish that the mistaken view of the subject could be corrected.

Many teachers have noticed that pupils are often uninterested, restless, and perhaps mischievous, if the last 15 minutes of a school day are devoted to ordinary penmanship. Penmanship in regular handwriting.

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