

FARMERS' CORNER

Plow Early for Fall Wheat.

It is especially important that the ground should be plowed early for fall wheat during a dry season. It is necessary that the ground become compacted before the seed is put in. If early plowing is impossible, accomplish the same results by dragging and harrowing until the seed bed is well fined. The soil moisture is then retained much better than when the ground is loose the roots of the plant become well established and are not so easily affected by hot, dry weather in autumn or freezing weather in spring.

Infertile Eggs.

The average poultry breeder feels that there is too large a proportion of infertile eggs, and of course he blames the breeder from which he purchased the eggs. In some cases, there is unquestionably carelessness in sending out eggs. In some poultry yards, the management is so reckless that the shipper does not really know whether his eggs are fresh or not, and, under these circumstances it is simply criminal to send out an egg until it is tested, that is tested to see if it is fresh enough to go out. I have received eggs that were clearly too old to have been sent out. If the management of the flock is what it ought to be, the stock is what it ought to be and the eggs are fresh, there ought not to be so much loss as there generally is. I do not wonder that breeders do not guarantee their eggs. There are several reasons why this would not be practical. If the breeder is not sure of the eggs himself, of course, he does not want to guarantee them. If he is sure of them, or reasonably so, he can not take the responsibility of their care and management after they get into the hands of the buyer. He can not always trust to the honesty of the buyer. If the eggs are to be hatched by the incubator, there is chance for ruining the best eggs that were ever laid. The operator may be a novice, though the careful novice does not have so much trouble as the careless man who is experienced. I have known incubators to be run at a temperature of a difference of 15 degrees every day. It would not be right to shoulder the responsibility for such carelessness upon the man who sold the eggs. A little more care at both ends of the line would produce very gratifying results.—J. H., in The Epitomist.

The Care of Young Colts.

As a rule, everybody on the farm likes the colt or colts. Most experienced farmers have well-settled principles as to the feeding and care of colts. It is generally thought best not to feed grain to them; but we observe that a practical farmer writes in a letter to an exchange that it is a waste of food to give a young colt grain, but a genuine profit. "If the mother's milk is scant, or she is hard worked, and the colt cannot be fed often," says this writer, "then it is well to give it a little drink fresh, sweet milk. I have done this and the colt learned very readily to drink and become a great pet, selling as soon as weaned for \$100. But then there was some blood, as well as milk in his makeup. Not all colts are so tractable. A little one we have now, as black as Black Beauty and only a couple of weeks old, is as tame almost as a kitten, and will come whenever I go near him. If the colt is left loose in the stall with his mother, when about two weeks old he will begin to nibble at her oats in the box. Then fix a little box low down where he can reach it easily and keep in it all the oats he will eat. He will not over eat but he will grow and grow and be an honor to the stable.

"Above all things do not let a young colt follow the mother when she is working in the field or traveling. This wears him down more than one can feed up in a good while and it is a cruelty to the colt. A mare may travel 20 miles in a day plowing or in work of that kind. Why should the little colt do the same. It is an easy matter to separate the mother and colt, the habit soon forms, and makes it still easier. It is well, too, to subject the young colt to tending, but he should be watched a little at first to see that he does not injure himself. A colt subjected to the halter and to handling is half broken."—Farm, Field, and Fireside.

Ideal Fencing.

On the Pacific coast it has been found that onions can be kept from rotting if placed in cold storage.

Bulls are kept for almost any time in fine condition.

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of the previous year's growth. This is the time when the orchardist should receive the tree; yet it is common practice to wait until the plant has attained its second or third year. In any case, the year the trees are finally set in the orchard, they should be well headed in, cutting to a bud which on upright varieties will be left on the outside, and on the more straggling varieties is left on the inside. This bud is to form the new limb and take its place with its fellows in forming the main branches of the tree. If one desires higher-headed trees than those which the nurseryman has to furnish, he simply needs to take up a leader, starting at the head, at the desired point, and removing the lower branches. Each year after the trees are planted they should be gone over carefully, and a limb removed here or there, the object being to prevent rubbing of branches and to allow the top to be free and open.—Home and Farm.

Improving the Cow Stables.

In my travels over the state I find that there has been but little improvement in Pennsylvania cow stables. They are not in much better condition than 20 or 30 years ago. The time has come when there must be a change. In my opinion the lungs of many dairy cattle are becoming smaller because of the confinement in poorly ventilated stables. It is impossible to keep the milk free from germs and not insist on modern dairy practices. Cows are forced more than formerly. They are fed more and yield more. Consequently in order to do this additional work, they must be given better quarters.

Stables are demanded now which can be kept clean, which can be disinfected and which are comfortable and convenient. One of the most important points is an abundance of light. Light is conducive to cleanliness, it kills many germs, increases the animal's power of resistance to disease and aids nutrition. Therefore, build a stable with plenty of windows. Let the sun shine in on the cow part of the day at least.

A special arrangement should be made for ventilation. Remove the air from as near the bottom of the stable as possible. The carbon dioxide is heavy and settles to the floor of the stable. Foul smells are produced and fermentation takes place there, consequently the air should be removed from below. The best arrangement for ventilating shafts is difficult to determine, but we have found that iron ventilator tubes placed on the inside of the buildings with openings near the floor are quite satisfactory. The top of the shaft should be covered with a cap, so in case of high winds the cold air will not be forced down into the stable. The iron pipes assume the temperature of the air of the stable and are more effective in drawing off the foul air from near the floor than any other kind.

The character of the floor is very important in a cow stable. It should be waterproof, so as to save all manure and to prevent fermentation and consequently contamination of the air. Cement floors with roughed surfaces are probably best, being inexpensive and durable. Brick answers very well for flooring, provided it is laid on a firm foundation and the spaces between the bricks filled with cement. The cattle should be made as comfortable as possible, and in my experience I have found that swinging stanchions are the most satisfactory. The mangers should be open so that they can easily be cleaned. I would advise partitions between the heads of the cows, as this tends to prevent the transmission of contagious diseases, like tuberculosis. There should be no dark corners or dead spaces in the barn, where dust and trash can accumulate. Walls and ceilings should be as smooth as possible, so that they can be kept whitewashed and free from dust and dirt. Good barns are not necessarily very expensive.—Dr. Leonard Pearson, in American Agriculturist.

Farm and Garden Notes.

Pick beans closely and they will bear longer. Never hoe or cultivate them when they are wet, as this causes rust.

Asparagus plants are generally set too near together. The biggest stalks come from vigorous plants set three feet apart and manured lavishly.

Indirect manures are those which do not furnish the plant with food directly, but by freeing the plant food locked up in the soil are beneficial to crops.

Weeds are usually introduced in impure seed, especially grass and clover seed, and carried from farm to farm or scattered along the roadside by threshing machines.

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PROCLAIMING THE KING.

It is the Same in England as It Was 400 Years Ago.

When the time comes (which may be long) for a new king of England the College of Arms will proclaim him, just as they have proclaimed every monarch for hundreds of years past.

Times change—and dynasties. We are less like the Englishmen of Edward I than we are like the modern Japs. We talk a different tongue, we eat different foods, we wear different clothes, we think different thoughts. Nothing is the same, except the columns on Stonehenge and the College of Arms. The college abides, varying by not so much as a detail of procedure or a button on a uniform. What is, is good, and cannot be improved. Therefore the business of proclamation will be the same in the twentieth century as it was in the fifteenth.

When the time unhappily comes for a new king to reign, the privy council will meet and declare the throne to have devolved on the Prince of Wales. Orders will at once be given to the earl marshal and the officers of the College of Arms to proclaim him. The first proclamation will be made in the courtyard of St. James's Palace, where the guard is changed.

Garret King, the chief officer of the college will make the proclamation in solemn form, with the earl marshal, the kings, the heralds, and the pursuivants in full uniform and mounted hard by. At this proclamation the monarch is present sitting at the window where all his predecessors have sat.

That is the chief of the proclamations; but the news has to be carried far and wide to the distant city, the rank of the proclaiming officer descending as the business proceeds. The second pronouncement is made at Chancery Cross, and the third at the corner of Chancery Lane.

At this proclamation there will be a modification of the ancient form, owing to the disappearance of Temple Bar. Within the city of London the lord mayor and sheriffs preserve their ancient sovereignty, and allow no ruler within their gates except after permission asked and granted.

The old form was for the junior pursuivant to rap at the gate and show his warrant for proclamation. Then the lord mayor ordered the gate to be opened, and joined in the stately procession.

The ceremony will doubtless remain, barring the knock at the gate, which does not exist. The last proclamation is made either at the corner of Wood street, Cheapside, or beside the royal exchange. In the provinces the proclamations are made by the local mayors.

Being proclaimed and crowned, the king has to offer to fight for his throne. In the olden times, when a king reigned by the power of his right arm, this was a necessary formality, and because it was necessary once it is done still. But the king no longer does his own fighting. He has a champion, the hereditary champion of England, whose business it is to do battle with all comers for the crown.

The champion is always a member of the Dymoke family. When the king is crowned, he rides into Westminster Hall, mounted and in full armor, just as the champion was 600 years ago. He is accompanied by the earl marshal and the lord great chamberlain, also on horseback. The hall is crowded with ticketed sightseers.

A proclamation is read by one of the heralds challenging anybody who disputes the right of the sovereign to combat in an open space. The champion throws down his gauntlet as a guarantee of good faith, and then the hearts of all the ladies flutter in anticipation of a fight.

But it is all a disappointing sham. If some enterprising person were to take up the challenge and the gauntlet he would probably be run in by the police for creating a disturbance! The herald takes up the glove and hands it back to the champion, and then the king is firmly seated on his throne.

Cool and Methodical.

A lawyer who worthily bears a distinguished name occupies an old-fashioned mansion on the edge of New York City. His sister, who lives with him, tells a laughable story, which is reported in Harper's Round Table, illustrating his coolness and method.

Recently his sister, tiptoed into his room some time after midnight, and told him she thought burglars were in the house. The lawyer put up his dressing gown, and went down stairs.

In the back hall he found a rough-looking man trying to open a door that led into the back yard. The burglar had unlocked the door, and was pulling at it with all his might. The lawyer, seeing the robber's predicament, called to him:

"It does not open that way, you idiot! It slides back!"

Japanese Bid for a Husband.

This is the form in which a young woman advertises in a Japanese paper for a husband: "I, the undersigned, am a pretty girl, with abundant hair, flower-like face, perfect eyebrows and a good figure. I have money enough to take life easy and to enable me to spend my years with some beloved man who will ever be my companion, and who can admire the flowers with me by day and the moon by night. If any clever, accomplished, handsome and fastidious gentleman is disposed to accept this offer I can assure him that I will be true to him for life, and that after life is over I will be ready to be buried with him in one grave."—St. James's Gazette.

BEAUTY'S GRAVEST FOE.

An Ill Temper Is Sure to Ruin Its Victim's Beauty.

Bad temper and worry will trace more wrinkles in one night than hot and cold bathing and massage and complexion brushes and creams and lotions can wash out in a year's faithful application. Physicians assert that an immense amount of nerve force is expended in every fit of bad temper; that when one little part of the nervous system gets wrong the face first records it. The eyes begin losing the luster of youth, muscles become flabby, the skin refuses to contract accordingly, and the inevitable result is wrinkles, femininity's fiercest and most insidious foe. There is no use attempting to reason with a woman about the evil effects of ill-temper while she is in an ugly mood. She knows perfectly well that it is bad for her; that it savors of the coarse and underbred; that it is weak, belittling and immoral, and that it hurts her cause to lose her temper. But she does not stop at just that time to think about it, and to remind her of the fact only adds fuel to the flames. But when she is cool and serene and at peace with all the world, you can convince her that each fit of temper adds a year to her age by weakening her mental force and by tracing crow-tracks about her eyes and telltale lines around her mouth, she will probably think twice before again forgetting herself. For no matter what she asserts to the contrary, woman prizes youth and beauty above every other gift the gods hold it in their power to bestow upon mortals.—Woman's Home Companion.

New Courses at Yale.

The tendency of modern educational methods is toward such practical training as will bring the student into touch with living topics of the day and active connection with the political, business, and professional need of the country. Instances of this utilitarian trend in university education are to be found in the endowment of new schools or lecture courses at Yale on forestry, colonial administration, Asiatic politics, journalism, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

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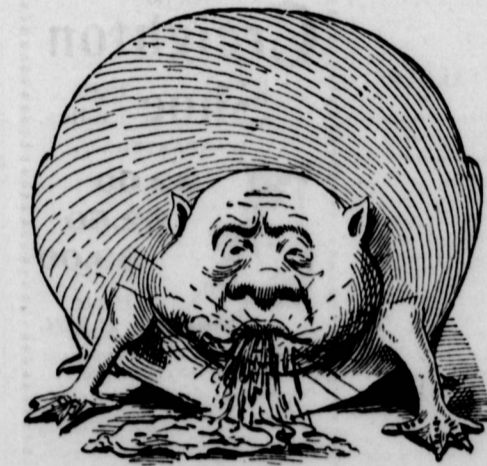
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Monument Like His Desk. In the cemetery at Nebraska City the other day I saw a peculiar monument erected by N. S. Harding, an insurance agent of that place, in anticipation of a time when he may need it. A large block of sandstone, at least six feet long, four feet high and three feet thick has been carved by a competent artist to represent a roller-top office desk standing open. Lying upon it are bundles of papers neatly bound with rubber bands, and inkstands with pens and pencils beside it, a sponge cup, a bottle of mucilage, a blotter and other ordinary equipments such as are found in the office of an insurance agent. The stone affair is a copy of the desk that has been used by Mr. Harding in his insurance office for many years.—Correspondence Chicago Record.

Great Auk's Eggs Sold. Nature reports that two specimens of the egg of the great auk were sold at auction at Stevens' rooms last week and realized 315 and 180 guineas respectively. The more important of the two is an unrecorded specimen from a French collection. It is described as the finest known of a special type of markings. The price obtained establishes a record, 300 guineas having previously to this sale been the highest amount ever received. About 75 eggs of the great auk are known to be in existence.

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Miss Moore, who is the postmaster at Welchburg, Ky., put this letter in her mail the other day:

"Last summer my hair was thin and short and was falling out profusely. I then began using Ayer's Hair Vigor, and two bottles of it gave me beautiful and glossy hair. My hair is now over a yard long, and my friends all wonder what has made it so thick and heavy."

Now that the secret's out we suppose her friends will stop wondering.

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