

FARMERS' CORNER

Weed the Flock.

Poultry specialists advise the closest adherence to the law of the survival of the fittest. Culling the young stock is quite essential in the profitable raising of a flock. It never pays to try to raise weak, sickly chicks; kill them and get them out of the way as soon as possible. The most profit is in raising the best, therefore, we believe it pays best to cull close and early. One gains in more than one way; these stunted chickens rarely ever make a gain sufficient to give a profit over and above the food consumed and they are very apt to contract diseases and give them to the others which would never get a hold on the flock if they had been culled out. Then the best of the chicks have a better show in their absence, having more room in the coops and a better chance for foraging in the day time.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

A New Method of Weed Killing.

Dr. R. Heinrich, professor of agricultural chemistry and director of the agricultural experiment station in Rostock, Germany, recently published the results of interesting experiments in the killing of weeds. It has long been known that many of the weeds which infest oat and barley fields could be destroyed by a sprinkling of a solution of vitriol, without harming the crops. Heinrich found that the same result could be obtained by the use of solutions of various manure salts, such as saltpeter, sulphuric acid, etc. The strength of the solution may vary between 15 and 40 per cent, and from 100 to 200 quarts should be used per acre. In favorable weather, results will follow within two hours. The weeds wither away completely. This solution cannot be used advantageously in the case of vegetables, as it does them as much harm as the weeds.

How to Grade Honey.

In preparing comb honey for shipment it should be sorted and graded, each grade packed separately and marked. It will bring much more in this way than if all grades are mixed together. The following rules should be observed:

Fancy—All sections to be well filled, combs straight, firmly attached to all four sides, the combs unsoiled by travel stain or otherwise; all the cells sealed except an occasional cell; the outside surface of the wood well scraped of propolis.

No. 1—All sections well filled except the row of cells next to the wood; combs straight; one-eighth part of comb surface soiled; the outside surface of the wood well scraped of propolis.

No. 2—Three-fourths of the total surface must be filled and sealed.

No. 3—Must weigh at least half as much as a full weight section.

In addition to this the honey is to be classified according to color, using the terms white, amber and dark; that is, there will be "fancy white," "No. 1 dark," etc.—American Agriculturist.

Economy in Shelter.

Economy in the use of farm tools is getting the most use with the least wear and breakage. How many costly farming tools such as cultivators, disc harrows, self-binders, rakes and plows are setting out in the field or sticking in the ground where last used, and how many more are driven to the farm barnyard and left standing there where the farmer, hired man or boy unhitched from them when he used them last, there to be unsightly objects of wastefulness all winter? Tools left out exposed to the elements in winter are not ready for use in spring when wanted. Besides, many valuable tools are almost useless when treated in this way a year or two, which might be made to last a number of years longer with proper care. Now who receives the benefit of this carelessness? Not the farmer, surely. But it is an ill wind that blows nobody good and his method of caring for farm tools blows profit into the coffers of the manufacturers. The wholesale and retail merchants and agents all make a profit on the farm tools. It has been said, and truly, too, that more than half of the farm tools rust out instead of wearing out. How many farmers will have to visit the sand bank to scour his plow before using it in the spring when two minutes and a little axle grease rubbed on in the fall when putting it away would save all this time scouring?

This leakage on the farm could be stopped. It takes but little money in the hands of a man who has but some knowledge of carpentering to build a convenient shelter for all the tools used on an ordinary sized farm. We cannot afford to let our tools be ruined from the lack of shelter.—Farmers' Guide.

Breeding for an Object.

Thousands of horses are brought into existence without any definite idea on the part of the breeder as to the market requirements they are to meet. This conviction is based upon three considerations: First, the very evident fact that an inordinate proportion are fitted for no special market class, indicating that a large number of farmers

are not acquainted with the market classes that have been established by the trade. Second, the glaring defects that are passed unnoticed by the owners. Third, the fact that the average horseman is vastly better acquainted with the blemishes of horses than he is with the proper type and characteristics that go with the different use to which the horse is put. These three reasons are sufficient to account for the production of a mass of inferior animals which do not meet the eye of the critic until they are offered for sale.

Dealers by long experience and constant observation have learned to a nicety all the requirements of a horse, and in their minds clear-cut ideas exist as to what he should or should not be. If these ideas could be clearly established in the minds of the raisers of horses as they are in those of the dealers, we should have fewer scalawags produced to be held up at the markets and ultimately sold for a price that barely covers the price of growing. For one thing, there is too much mixing of blood in this country. It is not at all an uncommon thing to detect in the same horse traces of three or four different breeds, representing as many distinct classes of horses.

The expense of growing a horse that nobody wants does not greatly differ from that of producing one that fills the real need, and fills it so well that the prospective buyer is ready to pay good money for it. The difference is not so much in the added expense for the sire as it is in the minds of the men who do the breeding. As with cattle, or with any other farm stock, if the breeder has in advance a clear-cut idea of what he proposes to secure, and uses good judgment in the selection of his sire, in nine cases out of ten he will succeed. If, however, he undertakes to produce as highly organized an animal as the horse without definite plans in mind, in nine cases out of ten, he will fail.—New England Homestead.

Pruning Trees.

Many inquiries are made regarding the proper time for pruning trees or shrubs. Both ornamental and fruiting. It is impossible to answer except in a general way, as the individuals to be treated must be each one considered. Where considerable pruning is to be done, the need for a practical man with plenty of experience and a knowledge of all kinds of trees is evident.

In the case of fruit trees, it may be necessary to thin out the branches to permit the free circulation of air and light—very essential things to strong, healthy growth. Such pruning is done in the winter, any time after the leaves have fallen, though wounds will probably heal with greater ease if made towards spring. A careful painting of the wounds, however, makes it safe earlier. Should the growth of the trees be too straggling, they should be pruned lightly during the early summer, while the sap is active and growth is being made. At the same time, it will encourage the production of fruit buds, which are set on short spurs.

As regards the ornamental trees, the same rule will apply to the thinning out of branches; the weaker ones are, of course, to be removed, allowing the strong ones to remain. If they are to be put into shape, probably a little pruning in winter and a little more in May or June, when growth is resumed, would bring about the desired results.

The flowering trees and shrubs must be pruned according to their respective characters. If it is desirable to retain flowering buds for the first season, most early-blooming plants should not be pruned very much until after they have bloomed, as the flowering buds are formed the season previous. Of course, a thinning out will do no harm in this respect, and will give much more strength to the remaining branches.

One correspondent asks if the end of March is too late to prune apple trees in northern New York. Following the above principles it would not be—in fact, one could prune in any month if it is done judiciously with an understanding of the results that would follow.

It is practicable to remove the large lower limbs from trees at any season of the year. There might be an exception to removing them in the summer time, provided the number of branches removed is in excess of those remaining. This would tend to weaken the trees very greatly. The most favorable time for doing such work is in the winter. If left until nearly spring or early summer the wounds will heal more readily, as while the sap is in motion new bark is made at once. In any event it is desirable to paint the wounds with thick ordinary paint or something that will keep out the air and moisture until the new growth of wood covers the wound.

Much error is diffused by the use of improper terms. A work on forestry, before the writer, referring to attachment of labels or guards to trees, remarks that "it should be by copper wire, which stretches as the tree expands." But there is no expansion of a tree in a physical sense. A wave flows over the sand by the sea shore, but not by expansion of the waters. In like manner the new wood of trees flows over the older wood, but this is not expansion. If the wire attachment to a label be loosely over a horizontal branch, and yet so firmly that it will not be disturbed by the wind, the wire will be covered by the new growth, though there be plenty of room in the wire loop for expansion.—Mechan's Monthly.



To Clean Black Marble.

Spirits of turpentine will clean and polish black marble. For removing stains from white marble nothing is better than a paste made of one-quarter pound of whiting, one-eighth pound of soda and one-eighth pound of laundry soap melted. Boil the mixture until it becomes a paste. Before it is quite cold spread it over the marble and leave it for 24 hours. Wash it off in soft water and dry the marble with a soft cloth.

Furnishing a Small Flat.

In furnishing a small flat it is advisable to avoid massive furniture as much as possible, as it is inappropriate and far from artistic. Marvelous things are done with the aid of a carpenter, a little ingenuity and a few pots of enamel paint. For instance, as every one knows, a round dining room table is a tax on one's pocket-book and is certainly too desirable to be dispensed with. One can easily be made of unpainted pine by a carpenter and painted in the new shade of forest green, or stained to imitate Flemish oak, which will be quite as pretty as one could buy, and the cost will gladden the heart. The legs must of necessity be plain and unadorned, but if the table is made very low the effect is rather quaint than otherwise. Hinged boxes, prim little seats and sets of irregular book shelves can be devised and treated in the same manner, and the effect produced by these creations of one's brain and the carpenter's skill is far better than that obtained by the regular products of a furnishing house.—Good Housekeeping.

Tables and Table Linen.

It is the fashion to dispense with a tablecloth at breakfast and luncheon, when there is a handsome polished board, and to substitute in place of it thick mats, and for the tea or coffee put a thick blue and white tile. When there is a large bouquet of fresh flowers or a jardiniere of growing ferns and plenty of dainty mats, a breakfast table fitted out in this way may be very attractive. A plate dolly under each plate worked in individual colors and designs gives a characteristic finish to the table. Dollies and mats in pure white, however, are preferred to color in embroidery on the breakfast table.

When the cloth is used, as it always should be at dinner, a thick blanketing of cotton flannel should be used under it to deaden the noise, as well as to protect from the heat of hot dishes. The table linen should be spotlessly white. The table centre, which is placed under the jardiniere of ferns or cut flowers, is preferred in pure white embroidery, laid over the satin finished damask. The only color used is that on the china.

A tablecloth may be kept spotless for some time if these simple directions are followed. As soon as a spot is discovered, put the cloth over a tiny covered board kept for the purpose and scrub it carefully with a little brush, using soap and warm water. If an appearance given by removing the gloss will not be apparent. It pays to buy tablecloths with a well covered pattern. Such linen does not show marks and wears better than table linen displaying much plain surface.—New York Tribune.



HOUSEHOLD RECIPES

Cherry Tapioca—Wash one cupful of tapioca, cover with cold water and let soak over night. In the morning put it over the fire with two cupfuls of boiling water, and simmer slowly until the tapioca is perfectly clear; add one and one-half pounds of tinned sour cherries and sweeten to taste. Serve cold with sugar and cream.

Chrysanthemum Salad—Shred a crisp cabbage and simmer ten minutes; drain and chill, then heap roughly into a bed of green foliage; mix two tablespoonfuls of tarragon vinegar, one tablespoonful of salad oil, one teaspoonful of celery salt, dash of paprika pepper; pour over salad; garnish with tiny peppers and hard-boiled eggs. Allow to absorb dressing before serving.

Pressed Chicken—Boil one or two chickens in a small quantity of water, with a little salt; when thoroughly done take all the meat from the bones, keeping the light and dark meat separate; chop fine and season. Put in a pan a layer of dark and light meat; add the liquor it was boiled in, which should be about a cupful. Press with a small weight. When cold cut in slices.

Oyster Creams—Line pretty shells with short crusts and bake; fill when removed from the oven with this: Cook one quart of large oysters in their own liquor till edges begin to curl, drain, then cut into pieces and add to one cup of boiling sweet cream. Add three-quarters of a tablespoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of butter and a quarter-teaspoonful of pepper. Serve immediately on a hot platter, daintily garnished with lemon slices.

His Stomach Removed.
A remarkable surgical operation was performed several days ago on Albert Hansdorf, a German, living on Cherry street. Hansdorf had been hurt internally while at work in a machine shop. At Erlanger Hospital, after long study of the case, Dr. Berlin, with Hansdorf's consent, decided upon heroic measures. The whole stomach was removed from the man's body, and his entrails were put upon a marble table, where they were worked upon. The surgeons discovered the wrong and cut several entrails from the stomach, and washing what was left thoroughly, placed it back in the man's body.

The patient was then restored to consciousness. He remained in a critical condition for several days, but is now improving, and will in all probability recover.—Chattanooga Times.

The foreman of the laboratory of a firm of manufacturing chemists in Detroit reports that when he opened a cask of white powder arsenic consigned to his employers recently he found a number of worms which resembled caterpillars, and which seemed to be thriving upon the deadly poison.

Good photographs of living wild mammals and birds are so rare as to command high prices in the market, and the magazines, as well as the newspapers which print half-tone supplements, are usually glad to buy them.

The Black Watch claims the highest total of killed and wounded among all British battalions during the war in South Africa, while the Second Seaforth Highlanders have the highest number of killed.

The Best Prescription for Chills and Fever is a bottle of GROVE'S TARTARIC CHILL TONIC. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price 50c.

The Parliament building in Wellington, New Zealand, is the largest wooden structure in the world.

There is No Diphtheria from Group, Pneumonia and Diptheria when Hoxsie's Group Cure is used promptly. No opium. 50 cts. A. P. Hoxsie, Buffalo, N. Y.

Five hundred motor carriages per year is the average output of a Paris firm for the last five years.

A Colonel in the British South African army says that Adams' Tutti Frutti was a blessing to his men while marching.

Denmark leads the world for thriftiness. Her inhabitants have on an average \$50 in the savings banks.

H. H. GREEN'S SONS, of Atlanta, Ga., are the only successful Dropsy Specialists in the world. See their liberal offer in advertisement in another column of this paper.

In Springfield, Mo., a judge has decided that prize whist playing is gambling.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. SAMUEL, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1901.

Happy is the man who can't remember things he ought to forget.

An Australian manufacturer, in his search for a cheap raw material for paper-making, has successfully experimented with turf. He claims to produce from the cleaned and bleached turf fibres a remarkably strong and durable paper.

Governor Dietrich, of Nebraska, who is a widower, declines to occupy the gubernatorial mansion in Lincoln, and advises that the building be sold, or that it be maintained at State expense like any other public property.

Each package of PUTNAM FADELESS DYE colors more goods than any other dye and colors them better too. Sold by all druggists.

If the world be divided into land and water hemispheres, London is the centre of the land, New Zealand of the water.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c.

Cornmeal is the cow feed bought by a great majority of farmers when they are short on the grain ration.

\$100 Reward. \$100. The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

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try stores or by mail, 25 cts. The Children's Friend, E. & S. FIKRY, Baltimore, Md.

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