

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

Coal Ashes in Light Soil.

Coal ashes make light soils heavier, serving the same purpose as clay, but they contain but a trace of plant food. The best use for coal ashes is to sift them and use them in the poultry house, in order to afford dusting material for the fowls. They also act as excellent absorbents for the droppings and assist in keeping the floors clean.

When to Hatch Pullets.

Pullets for next year should be hatched early, as they will then mature and begin to lay before next winter, but if not hatched until May or June some of them will not lay before the following spring. The eggs should be placed under the setting hens in February, which will bring the chicks out in March, and, if possible, all the pullets should be hatched at the same time, which can be done with an incubator. As soon as the young cockerens are of sufficient size for market they should be sold, as they will bring higher prices when young and afford more room for the growing pullets. This is the time to look a year ahead for winter eggs.

Burning Green Wood.

There are many farmers who seem to like to burn green wood, and no doubt some of them think it is economy to do so because it lasts longer. Others do it only because they think they cannot find time to cut a year's supply ahead and have it well seasoned and put under cover before the fall rains and winter snows have soaked it again. But it is certainly poor economy. Nearly all varieties weigh 50 percent more when green than when dry, and some even lose more than that in being properly seasoned. That adds to the labor of handling and hauling, for what weighs one ton when dry weighs 2000 pounds when first cut. Nor is this all of the loss. It takes heat to evaporate that extra amount of water. We believe the scientists say that when wood is burned entirely green 50 percent of its own heat is used up in evaporating the water. This makes 3000 pounds of green wood equal in heating power to 1000 pounds of perfectly dry wood. Of course few burn wood entirely green, but there are many who do not have it entirely dry or well seasoned. Any good housewife who has been obliged to use green wood for the kitchen fire can tell of delay in getting the meal in season, hindering her work and that of others, and of poorly cooked food because she could not get the oven hot enough. Then there is another loss, a loss of temper from the delay and the poor food. It is therefore a case of cruelty for any man to compel his family to burn green wood.

Importance of Testing Milk.

There certainly is no factor that has been more potent in effecting the marked increase in the average production of dairy cows than the Babcock test. Herds averaging 200 to 350 pounds of butter a year are no longer considered anything phenomenal. More than this, the person who goes into dairy farming with the intention not only of securing an existence but also of making money, finds that he cannot afford to keep cows which fall below the 300-pound standard.

Yet look at the vast army of herds whose average annual production does not even reach the 200-pound mark. It is therefore not to be wondered at that farmers occasionally complain that dairying doesn't pay. With the aid of a Babcock test and a pair of scales it is within the power of every farmer to grade up his herd, in the course of a few years, to the 300-pound standard. The milk is to be weighed and tested for a sufficient length of time to know just what each cow is doing. To do this with the least amount of labor and still with a fair degree of accuracy, test and weigh the milk of each cow for three consecutive days of each month. Of course a composite sample is taken, which will give the average test for three days, and will necessitate only one actual test. In making these tests, it may soon be discovered that some of the herd are kept at an actual loss, while others are yielding a good profit. The outlay for a tester will not exceed \$4, and the manipulation of the test is so simple that with a little study every farmer can use it for his purpose with sufficient accuracy.

The time is not far distant when all milk, whether for creamery, cheese factory or city supply, will be bought strictly on the fat basis; in other words, by the Babcock test.—John Michels, in Michigan Farmer.

Use of Soil Protecting Clovers.

At the Ohio experiment station crimson clover has proved too uncertain to be a satisfactory cover crop, our chief difficulty being to get a start during the dry weather which so generally prevails during the latter part of summer. We encounter the same difficulty with red clover, sown at that time. In fact there seems to be an increasing difficulty in securing a stand of red clover, sown at any time. Of the frost-resisting leguminous plants which may be sown late in summer to gather the later formed nitrates, the hairy vetch seems to offer the most promise, chiefly because its comparatively large seed will permit deeper covering and therefore better condition to withstand growth than is practicable with the clovers; but our success has not yet been large with this plant.

Alfalfa is not to be considered in this connection, because it requires too long to become established. It belongs with red clover, as a plant to be started in the early spring, but it should be sown

when the ground can be tilled and the seed covered instead of on the surface as we sow clover. The cowpea and soy bean possess every requisite for a cover except one—they cannot endure frost. Their large seed permits deep covering; they love heat and are fairly drought-resisting; sown any time through June or July they will cover the ground with a dense growth before frost, and being legumes they have the nitrogen accumulating power of that order of plants. We have adopted the practice of sowing soy beans when the clover catch fails, and find them a very good substitute for clover, but the first frost kills the plant and thus ends its work. We find, however, that the ground breaks up in much better condition in the spring after having grown a crop of soy beans. Indiscussing cover crops, rye is not to be forgotten. It is not a legume and therefore adds no nitrogen to the soil, but no other plant of those mentioned, unless it be the vetch, will more effectually save the nitrates which are probably formed whenever the temperature is above the freezing point.—C. E. Thorne, director of Ohio experiment station, in New England Homestead.

Best Egg-Producing Foods.

The man or woman who raises eggs for market should be intelligent enough to find out from experience and experiment the best egg-producing foods. Yet often this seems to come slowly, and we find some sticking to food that has long been discarded as poor egg-making material. Probably one of the most general mistakes made in this respect is to depend too much on corn. It is difficult to convince some that corn is not a good diet for egg-layers. It is partly because corn is the easiest and handiest chicken food that amateurs can secure, for they can purchase this at any feed store. But this should not be the case with one who raises chickens for a living. Surely corn with them must be understood and be given its proper place in the diet. It has its place in the food for the poultry. It is fattening and heating, and a little of it in winter is essential to the health of the chickens, but it should take second place to clover.

Experience has demonstrated the value of clover for egg-producing time and again. Clover has just the material in it to form egg shell, and hence it becomes an essential part of every ration fed to the chickens. It may not be generally understood that there are nearly 30 pounds of lime contained in each 1000 pounds of clover. The chickens fed daily with clover will consequently prove better egg layers than those denied it. The clover hay should be given to chickens in winter in quantities sufficient to satisfy them, and to make them eat more it is desirable sometimes to prepare it in various ways. Cook and chop it up, and mix it with meal or other articles. This will sometimes induce the hens to consume a great amount of clover every day. Cut up into short lengths and mixed with warm man and then fed only as fast as the chickens will clean it up each day, is probably the most economical way to feed the clover. Some cut the second crop of clover and place it in the poultry yard for the chickens to eat and scratch over at pleasure. This of itself is all right, but it is rather wasteful. More than half the clover will be lost, and the chickens do not actually eat much more than the leaves. The stalks contain most of the lime, and these should be prepared so the chickens will consume them. Of all foods that can be raised on a farm for poultry, clover is not only the best, but probably the cheapest, and a field of it is as essential to success as a pasture field is necessary to the success of dairying.—Annie C. Webster, in American Cultivator.

Farm Hints.

Charred bone, as well as charred corn, is good for poultry.

In raising calves for the dairy, commence with the breeding.

Both cattle and hogs should have at all times full access to salt.

Give the hens all of the buttermilk and skim milk they will drink.

Less hay and corn stalks and more grain would be a good rule for many feeders.

Sometimes calves have fits, the result of indigestion. Correct the errors of feeding.

Always have the nests so low that the hens can step in rather than be obliged to jump down.

If horses have pin worms, try an injection of soapuds and weak tobacco tea night and morning.

A flat perch is best because of being the most comfortable to the feet and the best support to the breast.

When the bull's hair is rough and looks dead, feed a good quality of oil-cake and card him thoroughly.

An occasional dish of charred corn is good for the hens, brightening the combs and toning up the system.

If an abundance of good, sharp grit is kept constantly within reach of the fowls many diseases from indigestion will be avoided.

The success of the creamery depends on the care the patrons take of the cream. Fancy butter cannot be made from poorly kept cream.

The best way to feed corn to young chickens is crushed or cracked. For ducklings mix cornmeal and bran, equal parts, into a mush with milk.

The hogs that are reared when young on good sweet milk, turned out in the clover field in summer and topped off with corn, make the ideal creatures for the market.

The skeleton of an average sized man weighs about 20 pounds; that of a woman of average size about six pounds less.



Fashionable Bookshelves.

Build! In book shelves are such fashionable furnishing pieces that it is well to know that they should always match the woodwork of the room, and not that of the furniture. Detached bookcases should be like the furniture, but it is not considered en regle for the built-in kind.

Removing Dust from a Painted Floor.

An easy and satisfactory way to remove dust from a painted floor is to wet a flannel bag, wring it out as dry as possible, put it on the broom and drag it in even strokes over the floor. All the dirt will in this way be collected in one place and can be easily taken up without leaving streaks of dust on the paint.

The Uses of Ice.

In health no one ought to drink very freely of ice water, for it has occasional fatal inflammations of the stomach and bowels, and sometimes sudden death. The temptation to drink it is very great in summer. To use it at all with any safety a person should take but a swallow at a time, taking the glass from the lips for half a minute, and then another swallow, and so on. It will be found that in this way it becomes disagreeable after a few mouthfuls. On the other hand, ice itself may be taken as freely as possible, not only without injury, but with the most striking advantage in dangerous forms of disease.

A kind of cushion of powdered ice kept to the entire scalp has allayed violent inflammation of the brain, and arrested fearful convulsions induced by too much blood there.

All inflammations, internal or external, are promptly subdued by the application of ice or ice water, because it is converted into steam, and rapidly conveys away the extra heat, and also diminishes the quantity of blood in the vessels of the part.

Insomnia may be relieved by wetting a towel in ice water and laying it on the back of the neck, covering it over with a dry towel smoothly folded. It is also particularly useful in case of a dull headache.

A piece of ice laid on the wrist will often arrest violent bleeding of the nose.—The Ladies' World.

Boys' Rooms.

Considerable is said about girls' rooms, but little is said of boys' rooms. The inference is left that any room will satisfy him. It is true that a many boy usually dislikes a room fixed in milliner's fashion, with ribbons and hangings of cretonne or silk, but he usually has a decided taste of his own if he is an intelligent boy, and even more pronounced likes and dislikes than his sister. He generally prefers a simple, rather hard bed, with plenty of pillows. A bedstead of brass, or iron trimmed with brass, is a suitable one. Put into his room a "chest of drawers," with a glass at the top. Let the washstand be an affair of metal, an English shape of ample dimensions, with a large basin and foot tub for splashing. There should be a lounge or an easy lounging chair and cushion. Let there be a set of cuff and collar boxes, a low blacking chair, with a space under the seat where the blacking is stored away and there is a foot-hold where he can attend to his own bootblackening. The closets should be furnished with "holds" for coats and trousers, so they will not get out of shape while hanging. There should also be a low shelf to hold shoes when not in use, and a higher one for hats and boxes. It is as necessary that a boy grow up with systematic, orderly habits as that his sister should. A boy can grow up in an orderly way, which will be useful to him in his after career, or he may be so careless and erratic in his ways of living that his method will be a veritable stumbling block in life's history.—New York Tribune.



Household Recipes.

Parsnip Puffs—Take one egg, well beaten, add one cup of cold water, one cup of flour sifted with one teaspoonful of baking powder, half a teaspoonful salt, one cup of boiled parsnips mashed fine and seasoned to taste. Mix very lightly. Do not let it stand long, but drop by tablespoons into deep, hot fat and fry a delicate brown.

Romaine Salad—Remove the outer green leaves from two hearts of romaine, wash carefully and dry thoroughly; put in a salad bowl; sprinkle over minced chives, about half a tablespoonful; quarter tablespoonful of chopped chervil, the same of tarragon, season with a pinch of salt and a little pepper; mix in two tablespoonfuls of vinegar and one and a half of sweet oil; serve immediately.

Oyster Salad—Drain the liquor from one pint of nice oysters; heat one cupful of vinegar, and when at the boiling point drop in the oysters and cook until "plumped;" then take them up and drop into ice cold water; let them remain in this three to five minutes. Drain; mix with them one pint of celery cut in dice and one pickled cucumber cut fine. Season with one-half teaspoonful of salt, one saltspoonful of paprika, and mix all well together with a silver fork. Garnish the salad dish with celery tips and slices of hard-boiled eggs and pour a salad dressing over the salad.

Siamese Ant Cavalry.

Not long ago a French explorer, M. Charles Meissen, in traveling through Siam observed a species of small gray ants which were new to him. These ants were much engaged in traveling; they lived in damp places and went in troops. To his surprise he noticed among them from time to time an occasional ant which was much larger than the others and moved at a much swifter pace, and each of these larger ants, M. Meissen saw, always carried one of the gray ants on its back. This discovery led him to watch their movements closely. He soon saw that while the main body of gray ants was always on foot, they were accompanied by at least one of their own sort mounted on one of these larger ants. He mounted and detached himself now and then from the line, rode rapidly to the head, came swiftly back to the rear and seemed to be the commander of the expedition. The explorer was satisfied from his observation that this species of ant employs a larger ant—possibly a drone of the same species, though he had no means of proving this—as we employ horses to ride upon, though scarcely more than one ant in each colony seems to be provided with a mount.—St. James' Gazette.

He Wasn't Worrying.

It is not long since that a Baltimore woman visiting Colorado was starting for a drive along Boulder Canon. Her ideas of a canon, acquired wholly from illustrations, was of mighty clefts in giant rocks, and a drive along its edge meant following a thread-like road where the least swerving aside from the beaten track might result in being dashed to instant death.

Thinking to insure safe horses and careful driving on the part of the liverman she tried to impress him with the fact that she was prominently connected in her native city, her family one of wealth and much given to travel, so that if any disaster overtook her his reputation as a liverman would suffer.

"Oh, that would be all right, ma'am," responded the Jehu, "I am an undertaker by profession, as well as a horseman, and if anything were to happen to you, I assure you the remains would be sent home in the most scientific and fashionable style. Why, only last week I sent home two bodies—a mother and daughter—who were the very bon ton of New York society, and no man ever got up a corpse in prettier style than those two."—Baltimore Sun.

Sir Boyle Roche's "Bulls."

He was the father of "bulls." It was he that asserted that "the best way to avoid danger is to meet it plump." At another time, in conveying a warm invitation to a friend, he remarked: "I hope, my lord, if you ever come within a mile of my house, that you'll stay there all night."

He may have been the fool of the Grattan Parliament, but there was a good deal of native shrewdness hidden away behind all his foolishness. To Curran, when the latter once exclaimed in the midst of a debate that he needed aid from no one and could be "the guardian of his own honor," Sir Boyle instantly interjected his sarcastic congratulations to the honorable member on his possession of a sinecure. But possibly the gem of his rhetoric was the picture which he conjured up on one occasion to bring home to his hearers the excesses of the French Revolutionary mob:

"Here, perhaps, sir, the murderous Marshal Law Men (Marselleis) would break in, cut us to mince and throw our bleeding heads on that table to stare us in the face."—London Express.

Drew Money on His Laundry Mark.

The initials of his name inscribed on the "inside of his collar served as identification for a traveling man at the post-office, and enabled him to secure cash on a \$50 money order. He had received a letter from his house directing him to go to Grand Rapids, Mich., and enclosing the money order. He packed his grip and stopped at the postoffice on his way to the railway station. He had but a few minutes, and when the clerk demanded identification the man was unable to furnish it, and delay meant missing his train. After appealing and arguing with the clerk in vain he was taken before Assistant Postmaster Hubbard. At that official's request the traveling man removed his collar. There were the initials corresponding with the name on the money order advice. It was considered sufficient identification and the cash was turned over.—Chicago Tribune.

Colds

"I had a terrible cold and could hardly breathe. I then tried Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and it gave me immediate relief."
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How will your cough be tonight? Worse, probably. For it's first a cold, then a cough, then bronchitis or pneumonia, and at last consumption. Coughs always tend downward. Stop this downward tendency by taking Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

Three sizes: 25c, 50c, \$1. All druggists. Consult your doctor. If he says take it, then do as he says. If he tells you not to take it, then don't take it. He knows. Leave it with him. We are willing.
J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass.

A Word That is Doomed.

"Smart" is doomed, they say. As a fashionable expression its death warrant was signed when the unfashionable began to use it. Already it is on its way to "the worse than oblivion," where "stylish" was consigned a few years ago, and a great many years ago "genteel." If there be one particular use of "smart" that good taste objects to more than another just now is "the smart set." From a trenchant and vital definition, this has become almost a joke.

No new expression seems to be at hand to take the place of "smart." "Swagger" comes nearest it, but the chances are that "swagger" will be even shorter lived than "smart." Why is it that, of all fashions in words, those relating strictly to fashion are the most ephemeral? Fashion, in any phase, is rarely so consistent.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever. Nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surface.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Circulars sent free. F. J. CHESEBURY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

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No matter what ails you, headache to a cancer, you will never get well until your bowels are put right. CASCARETS help nature, cure you without a gripe or pain, produce easy natural movements, cost you just 10 cents to start getting your health back. CASCARETS Candy Cathartic, the genuine, put up in metal boxes, every tablet has C. C. C. stamped on it. Beware of imitations.

Thirty to forty miles an hour is the rule for railroad trains in Russia; in Siberia, fifteen to twenty.

Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children

Successfully used by Mother Gray, nurse in the Children's Home, in New York. Cure Feverishness, Bad Stomach, Teething Disorders, move and regulate the Bowels and Destroy Worms. Over 30,000 testimonials. At all druggists, 25c. Sample mailed FREE. Address Allen S. Olmstead, LeRoy, N. Y.

Wireless telegraph stations are now being erected by the Japanese authorities on the Korean coast.

PUTNAM'S FADELESS DYE produces the fastest and brightest colors of any known dye stuff. Sold by all druggists.

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In every clime and with every people it has worked wonders in alleviating pain.

Its cures of Rheumatism have approached the miraculous. Its intrinsic value is the secret of success—of its world-wide popularity—of its wonderful sale—of its constant growth.

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A Substitute for and Superior to Mustard or any other plaster, and will not blister the most delicate skin. The pain allaying and curative qualities of this article are wonderful. It will stop the toothache at once, and relieve headache and neuralgia. We recommend it as the best and safest external counter-irritant known, also as an external remedy for pains in the chest and stomach, all rheumatic, neuralgic and gouty complaints.

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MRS. JENNIE E. O'DONNELL, President of Oakland Woman's Riding Club, the wonderful curative value of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. For eight years I had female trouble, falling of the womb and other complications. During that time I was more or less of an invalid and not much good for anything, until one day I found a book in my hall telling of the cures you could perform. I became interested; I bought a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and was helped; I continued its use and in seven months was cured, and since that time I have had perfect health. Thanks, dear Mrs. Pinkham again, for the health I now enjoy."—Mrs. JENNIE O'DONNELL, 278 East 31st St., Chicago, Ill. —\$5000 forfeit if above testimonial is not genuine.

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Three Eared Corn. This is the best seed for sowing in 1901. It is extremely productive and its price is low. Salzer's seeds produce extra well. That pays.
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We wish you to try our seeds. Send us 10c and we will send you 10 farm seed samples containing thousands of seeds. Free. Boston, Mass., Atlanta, Speltz, etc. Fully worth \$1000 to get a start together with our great catalog for 10c postage.
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