

Agricultural Department

The Kitchen Garden
Everybody knows the farmer who never has a kitchen garden. He may be a good farmer, his cattle may always be in the order, his fences may be trim and neat, but if he has no kitchen, he is usually a man who does not so largely enjoy life. How many men there are who, with a little care, might have all the luxuries that others have. They are willing to pull a few ears of field corn for summer use, when a little trouble in the spring would give them and their children nice, white, milky green corn, every day for many weeks. There are farmers who put in a few tomato plants to please their wives, and for lack of cultivating get only a few green fruits, which they sell to the shed to ripen, and which soon rot. There are farmers' children who never taste lettuce, when a little work in the spring would furnish them with a good supply. Such men are content with pork and potatoes all the year round, and it is no wonder that their children grow up to dislike farming and its surroundings. Make the life on the farm cheerful and pleasant, and your children will remember it. Once in a while one of the gardeners' wives experiments with some new kind of seed; he fails to watch it; he gets back only a few stunted vegetables, not enough to go around; he roges the thing a failure, not worth the trouble; and he never tries the experiment again. The kitchen garden should be the farmers' paradise. It should be as cheerful as the German's beer garden. To be sure, there must be labor. The garden is not a field, and its soil must be cultivated to a thorough degree of fineness. Lumps are entirely out of place. The fertilizers must be mingled thoroughly with the soil. The same soil will not do for all kinds of vegetables. The finest bed of cucumbers we ever saw was on the cool side of a barn where a pig pen had formerly been. In the same soil limes did not grow. Experience and reading will teach the secrets of kitchen gardening. First determine to have the garden. Determine that you will not be a failure in the good things that nature almost thrusts upon you. We know farmers' children who never knew the taste of asparagus, one of the most delightful of vegetables; yet it is a perennial, and once planted will grow year after year with proper culture. Begin this season with a purpose of having a kitchen garden, and you and your children shall be happy.

EARLY CHICKENS—Probably nothing that can be raised on the farm can be made more profitable than early chickens. Broilers, or those called, or chickens of one pound weight, or therabouts, retail in the city markets all along the spring and early summer at seventy-five cents each. To sell a two or three months' old chicken for the price of a first-class mature fowl, cannot fail to be profitable. Those who are aware of this fact occupy themselves in raising early chickens. But as winter is unfavorable for the rearing of these tender creatures, artificial methods must be employed. Natural methods are hatched, it is true, but artificial warmth is needed for the chicks. An artificial mother must be employed. Recently we described and illustrated persons; experienced in poultry matters are using incubators, and many inquiries come to us in regard to them. We are satisfied that any careful person can easily hatch and rear chickens during the winter season by the use of an incubator and an artificial mother, in a room heated by a stove. We saw young chickens raised in a warm room in January of last year which were as healthy and thrifty as any. The cost of raising them at that season is certainly greater than in the summer, but there is actually less loss, the growth is more rapid, and when they are ready for market their value is several times greater. The artificial method is certainly the greater expense.—*American Agriculturist.*

HOW TO COOK A BEEFSTEAK—First, care should be taken that the meat be not punctured or broken, certainly not bruised or pounded, as a good, judiciously chosen steak is always tender without that. English cooks are so particular on that point that they never allow a fork to be used, but have steak tongs for turning. Now that we have those nice knives of galvanized steel, that shut like the cover of a book, the steak can be easily turned, without the use of other utensils. The stake should be placed over a clear, bright fire, not too hot, and frequently turned, in order to cook it evenly and thoroughly; but it should not be overcooked, as much is lost in flavor. No salt should be put on the steak while on the fire, but the moment it is withdrawn it should be placed upon both sides, pressing a little with the point of the knife as you do so, and you will have a delicious, juicy steak, with little if any waste.

CURRANT LOAF BREAD—Make a batter of one quart of flour and one pint of warm sweet milk, two teaspoons salt and half a cake of compressed yeast dissolved in a little water; cover and set in a warm place until very light. Then rub to a cream one cupful granulated sugar and a piece of butter the size of an egg; add this to the sponge and one tablespoonful powdered cinnamon and the half of a small nutmeg grated. Have one-half pound of currants cleaned; rub through them a little flour and put in the dough; mold up very soft and place in the pan or dish you intend to bake it in; cover warm and let it get quite light.

ORANGE CAKE—2 cupfuls flour, 2 cupfuls sugar, 1 cupful water, yolks of 5 and whites of 4 eggs, one pinch of salt, 1 teaspoonful baking-powder, the juice and grated rind of 1 orange, bake as for jelly cake; beat the 2 remaining whites of the 2 eggs to a stiff froth, add sugar and the grated rind and juice of an orange; spread each layer of cake and put in the oven a moment.

ORANGE PUDDING—Peel and slice 3 or 4 oranges and lay in a pudding dish with 1 cupful of sugar; make a custard of 1 pint of milk, yolks of 3 eggs, 1 tablespoonful corn-starch 1 cupful of sugar; when cold pour over the oranges; beat the whites of 2 eggs and 1 cupful sugar to a froth, and pour over it in the oven a few minutes to brown; to be eaten cold.

Why is the sky blue? Well, in "Science of Common Things," says it is because the atmosphere absorbs the red and yellow, and transmits the blue.

Why does a marble top on a table feel colder to the touch than a wooden one?
Why is it more chilly in a clay than in a stone?

Educational Department

Editor Educational Department:
I saw an article published to be an answer to an article entitled "Ballading a Teacher," which appeared in your issue of Feb. 23, and believing that I know as much about the subject as any one, and will try to do so in the following, having been the teacher myself. The writer of article second says "the boy was not lazy." It seems to me if a boy that is sixteen years of age, tough and healthy, cannot get along without lying down in school hours, (which was the cause of the trouble) he might be called "lazy."

He says "the boy stood at the head of his class; this is not so, he being an indolent, indifferent boy in school. I say he was a studious, hard-working boy; this statement is correct, if rightly interpreted. My interpretation is that he worked harder to annoy me than he did to get his lessons, and for this reason he did not stand at the head of his class. The first time the boy had a crack over the head and face with a whip." This is not so. The boy was not struck over the head, but on his shoulders, he having been spoken to repeatedly for lounging in school hours, he being too important to sit up and keep his mouth shut and go to studying, rise to his feet, at the same time taking a slap from his desk and holding it in readiness to strike me, and telling me to "hold on," and that he would not keep still. I then told him if he could not obey the rules of the school, that I would suspend him, which I accordingly did, (not expelled, as they would have it), he telling me before he left that the school-house in presence of the school (and that, too, without notifying me and giving me a chance for defense. He says "they did their work satisfactorily to the neighborhood." It might have pleased the friends of the family, but it would have turned me out, as they threatened to do.

He also says that "the teacher made a voluntary acknowledgment; this is not so, nor is it reasonable that I would do any such thing, so long as I was in the right. He again says the boy's cousins continued to go there. Certainly none except his sister by the same name came after the meeting of the directors. You may judge of the behavior of the boy at school by the threats he made outside (told to me by good authority) that "he would whip the teacher;" he also told me that "he would lick a certain person whom he believed to be the author of 'Ballading a Teacher.'"

The article of the second says he speaks from "what he knows," and not from "hear-say." If this be so, he is not acquainted with the truth. It seems to me for him if he had kept his nose out and let the story of a "disinterested eye-witness" alone, which was true in all the important points, much more than his.

THE TEACHER.
Editor Educational Department—*Dear Sir:* A B and C start from the same point to travel around a lake 24 miles in circumference. A travels 7 miles and B 21 miles per day in the same direction, and C 21 miles per day in an opposite direction. In how many days will they all meet for the first time?
The following is my solution: 84=7=12, the number of days it would take A to make a revolution; 84=21=4, the number of days it would take B to make a revolution; 84=21=4, the number of days it will take C to make a revolution. Since B and C travel the same distance per day, and travel in opposite directions, and as it requires them only 4 days to make a revolution, it is evident that they will meet every 4 days, or directly opposite the starting point. We can see at once that B and C both could not possibly meet A on their first revolution, and since it has taken B and C each four days to make their first revolution, A has traveled 4x7, or 28 miles. Since A has 28 miles to travel of B, on his first revolution, it will take B as many days to overtake A as the difference between the number of miles traveled by A and B in one day, is contained times in 28 miles, the number of miles to be gained, which is days 21-7=14; 28=14=2 days, which will be directly opposite the starting point, where they will be met by C. Therefore, it would be 4+2=6 days to their first meeting. Proof: 28+2 days' travel by A=42-7 days' travel by B or C=35=28.

In addition to this I will give a rule to find the first time of meeting in any example of this kind when the two traveling in the same direction travel in the ratio of 3 to 1, and the one traveling in the opposite direction travels as fast as the one travels the fastest in the same direction. Rule: First find how long it will take each to make a revolution, and find the least common multiple of the numbers thus obtained and divide by 2.

Editor Educational Department:
Please find a solution to the following example, page 83, example 63, Robinson's Practical Arithmetic. A owed B \$900, to be paid in 3 years, but at the expiration of 9 months, A agreed to pay \$300, if B would wait long enough for the balance to compensate for the advance. How long should A wait after the expiration of the 3 years?
I wish we might awaken an interest sufficient to induce people to visit schools more, and more fully understand the difficulties of the teacher's position, and work with them for the advancement of the children.—*Sarah L. Lewis, Co. Sup't. of Topeka.*

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Change in the Furniture Store

A CHANGE IN THE FURNITURE STORE!
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