TIMELY TOPICS.

From the eighth place as a wheat State in 1876, Kansas this year jumps to the first place. Her crop of wheat will be over 30,000,000 bushels, and of corn 100,000,000 bushels.

Two men go to farmhouses in Illinois, pretend to be gatherers of statistics for the agricultural department, stay all night, insist on paying for their entertainment, and depart with good change for a bad twenty-dollar bill.

A cunning Californian tore his clothing, rolled himself in the dust and tied himself to a tree by the wayside, hoping to excite the pity of the passengers of the stage-coach when it came along by relating how he had been robbed by highwaymen. The stage that day took a short cut by a new road, and when the cunning Californian was about to untie himself a grizzly bear came along and ate part of his leg.

Twenty-eight dishonest tradesmen recently came before the Paris tribunal of correctional police. A coal merchant for cheating in weight was fined $10 and imprisonment for a week; a grocer was fined $10 for selling goods of poor quality; fifteen tavern-keepers were fined $10 and imprisoned for adulterating their liquors; nine milk dealers suffered a like punishment for watering their milk, and two bakers were fined $3 for using light weights.

In the Alps recently Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright and Christian Grass, their guide, fell down a precipice. Hans Grass, the other guide, was a man of strength, and the rope by which the four were corded together was stout, and throwing himself backward by sheer force of muscle he held them suspended and cried to his brother to cut steps in the ice and mount, and be quick about it for he could not sustain them for more than half an hour. Mr. Wainwright had not dropped his hatchet, which he handed to the guide, who soon reached the edge of the crevasse; his brother, still sustaining the Wainwrights, gave him a hand and drew him up, then they hauled up their tourists, and all returned little the worse for their frightful adventure.

A correspondent of a New York paper who professes to have been cured of the opium habit at the New York State inebriate asylum, says that no drug can take the place of opium, and that those persons who profess to cure the opium habit by giving a substitute are mostly charlatans. He was not entirely deprived of the accustomed stimulant at once, but was allowed a small portion for two weeks in daily decreasing doses. After the opium had been abandoned he was given belladonna by day and hydrate of chloral at night. The chloral was to induce sleep; this was reduced from what would be equivalent to about thirty grains of the salt until at the end of a month it was nothing at all. By this time he could sleep without it. He was cured in a month, and in the two months that he remained there afterward gained in weight twenty pounds.

Concerning the use of tobacco the British *Medical Journal* says: What clinical evidence is there of the good or bad effects of tobacco smoking? There is a general opinion that smoking is harmful for adolescents; less harmful—or, as some think, useful as well as agreeable—to adults. Is anything positively known on the subject apart from mere loose guessing? Considering the mass of loose assertion and vague speculation which has been floating about so long, we are singularly devoid of crisp, quotable evidence on the subject. Can any of the nine thousand medical practitioners who weekly read these columns, produce from their reading or their experience well-defined evidence of any sort as to the effects of tobacco smoking on average healthy individuals at different periods of development? We have heard of the smoker's tongue, of tobacco amaurosis, and of the smoker's dyspepsia. How far is smoking a source of evil, and to whom? The question is, it appears, entering into the phase of legislation in Germany. What are the facts?

Remarkable Gas Wells in Ohio.

A correspondent of the Cleveland *Leader* says that the natural gas wells of East Liverpool, Ohio, form one of the seven wonders of the world. They are located in and around the city, and give a continual supply of the finest light. Natural gas is almost as free as the air. It costs practically nothing, and forms the illuminator and heater of the town. The city is lighted by it, and the street lamps blaze away at noonday as well as midnight. It costs nothing to let them burn, and it takes trouble to put them out. Its light is not the flickering mockery of poorly manufactured gas, but a flame which proximates in its brilliancy that of the electric light. Almost the entire fuel used in the town is this gas. It is conducted into the grates and stoves in pipes, and by it all the cooking and heating are done. It is also used in furnishing steam power for many of the largest pottery and ironware china manufacturing establishments, twenty-two of which are in operation and busily engaged, employing over two thousand hands, and which is considered justly entitled East Liverpool to be designated as "the ceramic city" of America. Regarding the duration of the supply from these wells it is stated that the first well discovered now burns as brightly as when it was first opened, and for the last twenty years has never flagged in its brilliancy, and none of those now in operation have ever shown any signs of giving out. For years Liverpool used manufactured gas, never dreaming of the rich supply that was wasting away under its very feet. The poor quality of the manufactured product induced the opening of the first well in 1880. This well, which is four hundred and fifty feet deep, has been furnishing fuel and light to several houses, propelling the steam for a large engine, and heating pottery kilns, every day for twenty years.

A man may be indifferent to the impression he makes on society, but not to that made by a number fourteen boot on his most sensitive bunion.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

Hints About Poultry.

What a different taste a fine, nicely and quickly fattened fowl has, when served on the table, compared to one which has been forced to scratch for all its living, and then is consigned to the spit in anything but a fit condition for food. Farmers realize the importance of fattening quickly when feeding beeves for the butcher, yet many do not seem to realize the fact that what holds good with that kind of meat is usually true when applied to fowls. Tenderness and juiciness are results of fattening quickly, while mere ordinary flavor and want of tenderness result from letting fowls run until wanted for use on the table.

To enable one to fatten fowls or chicks quickly, it is absolutely necessary to give such food as will accomplish the purpose best, and to this end we unhesitatingly recommend plenty of milk in any state, from fresh to thick. This should be fed in connection with a grain diet, for one counteracts any possible deleterious influence of the other. If kept in a darkened place, and fed unsparingly on milk, with grain in proper proportions, you will soon have something very choice to offer upon your tables to your friends as well as to your family. When milk is fed, no water is required for fattening fowls.

EXAMINE THE COMBS.

It is the easiest thing in the world—you know how 'tis done—to tell when your fowls are in ill-health, even in the incipient stages of any disease or ailment, if you but examine your flock carefully. The comb of each fowl is a true index to the working of its system. If they be in ill-health, the comb will lose color and become far less firm in texture; as the malady increases the color decreases, till a very sick bird will show a comb almost devoid of scarlet, being of a livid, dull crimson, or else pale or ashy in appearance. If the cholera, or any other disease should come into the flock, carefully examine the combs of each bird, morning and night, and all those which are wanting in that bright, rich color which denotes perfect health, remove at once from the flock to a place remote, where they should at once be put under medical treatment.

The comb of a fowl is an honest index of the true inwardness, and should be daily consulted by the fancier who values the health and well-being of his flock. Look at the comb of a laying hen or pullet! She is in the height of health and strength, and carries her unfailing sign of healthfulness on her head, in the shape of a blood-red, bright and full comb. A vigorous cock or cockerel will carry the same sign, though not, perhaps, in so eminent a degree as his harem.

TO WOULD-BE BUYERS

we would say, buy early in the season, for you will then have a larger and better lot of birds to select from than if you left your purchase until the winter or spring, by which time most breeders have their surplus birds disposed of, or at least the best of those they intend to sell. Buyers save something in the feed bill by buying their birds late in the season, instead of early in the fall, for they do not have to feed them so long; but this saving does not count for much, as the prices of the birds are correspondingly higher, while the quality is generally inferior. Breeders like to dispose of their surplus stock early, so as to get their flocks in shape for the following year's breeding, and to do this they are willing to make a concession in prices, and buyers should not be slow to see and take advantage of this reduction. Before viewing the thing carefully, we thought we were making a considerable thing of it by putting off our intended purchases until late in the spring, but a little experience soon taught us the fallacy of such a method. We therefore advise our patrons and readers to adopt the fall purchasing, for it is alike best for buyer and breeder. The breeder can then give better care and attention to those birds which are left, which he could not do when he had large flocks of young chicks of different sizes and ages running around claiming his time and attention.—*American Poultry Yard.*

Green corn on the ear is not only a very palatable food for growing chickens, but it is highly nutritious and valuable for a change in their fare. If it needs to be purchased, it is not an economical provision.—*Poultry World.*

Young ducks should not be permitted to go into cold water as soon as they are hatched, as such a course is liable to produce cramps. A small pan of water with the chill taken off can be set near the coop.

Keep chickens in the orchard. They will clean up the rotten fruit, hunt the curculio and destroy the larva of the codling moth.

Gravel, sand or some other similar substance is almost as essential to the fowls' well-being as is food, and if fowls are kept in confinement, and not supplied with this, no matter how much grain you may supply, they will not thrive, or even keep healthy, for any length of time.

Uses of Stale Bread.

1. Make dressing for meat: Crumb it fine, turn hot broth over it, season, add butter and a well-beaten egg, or more, according to quantity.

2. Make bread pudding: Soak two hours in sweet milk, then beat eggs, sugar and spices and bake. I sometimes add fruit.

3. Make buscuit: Soak over night in sour milk, mash fine with the hand, mix in your biscuit for breakfast, adding salt, lard and soda. They are better than without the stale bread.

4. Make pancakes and gems: Soak over night in sour milk, add well-beaten eggs, cornmeal or grahsm flour to make a batter, and soda and salt, and bake on a griddle or in gem pans.

5. Crumb fine and put them in the next omlet you make.

6. Toast your bread: Set a pan of milk on the stove, but do not remove the cream from it, add butter and salt, dip the bread in this and send to the table for supper or breakfast.

7. Crumb fine and put in your tomatoes when you are stewing them.

8. Pound fine, season, and roll oysters or fresh fish in them and fry in nice lard.

The times that tried men's soles—Pedestrian contests.

Pisa's far-famed Leaning Tower is undergoing restoration under the care of the municipality, who have employed first-class architects and sculptors in the work. The ancient cathedral, memorable like the tower for its associations with Galileo, has already been restored. An *Academy* (London) correspondent says the work has been "very carefully executed with all the skill that characterises the unequaled marble-cutters and mosaists of Italy." He adds that the mosaics which adorn the entablature above the arcades which form the ornamental front have been "most admirably renovated, and now have a beautiful effect."

A Stage Robber's Career.

Not long ago a mail-coach on the line running from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to San Diego, California, was robbed by a single individual. It was stated that the bold robber sprang from behind a tree, covered the coach with his Winchester and demanded a general surrender. His peremptory demand was promptly met and he secured no inconsiderable amount of money from the express and registered packages.

A few days after this occurrence, a detective by the name of Evans came down the line to spot and capture the daring robber. Upon reaching the identical place where the former robbery had occurred, the driver reined up. It was now just dark. Said the driver to Evans, the detective, "Here's the very place where he got away with us, and there's the tree from behind which the rascal appeared when he called upon me to stop and ordered the passengers to surrender." Hardly had these words been uttered when, to the profound amazement of both detective and driver, they found themselves covered again by the same man with his Winchester, and as he appeared, in response to what the driver had said, he exclaimed, "Yes, and the rascal's here yet. Throw off that express."

Evans, the detective, made a move for his gun, but the highwayman warned him not to touch his gun under penalty of death. The express was therefore thrown off the stage, the driver and the detective were forced to jump down, stand and hold up their hands, while the robber secured such plunder as he sought. Evans himself was deprived of about $300. After the robber had accomplished his purpose he rode off, and the detective and driver, with two or three other passengers, proceeded on their way, evidently satisfied that they had escaped as easy as they did.

This man continued his course of robbing the mails for several weeks, during which time he took nineteen stages.

Finally, however, deputy sheriff Van Alstyne, of Pima county, Arizona, with a *posse*, succeeded in finding the fellow, and while preparing to undertake his twentieth robbery. Denying him any opportunity to defend himself, he was riddled with bullets, and thus his career was brought to a close.

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That Boy.

Dramatis personæ.—A young American in roundabout and leggins, perched upon the fence devouring a huge piece of mince pie, and a maiden of five summers, in pantalettes, looking very wishfully at the gormand on the fence. Young America—"I say, sis, does your mar make mince pies? If she does I'll bet they ain't so good as my mar's." Little Miss (timidly)—"I like mince pie awful well." Young America—"Well, now, that's funny. Just look here (drawing a quarter of a pie out of his jacket pocket) and it's boss, too! Ain't my mar good?" (carefully stowing it away in his pocket). That boy "is father to the man" who must have his cigars and any other masculine luxury his contemptible selfishness craves, while his poor sickly wife must do the work of two women ("girls waste more than they earn," he says), and for the want of a little money to purchase a few bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, the sovereign remedy for female diseases and weaknesses, she is literally dying by inches—and all because of that masculine selfishness that would not divide the childish luxury with his playmate, and now tacitly refuses his wife the luxury of health.

When neglectful of the duty assigned to it by nature, that of secreting the bile, the liver should be disciplined with Dr. Mott's Vegetable Liver Pills which will speedily remedy its inaction and stimulate it to a vigorous performance of its secretive function. Constipation, which is an invariable accompaniment of liver disorder, is always overcome by this great antibilious cathartic, and indigestion, chronic and acute, is completely cured by it. All druggists sell it.

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