

SCIENTIFIC.

FARM NOTES.

HOUSEHOLD.

The first arc lights used for the service of the streets in our cities were of the double pattern, that is, were provided with two sets of carbons and mechanism for shifting the current into the second when the first set had burned out. The considerations which have led to a general change in this regard are interesting, as showing the singular items of expense and the economies which accounts are figured. The statement was made at the recent convention of electrical managers in Baltimore, and may be assumed to include in its provisions nearly all patterns of lamps. Single arcs with larger carbons, even when they must be retrimmed during service, are more economical than the duplex lamps. Cotton-globes used on the latter are more expensive and frequently broken. The unequal expansion produced by heating the side adjacent to the arc, and the sudden change in temperature from the shifting of the arc to the other side, always leads to the breaking of the lamps. The loss on them in this direction alone would almost pay for the extra service of retrimming simple lamps. Moreover, owing to the crowded condition of the box of the duplex lamp, it is more apt to get out of order, and, for the same reason, is difficult to readjust; and, as carbons are not uniform in their lasting quality, the loss from burnt holders reaches its maximum where this lamp is used.

POSTS FOR WIRE FENCES.—Here in the West this subject is daily becoming more important. In the first place this is not a timber country. We have no post timber; cottonwood and willow are about all our variety, and both are soft and rot. The current is generally run at 18 to 20 c. each, but these are not what an Eastern farmer would consider durable, as our soil is wet at such seasons as are most conducive to rotting of posts. Gradually we are settling down to the conviction that live posts are the best, as they never rot, or blow down. We have only to put up heavy corner posts well braced two ways, and then every thirty or forty feet run posts ready to set long and two or three inches in diameter about a foot deep. Cottonwoods or willows thus set out are sure to grow. To keep off fire we plow three feet furrows, each on either side of the fence and fresh plow the strip every year. Such a fence soon makes a shade for the stock, and animals thus the sooner get used to the bars.

There is a fine chance for the exercise of taste in the hangings for windows. Handsome materials in pattern and texture are at prices to suit all classes. Get your curtains of some material, no matter how cheap, which stands in aggressive coloring. Cheap stuffs made of linen, and goods of cotton handsomely dyed can be purchased. In richer goods some prefer solid colors, and others Moorish or Persian patterns. A new Japanese stuff for curtains is plaid in various colors on a ground in which there is so much gilt that at a little distance it has the effect of cross-bars of red, old gold and blue on a green ground. Another cheap, but material is the Syrian curtains, which require no trimming, being sufficiently ornamented with their stripes and sprigs of old gold silk. Like all Oriental stuffs they have no dress in them, and their limpness renders them suitable for mediocrity rooms and furniture. Pretty and cheap curtains could be made of alternate strips of flowered silk and coarse furniture lace and lined with pink or blue satin. The lambrquin, in its many different shapes still holds its own, but it is not liked by some as well as the valence, or even a heavy fringe hanging from the cornice, or the curtain run on a round rod of brass or wood.

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As some recent scientific experiments on the effects of cold, two frogs were frozen solid in a temperature of about 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and kept in that condition for half an hour. On thawing slowly they recovered perfectly, but it was found that the current of blood which was found to be frozen, and which killed the animals. The experiment was tried of freezing hermetically sealed meat, so as to render its bacterial organisms and thus to kill its incapacity of putrefying. It was found, however, that so low a temperature as 80 degrees below zero would not destroy the vitality of micro-organisms. It was thus made clear that the attempt to preserve meat for a long time by the momentary freezing of it must be abandoned.

THE waste land occupied by fences and general expenses of a farm to make and maintain. Besides, what a relief it would be to the beauty of a landscape if the unsightly fences, hedges, and walls were removed, and the ground now grown up with bushes, briars and weeds in beautiful and useful grass! All that is wanting to bring to pass this much desired change is four or five acres of the farming community, seconded by the officers of the law and respected by the traveling public.

AN oddity in furniture has made its appearance; a bed with a bench attachment. The bench is of comfortable proportion, and extends the length of the foot-board, which forms its back. A specimen of this curious bedstead, displayed in the store of a prominent furniture dealer, is of polished mahogany and a finished and handsome piece of work. Probably the bench is added to furnish sittings in an apartment not very large, like the majority of bed-rooms, or perhaps it is designed as a place of waiting for a visitor whose husbands belong to a lodge. Imagine the feeble consternation of a lodge-going individual returning to his room at 2 A. M., at finding a grim figure in white sitting on the bed and looking toward him as if he might be stealthily though erratically aiming in order to rest there and pull his boots off.

100 Doses One Dollar. It is estimated that there are about 28,000 blind persons in France, and very little has thus far been done to improve their condition. About 200 receive professional education in the National Institution for Blind Youth, and many more are taught in small charitable establishments, and a national institution maintains about 300 pensioners, but at least 27,000 unfortunate are without resources or prospect of improvement. The cruelty of this neglect has been strikingly illustrated by the experience of a society formed in 1881 to erect workshops for the blind. A little money was collected, and the society erected one small workshop, in which twenty-five persons were instructed during the last year, every one of whom, it is believed, acquired a useful trade. Another six months' work has been done, and the rest of the rest of his life by making brooms, brushes, baskets, tool handles, chairs, etc.

THE last alleged discovery is that there are horned men in Africa. A Captain J. S. Hay recently read a paper before the Royal Geographical Society in which he stated that he had seen them, and exhibited sketches of them. He thought that they belonged to the class of manifications of which there is a noted example in the case of the "cupie man," who had horn-like protuberances on various parts of his body. It was remarkable that the horns were peculiar to the male sex. Most anthropologists think that the goat's head is either joking or romancing.

TAKE AWAY FENCES AND FARM THE LAND.—As the sole right to public roads is to travel, why should not the land project the farmer in the taxative use of the land occupied by travel, as well without the enormous expense of a fence? Why not require the traveling public as well as the farmer to respect the rights guaranteed to each respectively? The law should not allow the liberty of the roads as a pasture or playground, but only as a way from place to place; thus, should not the traveler hold command of his animal, and the landowner be compelled to build a protection for himself, or both?

SPICE PUDDING.—Take one small square loaf of baked bread, peel off the crust, cut in pieces, and pour upon it one pint of boiling water, and add one tablespoonful of salt. Take one pint of flour; add one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder, two cups of raisins, seeded and chopped; mix all well with the flour, first poured and next raisins, then add soaked bread and one teaspoonful each of allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and mace, and a few drops of green, one coffee-cup of sweet milk, and beat the mass well together. Scald pudding bag, and put in the pudding, which should be pretty stiff, and boil three hours. The whole secret is in plunging puddings in boiling water immediately after they are mixed and never letting them cease boiling. Be sure and turn them over, and always leave room in the bag for swelling.

When butter is properly churned, both as to the time and temperature, it becomes firm with a very fine work, and it is tenacious; but its most desirable state is waxy, when it is easily moulded into any shape, and may be drawn out a considerable length without breaking. It is then styled "cut," and it is only in this state that butter possesses that rich, nutty flavor and smell, and shows up a rich golden yellow color, which imparts so high a degree of pleasure in eating it, and which increases its value manifold. It is not always necessary, when it smells sweet, to taste butter in judging it. The smooth unctuous feeling in rubbing a little between the finger and thumb expresses at once its rich quality; the nutty smell and rich aroma indicates a similar taste; and the bright golden, glistening, cream-colored surface shows its height of cleanliness. It may be necessary at times to use the trier, or even to use it until you become an expert in testing by taste, smell and rubbing.

NOTHING that the little spiders which live in flowers and prey upon various insects are sometimes yellow and somewhat white. Mr. James Angus suspected that their color was due to the color of the flower in which they were found. He made them his home. Experiment proved this to be so, while spiders being found to turn pink in two or three days when placed in a sunflower. This change in color of course adds to the facility of these creatures in concealing themselves from their intended prey.

THE green color which sometimes affects American as well as European oysters has formed the subject of a late special investigation by a microscopist at the Smithsonian Institution. He finds that it is the same blood cells which become tinged with green, and that these tend to lodge in the heart and the gills in numbers great enough to give a green appearance. The coloring matter, which may be vegetable, or an unknown product, is entirely harmless, and is in no wise due to a copper tincture, as is popularly supposed.

It is estimated that a half bushel of grain twice a day is a good feed for fifty sheep. Corn and oats mixed make better feed than corn alone. The sheep should be fed on a mixture of rich alfalfa, fodder or straw that they will eat up clean, with water within convenient access.

WHEN pigs are weaned it is better to remove them to a fresh sty, in which case they will miss their dams far less than if they remain where they have been born. The pig should be fed daily until she has thoroughly dried her udder. If they have become used to feeding with her, and by themselves in her stead, they will give milk, and fall from a slight increase in the same kind of food after having been taken from her.

THE Gardener's Chronicle (London) tells of the effects of the so-called "stung tree." The stung of a single hair on the hand of a victim gave rise to severe pain over the whole of one side of the body, followed by numbness and partial paralysis. A sensation of losing the senses or "becoming insane" was experienced, and the severe symptoms lasted for two hours. The punctured spot remained painful for nearly a month.

WHEN exposed to the air the sugar of milk, which differs somewhat from other sugars, changes to acid, or lactic acid. The acid causes the casein and albumen to coagulate, or become solid, and curd is thus formed. When the milk rests the fat separates from the surface, because it is lighter than the other portions, and is known as cream.

THE most dangerous impurities in drinking water are reduced from sixty to seventy per cent. by passing through a filter packed with spongy iron. A fine-tooth raker (using a heavy one) until the soil is torn to pieces, mixed grass seed may be sown and the meadow renewed. In such a case a heavy-coating of well-rotted manure should be applied and the entire field rolled with a heavy roller.

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TRIZ other evening as a Detroit Fitznoodles called on his girl he found her with tears in her eyes and her face red up. "It's the awful, awful toothache!" she sobbed, as he asked for explanation. "Try camphor." "But the dentist says I must have two of 'em out! Wm you go with me?" "Of course." "And will you—also have a tooth pulled?" "Certainly." "Two of 'em?" "Yes." "Before I do?" "Yes, darling." Then she flung the handkerchief from her face, brushed the tears from her eyes, and gave him a long, lingering, prostrating kiss on the left jaw. She had simply been testing his love and devotion. They will go to Niagara Falls on their bridal tour.

"I SHALL enter journalism on leaving college," he said. "I look upon journalism as the noblest of the professions." "I tried journalism when I was of your age," remarked an old gentleman, "but I couldn't make it pay. I struggled along for two years, and at the end of that time I was worse off than when I began." "And did you give it up?" "I had to give it up or starve." "What did you do then?" "I pulled myself together and went into a newspaper business, and did well. I wouldn't advise you to enter journalism, young man. Try the newspaper business, there's money in it."

A MAN who opened a small fruit store on Gratiot avenue the other day morning locked the doors on Saturday night, and posted a notice reading: "Dis place don't do business next week." An acquaintance was asking him what the trouble was, and he replied: "Well, I started in with a capital of \$10. Dot vvas all assets and no liabilities. In two days I make feifty cents profit, but my stock goes down hill order two dollar. In der next two days I trust out outer two dollar and my stock goes down hill feifty cents liability and shut asset enough to pay der debt. I thought it vvas better to close out der man to hat some asset come in und eat op all der apples dot vvas left for Sunday."

TEACHER—"Mary, give me an example of an object of the masculine gender." MARY—"Mr. Jones, the grocer." TEACHER—"Now give me an object of the feminine gender." MARY—"Mou, Miss Smith." TEACHER—"And now of the neuter gender." MARY—"Mr. Robinson." TEACHER—"Mr. Robinson?" MARY—"Yes; he is neither man nor woman, but an old bachelor!"

BOARDER at head of table as a slice of watermelon is placed before him for dessert. "Mrs. Boggs, may I ask you a question?" "Certainly, sir." "May I ask you if there is any difference between the price of a green and a ripe watermelon?" "Yes, sir—about ten per cent." "In favor of the green, I presume?" "Yes, sir." "And that's—that's?" "That's why I buy the green ones."

"WHAT is the disease you think I have?" murmured the sick man. "English cholera," replied the physician. "What is that?" "Something like the Asiatic cholera, and it is brought on by drinking impure water." "I think you must be mistaken about my having it, doctor." "Oh, no! I guess not. Why do you think so?" "I live in Kentucky."

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