FARM AND GARDEN

KEEPING CELLARS SWEET.

About the time vegetables and fruit for winter use are being stored in cellars, the prudent housewife removes milk, cream, and butter upstairs. She usually says it is because it is not now so hot above ground as to do injury, and they make better butter and butter that will keep better than that from the cellar. It is really because when vegetables and fruit are put into cellars they begin at once to give off odors that are injurious to milk, cream and butter, injurious ere long to the health of the family living above.—American Cultivator.

COMMON SENSE PLANTING.

The farmer who plants a few apple or pear trees, or a ten or a dozen grape-vines, will probably not have much fruit to sell, but when they come into bearing he will have the best food for his family that the largest capitalist in the world longs for and cannot surpass. His profit may not come in the selling, but it will surely come in the added pleasure to his family and their better health. The more good fruit we have the better our health, the higher our enjoyment, the better our tempers and the less necessity is felt for the doctor and his medicine. By all means have an ample supply of fruit on the farm and as well on your own table.—Colman's Rural World.

HOW TO GROW BIG POTATO CROPS.

Some wonderful results with regard to potato culture have been obtained by a gentleman farmer in France. This farmer, who is also a distinguished chemist, has been, according to a recent consular report from Nantes, for some time past conducted experiments with potatoes, with the remarkable result that he has succeeded in securing the enormous returns of forty-two tons per acre. The plan he adopts is to carefully select the seed and to use only the best and soundest tubers. The ground is dug or plowed to a great depth and is well manured. Before planting the seed potatoes they are soaked for about twenty-four hours in a mixture composed of saltpetre and sulphate of ammonia, six pounds of each salt to twenty-five gallons of water. After this soaking the tubers are allowed to drain, and they then stand for twenty-four hours longer, in order that the germs may have time to swell.—Chambers's Journal.

COLOR OF JERSEY COWS.

The prevailing color of the Jersey cattle is fawn and white, or solid fawn with darker shadings. Some families of the best reputation are dark—either what is known as squirrel gray, with shading to black, or nearly all black, with brown shading. The nose is generally surrounded by a yellowish or orange-colored ring, and the muzzle is black, but some have a light gray muzzle and a fawn ring around it. A dark red or fawn is not to be taken as a mark of impurity, nor is a brownish black; but these colors are not common or fashionable. If a cow is pure Jersey it is most probable that her pedigree is recorded. If it is not, good evidence would be required to prove her pure blood, as a recorded animal is worth so much more than one not recorded that it cannot be supposed the breeder would neglect to give his young animals a record. But if the cow has the most valuable point of these cows, which is rich milk and high colored butter, the pedigree is only desirable to the breeder; the butter-maker may be satisfied if he gets the product.—New York Times.

FARM CONVENIENCES.

Much time is lost on many farms from a failure to provide in the best manner for the ready passage of teams and animals from one part of the farm to another. Whether stock is allowed to run at large on the public highways or not a considerable amount of fencing is required on every farm in the proper division of fields for cultivation and pasturage. Access to each field ought to be made easy, and often there should be entrances at more than one point. At such points there should be gates that can be quickly opened and closed, instead of bars that must be removed one at a time, thus causing delay to both men and teams. Then, again, for want of a gate it is often necessary to make a gap in a fence in order to get into a field at a certain point, when another delay is caused, and the fence itself is injured every time it is taken down. It costs but little more to make a rough gate on a farm than to make the same length of fence, and the gate itself becomes a part of the fence, which is a good reason for making gates wherever they are likely to be wanted. These losses in time are in many instances also occasioned by the want of proper facilities for readily watering stock. In such cases it seems to me it should occur to every farmer that a present expenditure sufficient to provide them would be a profitable outlay in the end.—New York World.

A DOZEN DONT'S.

Don't try to grow choice roses in the house if you have never made any study of the habits and wants of the roses.

Don't begin with roses if you have never had any experience growing plants in the house.

Don't try to get along without a good thermometer in the room in which your plants are, and don't forget to take the trouble to look at it once in a while. One cannot succeed without paying some attention to the temperature of the room in which they are kept.

Don't forget that the midwinter sun coming through glass is too hot for some kinds of plants, and that they should be kept out of it in the middle of the day.

Don't give all your plants the same amount of water. Find out through inquiry and observation the needs of the plants in this respect.

Don't buy plants you never heard of before simply because the advertised pictures of them are so pretty. Novelties are often the destruction of all the enthusiasm of young flower growers.

Don't try to force your plants too much. Nature works in her own way, and forcing plants often kills them.

Don't expect your flowers to bloom in a week or two, nor yet in a month after you have potted them. It takes some plants several months to adjust themselves to the conditions of life in a flower pot.

Don't try to grow lilies of the valley or hyacinth in the house. Not one person in a hundred can do it excepting under conditions that do not exist in many houses.

Don't put a year old rose bush or a tiny geranium into a ten inch pot. A six inch pot is big enough for the rose, and a three or four inch pot is large enough for the geranium.

Don't talk about your "bad luck" if your flowers are not doing well. Ten to one your "bad luck" is simply a bad condition of the soil in your flower pots or a lack of proper care of your plants. Bad luck does not grow flowers, but you are lazy. They must have the care that comes from energy and love of plants, and it must be a regular and not spasmodic sort of attention.—Success With Flowers.

PLANTING AN ASPARAGUS BED.

The right time to plant an asparagus bed is either in the fall or early spring, so you can take your choice. We prefer the autumn if the roots can be as readily obtained, because there is usually more time to prepare the beds and for planting than in spring, when all kind of gardening operations are pressing. No special preparation of the soil is necessary further than to plow it deeply, and if it is not rich enough make it so by liberal dressings of good stable manure. If broken up eight to ten inches deep it will answer very well for asparagus grown for home use, which is usually cut at the surface of the ground, and not several inches below it, as practised by gardeners who raise this vegetable for market. One or two years old plants are best for setting out, and these should be placed in rows four or five feet apart, and from three to four feet in the row. By giving the plants plenty of room the stalks will grow much larger than when the plants are crowded, even if liberally top-dressed with manure every season. Trenches for the reception of the roots may be opened with a plow or shovel, and when set in the bottom, and five or six inches below the natural surface of the ground, the soil may be thrown back over them and the bed made level again with rake or harrow. Only a moderate quantity of manure need be mixed with the roots are in place spread a liberal quantity over the surface. No manure should be buried under the plants, as often practiced, for the roots will not descend to secure nutriment; hence, placing it in such a position is to waste it. All fertilizers should be applied to the surface of the bed and be left to be carried down by rain, or merely worked in with the hoe and cultivator. A light soil is preferable to a heavy one for asparagus, but it will grow almost anywhere except in very wet land.—New York Sun.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Watch out for sickness in the flock.

A sickly fowl gives no profit in the poultry yard.

Do not give the morning mash to the fowls in a sloppy condition.

It is not too early to start incubators for the early spring broilers.

Dampness is the cause of many of the diseases in the poultry yard.

If the hens are late in moulting give them as free a range as possible.

Young fowl need bone meal to develop good blood, flesh and feathers.

When the hens are laying regularly lime should be left before them all the time.

Select your turkey hens for breeding by their style, development and movement.

Many orchard men note a great increase in the crop of apples when a hive of bees is kept in the orchard.

Rich food for milch cows makes a rich manure heap, and that makes rich land, which ought to make a rich farmer.

A scrub may yield a profit, but a pure bred animal would have yielded a larger profit, under the same circumstances.

Make wheat the principal food now and corn a little later. Wheat is the best grain for eggs, and corn to maintain animal heat.

Very often good butter is spoiled by the quality of the salt which is worked in it. It is better to pay a few cents more for good salt and use that.

There are a good many animals in the dairy which are excellent milkers, but they do not possess the power of transmitting this quality to their offsprings.

The thing for the dairyman to do is to learn how to breed cows according to the laws of the dairy, just as roadsters are bred according to the laws of the trotter.

Agriculture is beneath the dignity of no man. One of the best truck farmers we ever knew was a college professor, who was equally at home and equally capable in the classroom and in the garden.

A large cow always consumes more food than a small one, but does not always produce more milk and butter. Upon the whole, the chances are most in favor of the small cow paying best for her board.

The farmer should always allow his grain to get thoroughly dry before sending to market, and he has no need to hurry it now, as prices are not likely to be much lower, and they may be higher later in the season.

By feeding rightly the dairyman may produce cows rivaling the racehorse, but the method will not make milkers; nor will a horseman make a roadster by feeding green foods and corn with linseed meal and clover hay.

One of the greatest mistakes made by dairymen is the neglect of winter dairying. It is hard to maintain an even temperature in the dairy during the warm summer months, but in the winter time this can be easily done by heat.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

INTERIOR DECORATIONS.

There is a growing severity of simplicity in interior decoration that is very welcome, for until recently most parlors have looked like curiosity shops, and the ornaments, if one may so misapply the term, have been really fit for the rubbish heap. It is a good idea for housekeepers to dispense with all but most necessary furnishings until they can give beauty, comfort and quality first consideration, and this remark is equally true when it is applied to articles intended solely for decoration. Pictures, books and palms ornament a house more than anything else, but photographs and family portraits should be relegated to the living rooms, for whatever may be or might have been the beauty of the minds and characters of our kinsfolk and friends, their physiognomies are frequently such as to strike terror to the heart of the casual caller.—Brooklyn Citizen.

HOW TO CLEAN BRASS.

Brass, to be kept in proper order, should be cleaned at least once a week, while it is the custom in households with well-trained domestics to have brass andirons, fenders and other fire-place furniture given a light rubbing every day. In cleaning brass it must first be relieved of all canker and other spots to which the metal is subject, from contact with acids, exposure to water or other causes. An application of alcohol, spirits of turpentine, benzine or kerosene will generally remove all ordinary spots on brass, unless very old spots, the metal in some cases seeming so perfectly to absorb foreign substances that the removing of them amounts almost to an impossibility. Spots removed, there is no more certain cleansing and polishing application for brass than rotten stone and oil. Rotten stone usually comes in lumps. Before using for polishing brass it must be reduced to powder, and in this state it quickly dissolves to a smooth consistency when mixed with olive oil. A thin paste of the preparation should be rubbed lightly on the metal, and when perfectly dry it should be rubbed off vigorously with a flannel cloth, the finishing polish being given with the powder, dry, and subsequent rubbing with a clean flannel cloth or chamois skin.—New York World.

ONE WAY OF PRESERVING CHINA.

In a certain primly kept house in an old-fashioned country town it is a family boast that not one bit of china has been broken, cracked or "nicked" in twenty-seven years. The last time such a disaster occurred was when some soldiers visited the place about the close of the war. It is almost unnecessary to remark that no male creature is a member of this noteworthy household. Three maiden ladies, who were young when the china-breaking troops came, compose the family, and this is the way the rite of dish-washing is conducted:

All the edibles are removed, and the pretty, creamy china with its pumpkin and gilt band is carefully scraped with a scrap of bread. To scrape with a knife would be held a crime. Then it is piled neatly on a low table, about the size of a sewing table. The cut glass and old-fashioned silver are also piled there.

Then one of the sisters takes her place on a chair before it and another hers on the side. A big bowl of water just hot enough for the hands to work in comfortably and soft cloths are brought.

The articles are washed piece by piece, by one sister, the silver and glass first, then the china. Then the second sister dries them on soft linen cloths, and places them on the other table. No mops, no boiling water, no piling of dishes and pouring of water over them is ever allowed. And that is why the dishes are not cracked or nicked, though they are worn thin. Besides, the process invests dish-washing with a certain sort of poetry.—St. Louis Republic.

RECIPES.

Ginger Snaps—One cup molasses, one cup sugar, six tablespoons fresh lard, four tablespoons cold water, one tablespoon ginger, one tablespoon cinnamon, one tablespoon soda; flour to mix hard. Roll thin, cut small and bake in hot even.

Lemon and Vanilla Wafers—One teacup of granulated sugar, one-half cup butter, rubbed together; one beaten egg, two tablespoons sour cream, one teaspoon soda, one teaspoon of extract of vanilla or lemon; roll thin, cut small.

Cocoanut Maroons—Half a pound of desiccate d cocoanut, half a pound of powdered sugar, the whites of three eggs, a teaspoonful of extract of bitter almonds or orange flower water and a cupful of dried and sifted cracker crumbs. Drop on buttered paper in small rounds no larger than a half dollar, and bake in a moderate oven.

Apple Porcupine—Pare and core a dozen apples, filling the cavities with sugar and spice. Cover and bake. Arrange them in a dish for serving. Put quince jelly among them. Cover with a meringue made of the whites of four eggs and half a cupful of sugar. Stick blanched almonds in the meringue.

Lemon Custard Pudding—One cup and a half of milk, yolks of three eggs, the juice and grated rind of one lemon, half a cup of sugar; add the lemon last. Bake in a pudding dish. Beat the whites of the three eggs, and add three spoons of sugar and spread over the top when baked; return to the oven and let it slightly brown.

Panned Chickens—Split tender chickens as for broiling, and skewer through the wings to keep in shape; put them in a dripping pan, sprinkle with salt and pepper, put in a few tablespoonfuls of broiling water and a quarter of a pound of butter. Cover closely and bake. Baste occasionally, and turn the chickens.

Orange Jelly—Allow nine oranges and three lemons, cut in halves and with a lemon squeezer extract the juice. Put four ounces of gelatine to soak in one pint of water. Add one pound of sugar to three pints of water, cook together and skim; add the gelatine when dissolved and the orange and lemon juice; beat the whites of three eggs and stir in. Skim and boil ten minutes rapidly; then test with a skimmer; when thick enough strain through cheese cloth and put in jelly tumblers.

A California journal tells that a bee-keeper in the big Santa Clara Valley moved his bees into his bean fields when other sources of nectar supply were exhausted, and the result was a good crop of delicate, first-class honey that did not cost him a bead.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN

Of cloaks there is an infinite variety.

The latest thing is a mirror in the glove.

The dress with a train is no longer stylish.

Pretty belt buckles are of Russian enamel.

Sloping shoulders are slowly but surely returning.

Brooklyn women's clubs have about 10,000 members.

Mme. Christine Nilsson's hobby is the collection of fans.

Filigree daggers for the hair are very fashionable in Paris.

Napoleon blue broadcloth is used for French walking coats.

Corsets have been found on the waists of Egyptian mummies.

Colored felts in light colors are much seen, and the shapes are legion.

Brown stockings and shoes are used, but will not supersede those of black.

Graceful princesse coats of ribbed velvet are worn with skirts of silk or cloth.

The New York Ladies' Band of Mercy claims to feed 2000 cats each three times a week.

Sticks of vetivert laid among your linen will make it smell like freshly-watered roses.

The half handkerchief and the Normandy are the most striking of the new bonnet shapes.

The latest traveling pillows are covered with suede leather, and are embroidered in gold thread.

Chinese women are not taught to write or read. They are not considered of enough importance.

Little Turkish slippers of morocco embroidered with gold, are nice to slip on when leaving the bed.

A recent Newport luncheon was served by three maids in white caps and aprons and broad white collars and cuffs.

Little silver boxes containing spools of floss for the teeth will find welcome spots on fashionable dressing tables.

Charlie Ross's mother is a remarkable looking woman, with a face that tells its own story, and hair prematurely white.

A sister of the Marquis of Aylesbury, Lady Mabel Bruce, was recently married quietly in London to "plain Mister Sievier."

Great Britain has two lady lawyers, Miss Frances H. Gray and Dr. Letitia Walkingtown. Both are Irishwomen and natives of Belfast.

The Salvation Army girls in England have discarded the poke bonnet, and adopted a broad-brimmed straw hat trimmed with corn stalks.

The material of which either toques or bonnets are made is exceedingly unique and beautiful. Russian braids, glace velvets and felt are used.

The women physicians of Philadelphia are credited with receiving very large incomes for their services. Some average $10,000 a year, others $20,000.

Horatio Greenough's widow has bequeathed to the Boston Art Museum all the examples of her husband's sculptures that remain in her possession.

Black and green, dull red and navy blue, tobacco brown and gold—all effects to be seen on a dying maple tree—are among the warm, bright combinations.

Mrs. Flora V. Woodward Tibbetts, of Chicago, but formerly of Kentucky, has been sworn in as a practicing attorney before the Court of Appeals at Frankfort.

Louise Michel, the famous socialist agitator, seems to have tired of her tumultuous career and has settled down to teaching school in a quiet part of London.

Miss Martha D. Bassey, who designed the Commissioners' badge for the World's Fair Board of Lady Managers, is the only woman regularly employed by Tiffany & Co., New York City.

Countess Brazza di Savorgnan, sister-in-law of the celebrated African traveler, has founded three schools for teaching lacemaking to little girls out of their school and working hours.

Eton styles will continue fashionable throughout the winter, and all out-door costumes display the more conventional modes, the deep cape or three-quarter coat often being made of the same fabric as the bodice and skirt.

In the street, hands are encased in heavy dog skin gloves of a deep copper red, and for visiting pale grays and white black stitched are only "comme il faut," while for evening the same tones are the proper thing with added length.

The kodak has reached the dignity of a wedding present. A bride of the month who is an enthusiastic snap shot counts among her gifts a camera of choice make, handsomely mounted, and provided with a fine case bearing silver monogram.

The Paisley shawl makes a very good opera or evening cloak. It may be appliqued on black velvet on the shoulders and down the centre of the back and front, lined with white silk and trimmed with a fringe catching all the hues of the shawl.

Taunton, Mass., has had a woman, Mrs. Mary L. Sproat, in her probate office for twenty-five years, and the members of the county bar presented Mrs. Sproat with a purse a few days ago to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of her service.

The oratorical contest of the W. C. T. U., of Denver, Col., for the Demorest diamond medal was won by Miss Margaret F. Badger, of Atlanta, Ga. The lady is only fourteen years of age and defeated three rivals, the eldest of whom is twenty years old.

It has been discovered that the name of the woman who invented starch (for starch is, as might naturally be expected, the invention of a woman) was Mrs. Dinghen van der Plasse. She was the daughter of a knight of Flanders, and lived in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Princess Maria Bibess, one of the best known members of the aristocracy in Bucharest, has acquired great notoriety by her recent swim across the Bosphorus. Accompanied by her brother-in-law, Count Starenzensky, she undertook the difficult feat and reached the Asiatic shore in safety.

The Derby Hat.

If the derby hat is to be crowded out by the easier and softer styles of head gear there won't be much regret over its going. In spite of its advantages as a cross between the silk hat and the slouch, it has never had the merits of either of those styles. It has always had the discomforts of the silk hat without having its dash or beauty, and it has not been much dressier than a neat soft hat, although it has always been more uncomfortable. It is a bad thing for a hot day, and it isn't much for a cold spell, and fate help the man who wears it in the morning after a banquet. The tendency now is to easy hats, and it ought to be encouraged. Men have laughed a great deal at women's slavery to fashion, but they have never been able to point to a more forcible illustration of that slavery than their own adherence to the derby hat supplied.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Taste and Smell.

Some curious observations by Professor Jashow indicate that our appreciation of food depends largely, if not chiefly, upon the sense of smell instead of that of taste. The subject of the investigation was a student twenty-one years old, who inherited from his mother the defect—acquired by her in childhood—of complete absence of the sense of smell, taste and other sensations being unaffected. He was found to be unable to detect any difference between tea, coffee and water. In three trials out of five he confused bitter almond water and water, but distinguished between ether and water and ether and ammonia. Fruit syrups were simply sweet, no difference between them being perceived. Cloves and cinnamon were recognized, but mustard and pepper gave only a sharp sensation on the tongue.—Trenton (N. J.) American.

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