

The Farm

Care of Hens.

If hens are confined to the poultry house on cold days see to it that they do not have to stand on the bare floor. Use straw, corn stalks, corn husks or other material for a floor covering. Hens with cold feet will not lay very many eggs.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Average Hen Yield.

Statistics show that the annual average egg yield per hen in this country is just about six dozen. Quite short of the 200-egg mark, isn't it? The general run of farm "dunghills" lay seldom above this average, while the very poorest layers among thoroughbreds, receiving the same kind of attention, would exceed it by half. It costs no more to raise and feed thoroughbreds than dunghills, and the added profit in one year would more than cover the cost of procuring a start in "fullbloods."—Farmers' Home Journal.

Roup in Chickens.

There is a disease that sometimes occurs among chickens, which misleads the poultryman, and is known as the white diarrhoea. The discharge is white and similar to mucus. The chicks do not appear roopy at first, and seem to respond to treatment, but the result is finally death. Whole broods have been swept away in some instances. It is nothing more or less than roup, which nearly always attacks chicks in the bowels. The proper term to use for it is consumption of the bowels. The only remedy is to cease hatching, destroy all sick chicks and thoroughly disinfect the premises, as it is contagious.—Weekly Witness.

Southern Cranberry Limit.

Tarkans can be grown anywhere; but cranberries, their necessary accompaniment, are only Northern products. Nevertheless there are vast bog areas in the middle and southern portions of the country, which if cranberries could be acclimated to them, could be well utilized for this crop. With this idea in view the Department of Agriculture has prepared a small cranberry bog on its experimental farm. This is perhaps the southernmost plantation of cranberries in the United States outside of the Allegheny Mountain region. The success or failure of the enterprise will have an important bearing on the future use and development of waste areas, now bringing no return, but so located as to be adapted to the cultivation of this crop.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Forestry a Revenue Producer.

Norman G. Gordon, of Chicago, is deeply interested in forestry and in an interview stated that while very recently the study of forestry was confined to the care of large areas, there has now come a demand for the study of smaller tracts of woodland.

"Every farmer," he said, "has his wood lot, from which he draws a supply of fuel that may or may not be enough for his household needs without coal. Any sale of the more valuable sorts of wood that he may make is incidental, the result of chance seeding of maple, white oak, elm or hickory. Now, a white oak or a hickory is no harder to raise than a red oak or a chestnut. The farmer who looks ahead is asking for information that will tell him how best to develop the neglected wood lot, which, in the next generation, if not in his own time, will prove a source of revenues not to be despised."

Flowers on the Farm.

The farmer's family is, as a rule, composed of busy people, who have so many necessary duties that however much they love flowers, find it hard to cultivate them to any extent. Still this plan has been tried, and proved very satisfactory to a lady I know. She had one flower bed near her porch, three feet by ten feet, with a low wire trellis next the porch for nasturtiums to grow on. In the middle was a row of geraniums in front. By the kitchen windows she planted a row of seeds of tall castor bean plants, and in the vegetable garden next to the front fence, she had a bed about four feet wide the length of the garden, planted with seeds in groups. First, mixed candytuft, then aquilegia, then alyssum (this is beautiful and sweet), then begonias, then carnations, then pansies, then heliotrope, then phlox, etc., until all the bed was full. She found that it was often convenient for the men to dig the flowers, being so near the vegetables, and the beauty of the flowers was so great that an added interest was given to the care of the entire garden. She had rich soil and sunny exposure, which she could get in no other place.—Correspondence of "Fruits and Flowers."

Color of the Modern Jersey.

It is the common error of judges at dairy shows, and even of some breeders, to pass over Jerseys which show a great amount of white in the color and more especially owing to the position in which the white patches are placed. Cows of this class are called grade Jerseys, for as a rule we are accustomed to see any white patches confined to the flank and underneath portions of the body; in one instance a Jersey with a large patch of white on the shoulder, and a considerable amount of white on the right thigh and flank, won first place in competitions of considerable consequence, was first and champion in the Jersey cow classes at the Oxford County show in England and is the property of that well-known breeder, Lord Rothschild. Here in our own country we have a Jersey cow with a streak of white extending right from underneath the forearm to the shoulder, and yet it was the Grand Champion in the Jersey cow class at the United States National Dairy Show, held recently in Virginia.

As a rule one prefers to see whole colored animals winning first place in Jersey classes; but if we bear in mind that only about ten per cent. of

THE PULPIT.

AN ELOQUENT SUNDAY SERMON BY DR. CURTIS LEE LAWS.

Theme: Backsliding.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—In the Greene Avenue Baptist Church, Sunday, the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Curtis Lee Laws, preached a strong sermon on "Backsliding." The text was from Proverbs 14:14: "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways." Dr. Laws said:

Do you recall your early experience in the service of the Lord? Do you remember the day and hour when the burden of sin rolled off your shoulders and you again look up for the first time into the face of your heavenly Father, rejoicing in His presence and in His love? Do you not recall how the world would suddenly become more beautiful and how your heart yearned over your friends and enemies as never before? There was an old man converted to Christ down in Washington some time ago. He was a rugged old fellow, his esthetic nature had not been much cultivated, and he did not have an artist's eye. The morning after his conversion, when his wife came down to breakfast, he was standing at the dining room window looking out at the desolate winter scenery. He turned and said: "Wife, come here and look, come here and look; the very trees are greening, their hands in praise to God! Ah, in the days gone by there has been many an echo of those words in many a heart here."

What is the meaning of all this? It means that I had found that which was the completion of my whole being. "O Lord," he said, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, and we are restless till we rest in Thee." It means that in God I had found the satisfaction which this world had never afforded me, for as the ocean only can fill the heart of God, so alone is the man who has been reconciled to his heavenly Father, who has returned like the prodigal to his Father's love.

I turn now to the dark side of the picture. How few of us have kept this early joy, and have continued in this blessed peace? Of course you know the story of the lost chord? A woman, in the shadows of the twilight, when her heart was sad, gently touched the keys of a glorious organ. She did not know or care what she was playing; her fingers lingered idly but carelessly upon the keys. Suddenly she struck a chord, and its wondrous melody as it filled the room was uplifting and transforming and heavenly.

It flooded the crimson twilight. Like the glow of an aurora, and it lay on her fevered spirit. With the touch of minute calm.

It quieted pain and sorrow, like love overcoming strife, it seemed the harmonious echo from our discordant life.

It linked all perplexed meanings into one perfect peace, and trembled away in silence, as if it were left to cease.

Something disturbed this woman and called her from the organ. As soon as possible she hurried back and began to play, but this divine chord was gone, and though she kept on playing she could not bring it back again.

How similar to our experience as the children of God and yet how opposite! Many of us have lost our peace, our joy, our rapture, but bless God, we can all have this heavenly music in our souls, if we are willing, for God is willing to heal our backsliding. Backsliding is so common among Christians as to be almost universal. Of course, there are different degrees of backsliding. Some have gone only a little way, while others have gone so far that the return will be difficult, but thank God, not impossible.

First of all, let us consider how men become backsliders. The word itself is significant. To go forward requires effort, to go backward requires no effort at all. In the Christian life, if you cease to go forward you will inevitably go backward. This backsliding always begins in the heart. We may go on for a time in the outward performance of duty, in the manner of the Pharisee, but our activities, while in our hearts these things are growing more and more distasteful. The heart may therefore be in wrong relation to a given thing, while our actions may be perfectly correct. But God knows that man is a being who can know himself. Whether others know it matters very little. But after a time all men will know it, for the backslider in heart generally becomes the backslider in life. It is very hard for men to continue long in hypocrisy. Ordinarily a man's outward life is his expression of his inner life. A man's character may be better than his reputation, or a man's reputation may be better than his character, but ordinarily reputation and character agree. We are not to be deceived by the "diamonds in the rough."

We constantly say of the man who sins with his tongue, "Well, you know, he is very hasty and impetuous and often says things which he does not mean." But God says these things have their origin in the heart, and from the heart flow outward. When our conduct becomes bad, it is because we have already been backsliders in our hearts. Then bad leads to worse. Like Peter, who began to follow the Lord afar off, and in this inevitable leads to the denial of our Master. You remember that when the Master was taken captive He was immediately forsaken by His apostles. Then began the procession from Gethsemane to the judgment hall. The Master walked alone His weary way. He trod the wine-press alone. The shadow of the cross had already fallen athwart His pathway. But after a little while two of the apostles returned to the judgment hall, the company. One of these was John and he walked as close to Jesus as he possibly could. But Peter, so he had the courage to do that, so he lagged behind, or, as the record says, he followed afar off. The servant who followed reached the judgment hall, John went in with Jesus, but Peter, straggling in late, dared not go there, but with shamefacedness sat out in the court and warmed himself by the fire. Step by step he had led to his own undoing. The servant who followed and he walked as close to Jesus as he possibly could. But Peter, so he had the courage to do that, so he lagged behind, or, as the record says, he followed afar off. The servant who followed reached the judgment hall, John went in with Jesus, but Peter, straggling in late, dared not go there, but with shamefacedness sat out in the court and warmed himself by the fire. Step by step he had led to his own undoing. The servant who followed and he walked as close to Jesus as he possibly could. But Peter, so he had the courage to do that, so he lagged behind, or, as the record says, he followed afar off. 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