

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

A Sign of Lack of Skill.

Abandoned farms are evidences of lack of skill and industry on the part of their former occupants. The fact that some of these farms have been made profitable demonstrates that more farms are abandoned because of inducements in other directions to individuals who cannot make the farm pay more than for lack of capacity of the soil.

Not a Good Food for Cows.

A recent writer says he fed his cows on pumpkins liberally for some time and they fell off in their milk two or three quarts per day, each cow, which was caused by the pumpkin seeds, for when they were removed and the same quantity of pumpkins fed, the cows increased in their milk to a larger amount than they had before given.

A satisfying proof that pumpkin seed will dry up the milk secretion is demonstrated by feeding alternately for a week or two by the two methods. When the seeds are allowed an immediate lessening of the milk supply follows. While pumpkins are valuable as food for the dairy and constitute a cheap ration, the seeds act adversely and must be removed.

Hogs for Quick Returns.

It has always been my experience that there is a decided advantage with hogs over all other stock kept on the farm—the quick returns if good management is given. As with all stock, it is essential that a good breed be had. By having well-bred animals a quick growth and early maturity can be obtained. If a sow farrows in early spring, say April, late enough not to endanger losses from cold, in nine months the pigs, with good treatment, can be ready for market. By this time another lot of pigs can be growing. Thus we can sell two lots of pigs in a year from the same sow. This gives a quick return, and at this year's prices, a good one on the money invested. No other stock will answer as well. The value of the hog to the farmer cannot be questioned.—Mrs. M. A. Speakman, in Orange-Judd Farmer.

Careful Cribbing.

Care should be taken in cribbing corn to protect it against rats. Cribbs should be raised from the ground so that the floor can not be gnawed through, and the posts should be so guarded that they cannot be climbed. I know of no better plan than the old one of covering the top of each post with a galvanized iron pan, extending out so that the rats cannot climb around it; strips of galvanized iron may be nailed around the top of the posts, flaring outward and downward, like the eaves of a house, so that the rat can not pass the obstruction. Cribbs should not be near other buildings, and everywhere care should be taken to avoid building rat harbors. The pest of rats does not stop with the mere loss of the grain they consume, although when corn is 50 cents per bushel this loss is well nigh intolerable; they visit dwelling and poultry yard, and everything about the farm suffers. All should begin at the beginning to reduce this nuisance by cribbing the corn so carefully that there will be no encouragement to the rat family.—G. March, in the Epitomist.

Failure or Success.

The careless dairyman has no possible excuse for existence. His cans are more than likely to be rinsed in ditch water. If hot water chanced to be convenient, they may be scalded over in a week or two. If he makes butter at home, he does it without a thermometer. The youngest child who can turn the handle or lift the dasher is placed at the churn, and told to remain until he hears the butter-milk "slashing round!" This man, if he insists on keeping cows, should take his milk to a creamery and buy his butter there. He is a fossil, not a dairyman.

But, if a man can keep his milk clean every day in the year, if he can be interested in the sweetness of his milk cans, if he can be thoroughly convinced of the virtues of water actually at boiling point as the only destruction of germs of ill flavor, if he can watch over his cream and control its ripening, and churn with his thermometer and his understanding as well as with his hands, if he can be enthusiastic over the grain of his butter and keep before his mind's eye the perfect product, rather than the dollars and cents represented by it—then he has found his vocation and is likely to do it credit.—Edith Evans before the Arizona Agricultural Association.

Fertile Eggs in Early Spring.

If one desires to secure fertile eggs early in the season there are certain precautions to be taken. The hens should be induced to exercise as much as possible. To secure this end there is nothing better than to have abundant litter and scatter whole grain in it, so as to compel the hens to scratch for their food. The food should contain at least 10 percent and 20 percent would be better, of animal matter. Whether the animal food is ground green bones, beef scraps or animal meat is not of so much consequence as that animal food be given. Probably if the bones have plenty of lean meat adhering to them, they are the best to use.

Beef scraps I have used in preference to other animal foods, because they are always obtainable at reasonable prices. Some so-called animal

meats are apt to be two laxative and their use requires more care than most poultrymen are willing to give. If a mash is given for one meal, it should be fed warm, not hot, and the addition of a little sulphur will be found beneficial.

The eggs should be gathered regularly, and frequently if the weather is cold in order to prevent their being chilled. While an egg will endure considerable cold, yet even a slight chill may prevent it from hatching, and it is always "better to be safe than to be sorry" in such matters. The fresher the eggs the stronger will be their fertility. While eggs sometimes will hatch when six weeks or two months old, they are much more likely to hatch if not more than one week old. If they must be kept, their fertility will tend to be preserved by turning them over every day or two.

If eggs are purchased for hatching and come from a distance, they should be unpacked promptly, put in a cool place and allowed to lie undisturbed upon their sides for from 24 to 48 hours, according to the distance they have traveled, before they are placed under a hen or in an incubator. Experiments have shown that the jarring incidental to travel to some degree displaces the contents of the eggs and that a period of rest is necessary to secure the proper readjustment of the contents. Neglect to give traveled eggs the requisite rest is probably responsible for not a few complaints regarding their being fertile.

A rotten egg is one that has been fertile. Not a few complaints are made that the eggs set were infertile because after incubation they were rotten. But their rottenness proves exactly the reverse. An egg which has never been fertilized will be as odorless after three weeks incubation as it was at the start. The sweetness may not prove that it was never fertilized because it is possible that fertile eggs may be so injured that the germ never starts to grow, but rottenness proves that there was a germ which began to grow but died during some period of the incubation.—H. S. Babcock, in American Agriculturist.

To the Rescue of Wornout Lands.

The unproductive pasture and meadow lands of New England are in no sense worn out and exhausted; they are not dead, never to be revived again. Their returns are small, simply because they lack care and attention. Stir them up, get air through them, and then add some available plant food so plant life can get started; they will quickly change from their unproductive condition, giving satisfactory returns.

All things considered, New England is one of the best hay-raising sections of the whole country. Much of these lands are giving good farm return with neither artificial feeding nor care. Think what they would surely do were they handled in a business-like way. The New Hampshire college farm is one of the most vivid examples of what skill, science and care will do in the way of rescuing worn-out lands. When the college was moved to Durham, the farm represented one of the most depleted and broken-down farms in the whole New England district. But 12 tons of hay were cut that first year; it required some time to produce enough forage for the small number of animals kept. But what a change in a few brief years! The past season finds every field on the old farm under cultivation, and newly seeded to grass, and two large barns filled with hay and corn to overflowing, and 80 head of cattle and horses supported, besides a large number of hogs.

How was this done? By tillage, crop rotation, manures and fertilizers. What was done for the improvement of that farm is possible for every farmer in New England. The first step is tillage, and thorough tillage at that; chemicals and crop rotation will not show their full value unless good tillage is followed.

Soil must be stirred up and filled with air. This practice will improve the physical condition of the soil; and changes the unavailable, unassimilable plant food into available plant food. It loosens the soil, it puts life in the soil; it makes a comfortable home in which the plant may grow. Then crop rotation adjusts the different plants to the environments of their food. Finally, chemicals supply the needed plant food to get a good and vigorous growth from the beginning. We have found it advisable in bringing up the New Hampshire College farm to add the following chemicals just before sowing: Muriate of potash 150 pounds, nitrate of soda 100, and acid phosphate 200 pounds per acre. This mixture was scattered broadcast, then harrowed in, followed by the crop seed.

One favorable season the yield was increased from less than a half ton of hay to the acre to more than three tons. An eight-acre field three years ago was treated in this manner by fall and spring seeding, and the following summer 22 tons of timothy-clover hay were cut. The last summer a trifle less than 24 tons were harvested. Other fields were treated in a similar way. In every case the yield has been doubled and trebled by tillage and fertilization.

Does it pay? Nothing pays better than when hay sells for \$15 and \$20 per ton. The expenditure of \$10 per acre for labor and fertilizers will be returned in a single year, with a profit of as much as twice what was originally spent, and then for four or five years everything is profit, except the cost of harvesting the crop.—Charles W. Burkett, in American Cultivator.

The leopard cannot change his spots, but a girl can get rid of freckles.

Were Never Defeated

Victorious Generals Who Conducted Campaigns Without Reverses.

It is curious and interesting in reading the lives of great military commanders to observe among the large number of generals who have held independent commands how few have careers of uninterrupted success. A man who can go through a campaign and fight many battles and never suffer a reverse must, indeed, be a commander of the first order.

The Duke of Alva, one of the most eminent soldiers of the sixteenth century, never, throughout his long and eventful career, lost a battle. The archbishop of Cologne was struck by his efforts to avoid a conflict, having on one occasion urged him to engage the Dutch. "The object of a general," replied Alva, "is not to fight, but to conquer; he fights enough who obtains the victory."

Oliver Cromwell, throughout his military career, never lost a battle, though he very nearly sustained a reverse at Dunbar.

The Duke of Marlborough affords an excellent example of a successful soldier. He combined all the qualities necessary for a great commander, and although he fought several battles against the most experienced generals

in Europe, he was never once defeated.

The famous Russian general, Suwaroff, was another commander destined never to suffer defeat. He gained several victories against the Turks and against the Poles, and in Italy he was opposed by Moreau. Being completely outnumbered, he effected a brilliant retreat over the mountains of Switzerland, through Germany, into Russia. He was held in great respect by his soldiers, and although he showed himself to be an exceedingly able tactician, he used to say that the whole of his system was comprised in the words, "Advance and strike."

The Duke of Wellington, throughout his brilliant campaigns, both in India and in the Peninsula, has preserved to himself a remarkable record of uninterrupted successes from the first battle in which he was vested with supreme command throughout the Peninsular war, in which he defeated the ablest of Napoleon's marshals, until the eventful day of Waterloo, when he defeated the greatest soldier of modern times.

Don't bounce the baby when he cries. Look for the pin.

Chinese Clans Fight

Trivial Disputes That Sometimes Lead to Great Loss of Life.

Americans in the region around Swatow, China, have been brought face to face unexpectedly with a curious hindrance to trade in the form of constant fights between clans over the most trivial things. As nearly every Chinese laborer is a member of a clan in that district, the commerce of the twentieth century is stopped every little while by the survivals of a past so ancient that the American commonwealth is an absurdly young infant compared with it.

The clans are all formed of blood relatives and are added to systematically by intermarriage so that all the members are bound together by ties of relationship. Each member pays all he can to the headman of his clan, and the sums obtained in this way are enormous.

Thus the Ur clan recently fought for six months and the total cost of the war was only 13 cents a man, certainly as low a war budget as there is on record.

A few months ago two men from two different clans met in a village in the province. One mentioned the other's clan in a disrespectful way. A pretty

battle was fought in consequence by the clans. Several hundred men were on each side. About fifty were killed. It was a satisfactory affair.

In Chao Peng two men of the Ur-Chang clan went out frog-catching and passed through one of the villages with less clothes on than the law allows. It was late at night and only one villager saw it. But the indignity was not to be borne, and war was declared. It involved 15,000 men on one side and 20,000 on the other.

Another battle in which property valued at \$10,000 was destroyed was roused by a dispute between men of rival clans over a gambling debt. The amount at issue in the quarrel was \$028 cent.

At present there is more or less desultory fighting between the Chow Yang and the Jao Peng clans. No one knows what they are fighting about, but the rate of deaths is estimated as being ten or twelve a day, which is pretty good for mere bickering.

It is hard to be poor, of course. But then, it isn't easy to be rich.

A DREAM STORY

And a Very Good One for Those Who Can Believe It.

A former Boston newspaper man told a story not long ago of an experience of a young woman of his acquaintance, which, while it has not yet been embodied in any work of fiction, at least gives evidence of imaginative powers and may be considered later. The young woman spent her summers at an old Marshfield farmhouse, the windows of which had an outlook on the ocean. She had a fad, of course, and it was the collection of various kinds of seaweed.

According to the story, she had a dream one night of a storm-tossed mariner who came and stood by her side and implored her aid in going on a search for treasure lost at a certain point in the Indian ocean. The dream passed and the morning came. The young woman was about to leave her room when she noticed a small pool of water which might have been caused by a dripping umbrella, near the fireplace. In the pool floated a small piece of seaweed of a variety which she had

never seen before. She could not account for it, but it was carefully preserved in a specimen book.

Not long after she was a passenger on one of the ocean liners. Among her fellow-passengers was a professor in one of the English universities, and an acquaintance was formed between the two. The professor shared to a certain extent her interest in seaweeds, and one day she was turning over the leaves of her specimen book in his company. Coming to the specimen so strangely acquired the professor uttered an exclamation.

"How did you come by that?" he asked, with a manifest show of interest. She told him as well as could be. "It is strange," said the professor. "That is the second specimen of that variety that I have seen. The only other one that I know of is preserved in the British Museum and was found at a seldom visited point in the Indian ocean." Then the young woman remembered her dream.—Boston Herald.

A Little Heroine.

It was "over in Jersey" that a little incident happened a few weeks ago in which an 11-year-old girl displayed qualities of character worthy to be compared with the men who stood by their posts in the New York tunnel disaster. The girl in question, with a companion somewhat older than herself was playing on the ice in the Raritan canal, near New Brunswick, when the latter suddenly went down through an air-hole, says Leslie's Weekly. No help being in sight, the younger girl promptly laid down flat on the ice around the hole and waited for her friend to come up, but when the latter appeared she was too far away, and her rescuer could not grasp her. Twice the girl sank out of sight, and when she reappeared, the other who had commenced to yell lustily for help, but without changing her position, managed to grasp her friend's hair. She could not pull the drowning girl out of the water, but she held on desperately until a man who heard her cries came up and rescue both. The water had flowed over the ice around the hole so that the younger girl was half submerged, and more than half frozen when help came, but she did not shrink from her effort, nor seem to realize that she herself was in any danger, her only thought being for her companion, whom she had snatched from the very jaws of death.

Why He Kept a Dog.

A prominent dog fancier and wealthy man of Philadelphia stepped into a grocery the other night and accidentally stumbled over a fat old Ger-

man, who was sitting in a corner smoking his pipe.

Under his chair was the most remarkable specimen of a dog that the gentleman had ever seen. It had the appearance of a pug, with rough red hair and a long tail. It was impossible to resist laughing at the placid old man and his nondescript dog.

"What kind of a dog is that?" asked the gentleman.

"I don't know," replied the German. "I suppose you use him for hunting?"

"No."

"Is he good for anything?"

"No."

"Then why do you value him so?"

"Because he likes me," said the old fellow, still puffing at his pipe, and the expression of the dog as he looked up from under the chair fully confirmed the statement.

"There is no better or stronger reason than that," asserted the gentleman emphatically, as he walked away.

Use of Velvet Cuffs.

Velvet cuffs on coats, after the plan of King Edward's new frock, were hailed here as a great invention several years ago when they were introduced. The wear and tear on the cuff of an overcoat is always likely to be so great that the cloth soon shows it. There was never any means of repairing this until the velvet cuff was heard of. No other consideration did so much to gain for the style in vogue it got. Nine out of ten Americans who wore velvet cuffs on overcoats did it to hide the repairs that had been made.

NEW IDEAS in TOILETTES

New York City.—Novelty waists are in demand for all occasions, and some of the latest designs are buttoned at one side. This way of fastening is said

the skirt in apron overskirt effect serves admirably to head a flared or a pleated flounce. For these dresses silky voile and crepe de chine are ideal fabrics, and white is first choice.

New Work For Chiffon Roses.

Chiffon roses are no longer "lilies of the field." They must now toil, being useful as well as ornamental. Their especial labor is to hold down the ends of black velvet ribbon trapping. A charmingly dainty dress in white chiffon with Chantilly appliques has the bodice as well as the skirt given distinction by a number of full-length strappings. A pink chiffon rose, exquisitely made in different shades, catches the end of each strap. Let it prove not trustworthy, the strap is also held some inches above by a glittering rhinestone buckle.

Work For the Summer Girl.

Summer-girls-to-be with leisure and skill may make for themselves very pretty belts, which will look especially well with their white waists or whole dresses. Rows of ribbon arranged girdle fashion are feather-stitched together with white silk. A few whalebones covered with white may be necessary to keep the belt in shape.

A Saxon Decree Against Corsets.

The Minister of Education in Saxony has issued a decree that no girl attending the public schools and colleges may wear a corset. He maintains that tight lacing is as deadly a foe to intellectual effort as the cigarette, therefore as legitimate an object for educational legislation.—Woman's Tribune.

Woman's Three-Piece Skirt.

Skirts with flounces, that produce ample flare at the feet, and that fit with snugness about the hips are in the height of style and appear to gain in favor month by month. This grace-



A FANCY WAIST.

to admit of a great variety of rich embroidery and other effects across the front. White satin, taffeta and novelty silks and light shades of pink, blue or gray are among the materials used for waists to be worn with black taffeta silk or velvet skirts. The chiffon separate waist has also come to stay, despite the efforts of fashionable dress-makers to discountenance it. A Paris importation in this line was made with the groundwork of pink satin, veiled first with blue and then heliotrope chiffon, and trimmed with ecru lace and touches of silver.

Woman's Five-Gored Skirt.

No skirt is more generally satisfactory than the one cut in five gores.



FIVE-GORED SKIRT.

The admirable May Manton model, shown in the large drawing, includes an upper portion so shaped and a graduated circular flounce seamed to the lower edge and is shaped to fit with perfect snugness at the upper portion, while it flares at the lower, and the flounce falls in graceful folds and ripples. The original is made of sage green velveteen, with trimming of black bias folds headed with black and white fancy silk braid that are arranged at the foot in the centre and over the seaming of the flounce and skirt; but all dress materials are suitable, and tailor stitching, with corticell silk, can be substituted for the bands when preferred. Both front and side gores are narrow in conformity with the latest style, and the fitting is accomplished, without hip darts. The fulness at the back is laid in inverted pleats that are pressed quite flat. The flounce is curved to give the fashionable fulness, and is seamed to the lower edge.

To cut this skirt in the medium size nine and three-fourth yards of material twenty-one inches wide, eight and one-eighth yards twenty-seven inches wide, seven and one-half yards thirty-two inches wide, four and one-fourth yards forty-four inches wide, or four and one-fourth yards fifty inches wide will be required.

All-Overs as Trimmings.

Dressmakers have discovered that the lace all-overs are possessed of even greater possibilities than the narrow appliques. Hence we see them used for everything from whole dresses to the tiniest appliques—some one figure, a leaf or a flower, being chosen for the effect. Then, too, these cut up into big bands, some of them a dozen inches in width. These are usually edged with the narrowest sort of a scroll applique in the same lace. A band set on

ful model is adapted to all soft materials, whether wool, silk or cotton, but as shown is made of foulard, in pastel tan color with figures in white, and is singularly effective and stylish. The flounces curve in a way to give the best results and run up just sufficiently at the back to give a smart effect, their edges being finished with stitching in self-colored corticell silk. The skirt is cut in three pieces, fitted at the waist with short hip darts, and the fulness at the back may be gathered or laid in inverted pleats, that are flat for a few inches below the belt, then form soft folds and fall in ripples to the floor. The flounces are circular, curved to give the fulness desired by fashion, and are arranged over the foundation. One, two or three can be used as may be preferred.

To cut this skirt in the medium size, fifteen and one-eighth yards of material twenty-one inches wide, ten and



THREE-PIECE SKIRT.

one-eighth yards twenty-seven inches wide, ten yards thirty-two inches wide, or seven and five-eighth yards forty-four inches wide will be required.