The Ploomfield Eimes.

Tuesday, August 18, 1874.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this de-partment.

A Little Advice to Farmers.

It would be well if some of the farmers of Perry county would take the following good advice home to their hearts, and make an effort to put it into practice : Help your wives in every way you can, trivial though it may seem to you. For instance: keep an extra pair of shoes or slippers in the hall or entry, and always remember to change your dirty boots before entering her clean rooms. Then you may be sure of a smile of welcome, as no dirt will be left after you for her to clean up. In the evening comb your hair as carefully as ever you did in your courting days, put on a clean coat or dressing gown, and when you take your paper to read, do not read to yourself, and leave her to her lonesome thoughts while sowing or mending, but remember that she, too, has been working hard all day, and is still working. Read to her whatever interests you, so that her interests and opinions may grow with yours and that she may comprehend something besides love stories, of which too many have read more than they should. You will both be happier, and being a farmer's or a mechanic's wife will not be such a dreadful tiresome and lonely life as many girls have now reason to think it is.

perience gives the following instruction regarding the method of making a good cis-

The proper way is to dig your hole in a -circular form not exceeding 12 feet in diameter, and deep enough to hold the quantity of water you wish to have in store. Take care to put your hole down as straight as possible, so that when your wall comes to be laid up, all the intervening space between bank and wall may be filled up solid leaving no space to give from the presure of the water. If there are large spaces that require filling with earth, you should ram it down tightly. Your wall should be at least nine inches thick. Your mortar should be one half bushel of cement to two bushels of good lime mortar, with the joints laid as closely as can be in order to have a good job. A cistern of the diameter I mention can be built without a pier to support the crown; after being finished, it should have a good coat of cement mortar, which I generally make of one half cement to one half of good sharp sand. Your crown and bottom should be equal to the thickness of the sides, unless you have sand to contend with, in that case your bottom should be four inches more.

Grove, Chester county, has been testing several grade of cows, with the following important results :

It took 18 quarts of milk from a grade Durham cow to produce one pound of butter; while 6] quarts of milk taken from a thorough bred Guernsey cow, produced the same amount of butter. In ordinary dairies, twelve quarts of milk to one pound of butter are considered a fair average. The above tests shows that the milk of the Guernsey cow was almost three times as rich in butter as that of the Durham. In this respect, however, different cows of the same breed may, and doubtless do, vary much. The quantity of milk given by each cow should also be taken into the account. A Durham that would give three times as much as a Guernsey, even though not so rich, would be even more valuable. Such tests, however, as those made by Mr. Harvey, clearly show the great importance of the question to every dairyman who would secure the greatest return from his capital

A Boot Rack.

One of the greatest troubles of the neat housewife in the country, results from muddy boots of those members of the family who have to work in the fields, the stables and the barnyard. The wet boots must be dried and are generally left under the kitchen stove, where their presence is very disagreeable. Now, to have a neat kitchen, there should be a boot rack placed behind the stove, in which the damp boots may be placed to dry. Such a contrivance has been found a great convenience. It has three shelves about four feet long, ten inches wide, and placed a foot apart. At one end a boot-jack is fixed by hinges so that, when not in use, it is folded against one end of the rack and secured by a button. There and the blacking brushes are placed on the sight, and when folded they hang down out of the way. The rack should be made of dressed pine boards, and stained some dark, durable color.

Muscatine, Iowa, has the boss potato. It is twenty-one inches long, thirteen in circumference, about four pounds in weight, and has more eyes than Argus.

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U.B.

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entitled to \$2.00 per month for each of their entidren.

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