

It will soon be time to cut the early crop of hay. There are a number of things to determine the proper time to do this work; first as to the feeding value of the hay. For this, as far as quality is concerned, there is no doubt that the grass and clover should be cut a trifle before the period of full blossom. From this time on to near the end of blossoming, though there may be an increase in the weight of the hay gathered, is of much poorer quality; the nutritive elements have not increased materially, but there is a much larger per cent. of indigestible woody fiber. Secondly, the value of the aftermath is increased by the early cutting, as it has ten or twenty days longer to grow. Thirdly, there is a practical advantage in cutting the hay early, as it prolongs the haying season and permits of less hurry and therefore more care in gathering the crop. These points apply equally well to the grain crops, they being too frequently harvested later than is best for the richest fodder and the finest quality of grain.

If you cannot find a gentleman to marry, girls, do not marry at all. By that term I do not mean a man who is above the need of work ; he may be anything but a gentleman ; but a man who knows how to work, who has self-respect enough to keep him from low habits both of speech and action ; who is courteous and honorable ; who is not afraid of soiling his hands ; the farmer, the blacksmith, the carpenter, any man may be a gentleman under dust and soot and chips, but if he is not, girls, don't marry him at all ! There is enough trouble in life without increasing it in any way. Do not subject yourself to the mortification that would be sure to come with a husband who would continually cause you to blush for his lawless actions, for his coarseness and roughness, for his slippery dealings or for his hypocritical polish. It is not sufficient that a man looks and dresses well ; but he must act and live well beside.

No one knows until she has tried it, says an experienced housewife to one of our contemporaries, how much she may change the aspect of things about the house by using a little varnish. On a sunshine day take the old chairs and tables out on the porch or by an open door, and, after thoroughly dusting and wiping off with a damp cloth, apply a thin coat of varnish, and so cover up scratches and marred spots of all kinds. It will dry in a very short time, and you will be surprised to see how much good you have done. A flannel cloth, with a very little linseed oil, is good to rub furniture with, but the greatest care must be exercised to prevent any oil being left on the wood to attract dust. It must be rubbed until you would not know, that any oil had been used.

These tuneless little pets are beginning their nocturnal songs, and any one who is bothered by them should cut out and save the following receipt, furnished by a correspondent, for their extermination: "Take of gum of camphor a piece about one-third the size of an egg, and evaporate it by placing it in a tin vessel, holding it over a lamp or candle, taking care that it does not ignite. The smoke will soon fill the room and expel the mosquitoes. One night when I was terribly annoyed by them, I thought of and tried the above, after which I never saw or heard them that night, and in the morning there was not one to be found in the room though the window had been left open all night.

Any person may paint a wooden mantle piece, etc., and obtain the effect of elaborate marble painting by the following method: first, give the wood two coats of white paint, and when the second coat is nearly dry take a piece of French chalk, any color you may prefer, and with this draw lines and veins—this requires no skill, as the more rudely it they are drawn, the more closely will resemble the natural markings—then give a coat of thin white paint. Into this, the chalk will work up, and the lines will assume the softened and graduated effect seen in real marble. A glossy surface may be given by an after coat of copal varnish.

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