

Farm and Garden

GOOD POINTS OF THE MULE.

Long Eared Hybrid Better Than the Horse in Many Ways.

The mule's ability to take care of himself makes him very desirable where much hired help is employed. You cannot irritate him as you can a horse. He will take a good steady gait and keep it. Many hands will jerk and yell at a horse until he loses more flesh from the excitement than from the work, but not so with the mule. He will pursue the even tenor



THE MULE ON THE FARM.

of his way and pay little attention to the noisy driver, says a correspondent of the Orange Judd Farmer.

In hot weather it is almost impossible to hurt him, and he does not sweat nor pant, as does the horse. A mule seldom gets into trouble, for he seems never to get scared. If he kicks over the trough or gets his harness fast he either gets loose quietly or waits for the driver to get him out of the difficulty.

One of the especially good points of the mule is his excellent health. A sick mule is rare indeed. He will not overeat nor drink too much when warm.

A mule does not require as much concentrated feed to keep him in good flesh as does a horse of corresponding weight. The mules at Lakewood farm, near Storm Lake, Ia., where I was employed, were fed eight pounds of shelled corn and a generous supply of timothy hay per day. That kept them in as good flesh as horses on heavier feed, and they did more work than the 1,000 pound drafters receiving ten pounds of shelled corn, eight pounds of good oats and good timothy hay. Mules will consume more roughage than horses and less grain. Give them plenty of hay and they are about satisfied.

ONE IDEA OF GOOD FARMING.

"Sambo, is your muser a good farmer?"

"Oh, yes, massa; fuss rate farmer. He make two crops in one year."

"How is that, Sambo?"

"Why, he sell all his hay in de fall and make money once; den in de spring he sell de hides of de cattle dat die for want of de hay and make money twice."—Farm and Home.

Mixed Ensilage.

Red clover or alfalfa when green may be mixed with corn and a very satisfactory silage produced. If there is an abundance of corn for filling the silo we rather favor curing the alfalfa and clover and putting the corn into the silo. Legumes make a very good grade of silage, but in the process of fermentation, owing to their high protein content, they develop a very objectionable odor, which is not at all injurious to the animal, nor do they produce an off flavored milk. Notwithstanding this, it is more satisfactory to use corn in the silo, curing the clover and alfalfa and feeding it dry.—Hoard's Dairyman.

Value of Barnyard Manure.

The nitrogen in barnyard manure is easily worth 8 cents per pound. In the course of twelve months a horse will produce fifteen tons of manure and litter, containing in round numbers 130 pounds of nitrogen, with a value of \$10.40. When this same basis of calculation is applied to each grown animal on the farm it is easy to know what the value of the winter's manure is if that manure be got on to the land in such way that this nitrogen, together with its other fertilizing elements, is saved.—Kansas Farmer.

Wash Your Sheep's Wool.

If the animal is in poor health the effect on the growth of the wool is similar to inefficient feed. Sheep often shed or slip their wool as a result of a feverish condition. Any severe illness extending over sufficient time to reduce the animal to flesh will almost invariably cause a weak place in the wool.—Farm Progress.

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Old Fashioned.

When my paw married maw, he says, To him it never once occurred That he would soon get tired of her An' want a second or a third.

He never had no notion that He'd ever live to see the day Some sweeter, finer girl than maw Would come a-dancin' 'cross his way.

An' when the parson made 'em one An' gave maw to him as his wife He says the joyous thought he had Was that the knot was tied for life.

My paw says he an' maw have lived Together now for twenty years, An' in that time they've shared a lot O' sunny smiles an' scaldin' tears.

But never once has it occurred T' him that they should separate An' bust up home that way that folks So easy do at this late date.

He's never thought o' gettin' tired Or lawin' for a quick divorce. He says they've jes' kep' lovin' on. But they're old fashioned folks, of course.

—Detroit Free Press.

What Was Wrong.

A sentimental young lady from town was on the steamship quay, where she saw a young girl sitting on a trunk in an attitude of utter dejection and despair.

"Poor thing!" thought the romantic young lady. "She is probably alone and a stranger. Her pale cheeks and great, sad eyes tell of a broken heart and a yearning sympathy."

She went over to the traveler to win her confidence.

"Crossed in love?" she asked sympathetically.

"No," replied the girl, with a sigh; "crossed in the Froile and an awfully rough passage too." —Weekly Telegraph.

Just Mistic.

It may be that a worm may think, As also may a mole,

If so, it is small use to them; They're always in a hole.

'Tis said that every fish that swims Has something of a brain, But under water all their lives The fishes must remain.

We cannot blame worms, moles or fish, For they are built that way, They must exist just as they are Where nature bids them stay.

There are some men on this good earth— Most everywhere they're found— Who whine because they say they're kept With noses to the ground.

But there is no excuse for them— No, not a little bit, If in a hole 'tis hushle that Will get them out of it.

—New York Press.

CHOOSING A HOBBY.

Make it One That Will Relieve the Tension of Business.

Writing on the advantage and enjoyment that a busy man will derive from a hobby, Arnold Bennett says in the Metropolitan:

"In choosing a distraction—that is to say, in choosing a rival to his business—he should select some pursuit whose nature differs as much as possible from the nature of his business, and which will bring into activity another side of his character. If his business is monotonous, demanding care and solitude rather than irregular, intense efforts of the brain, then let his distraction be such as will make a powerful call upon his brain. But if on the other hand the course of his business runs to crises that string up the brain to its tightest strain, then let his distraction be a foolish and merry one.

"Many men fall into the error of assuming that their hobbies must be as dignified and serious as their vocations, though surely the example of the greatest philosophers ought to have taught them better! They seem to imagine that they should continually be improving themselves in either body or mind. If they take up a sport, it is because the sport may improve their health. And if the hobby is intellectual it must needs be employed to improve their brain.

"The fact is that their conception of self improvement is too narrow. In their restricted sense of the phrase they possibly don't need improving, they possibly are already improved to the point of being a nuisance to their fellow creatures; possibly what they need is worsening. In the broad and full sense of the phrase self improvement, a course of self worsening might improve them.

"I have known men—and everybody has known them—who would approach nearer to perfection if they could only acquire a little carelessness, a little absentmindedness, a little illogicalness, a little irrational and infantile gale, a little unscrupulousness in the matter of the time of day. These considerations should be weighed before certain hobbies are dismissed as being unworthy of a plain man's notice."

PICTURESQUE HAVANA.

A Foreign City in Every Sense, With Its Own Odd Charm.

Americans driving to their hotel through Havana's narrow, noisy streets invariably exclaim that it seems to them "as if they were abroad." The question—to borrow a phrase from the widely-traveled but unemotional Mr. Baedeker—"need not detain them long." They are abroad. Havana is not merely "like a foreign town;" it is a foreign town. It has its own odd look, its special picturesqueness, its own tumultuous life. It abounds in unknown dishes and strange fruits, and upon the hot tropic night it pours out half barbaric music and queer melancholy songs.

The long traditions of the Spanish dominion of the two Americas still cling about Havana's fortresses and the palaces, churches and monasteries of her ancient streets. She was a proud, rich city, the entrepot of the west, when our northern mainland was a wilderness. And now in the Cuban twentieth century she is a crowded, thriving, gay metropolis, with her own pride, her own tropic airs and graces, her own wholly un-American individuality.

She may be crowded in the brief winter season with American tourists, may contain (as indeed she always has contained) a considerable American business colony and may be a refuge for derelicts and vagabonds straight from the pages of O. Henry, Richard Harding Davis and other Kiplings of Spanish America. Still, she is always

the old Havana, the Cuban capital of Cuba.—Harrison Rhodes in Metropolitan.

Sir Humphry Davy.

Sir Humphry Davy married a widow as peculiar as himself. His pet affection was a lack of time. He was always in a hurry. He pretended that he had no leisure to dress himself, and when a change of linen became necessary he simply put one shirt over another until he was known to have on five or six shirts at a time. Of course he could not wear this amount of apparel without appreciably increasing his size, and his friends not in the secret were sometimes surprised to see him fall off in apparent weight twenty pounds in a day. His wife's great anxiety was to keep him "fit for company," but as he did not care a fig for company she had no easy task, and domestic discord was a common thing.

The Light That Failed.

It was by an accident that Mr. Kipling got his famous title, "The Light That Failed." He had almost decided to call the novel "The Failure," although he was dissatisfied with this. One evening as he was sitting in his study reading by lamplight the light went suddenly down—almost failed, in fact. In a second Kipling jumped up, exclaiming excitedly, "By Jove, I've got it!" Pointing to the lamp, he said, "The Light That Failed."

As an Offset.

"That girl has been promoted twice to my office. She has all the luck in this office."

"Well, I notice that she also has most of the work on her shoulders. So I guess she's entitled to the luck."—Washington Herald.

Made Her Laugh.

Tom—Did Miss Roxley entertain your proposal? Jack—On the contrary, my proposal seemed to entertain her.—Boston Transcript.

How's Business?

"Business is poor," said the beggar. Said the undertaker, "It's dead." "Palling off," said the riding school teacher. The druggist, "Oh, vial!" he said.

"It's all write with me," said the author; "Picking up," said the man on the dump. "My business is sound," quoth the bandman.

Said the athlete, "I'm kept on the jump." The bottler declared, "It is corking;" The parson, "It's good," answered he. "I make both ends meet," said the butcher.

The tailor replied, "It suits me." —Pittsburgh Press.

Can't Beat the Old Man.

Father ruefully gazed on his last quarter.

"Money has wings, and house rents make it fly," he said.

"Yes," said his fifteen-year-old scout son, "and some houses have wings, for I've seen many a house fly."

"You're smarter than your old dad, maybe, my son, but I always thought no part of a house except the chimney flew."—Chicago Record-Herald.

He Can't Kick.

Mother wears a hobble skirt; Daughter wears a tube; Father wears last year's suit And looks quite like a rube. Mother's hat's from Panama; Daughter's from France; Father wears a worsted lid He's worn for seasons three. Mother's purse is golden meshed; Face dope sister's fills; Father needs no purse at all, For father foots the bills.

—Milwaukee Free Press.

Sometimes in an emergency one has to address a letter or a postcard with a lead pencil and there is always the danger that the writing will become blurred before it reaches its destination. To prevent this breathe on the writing and then blow on it, and it will remain clear for some time.

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DONALD GILLIS, President.

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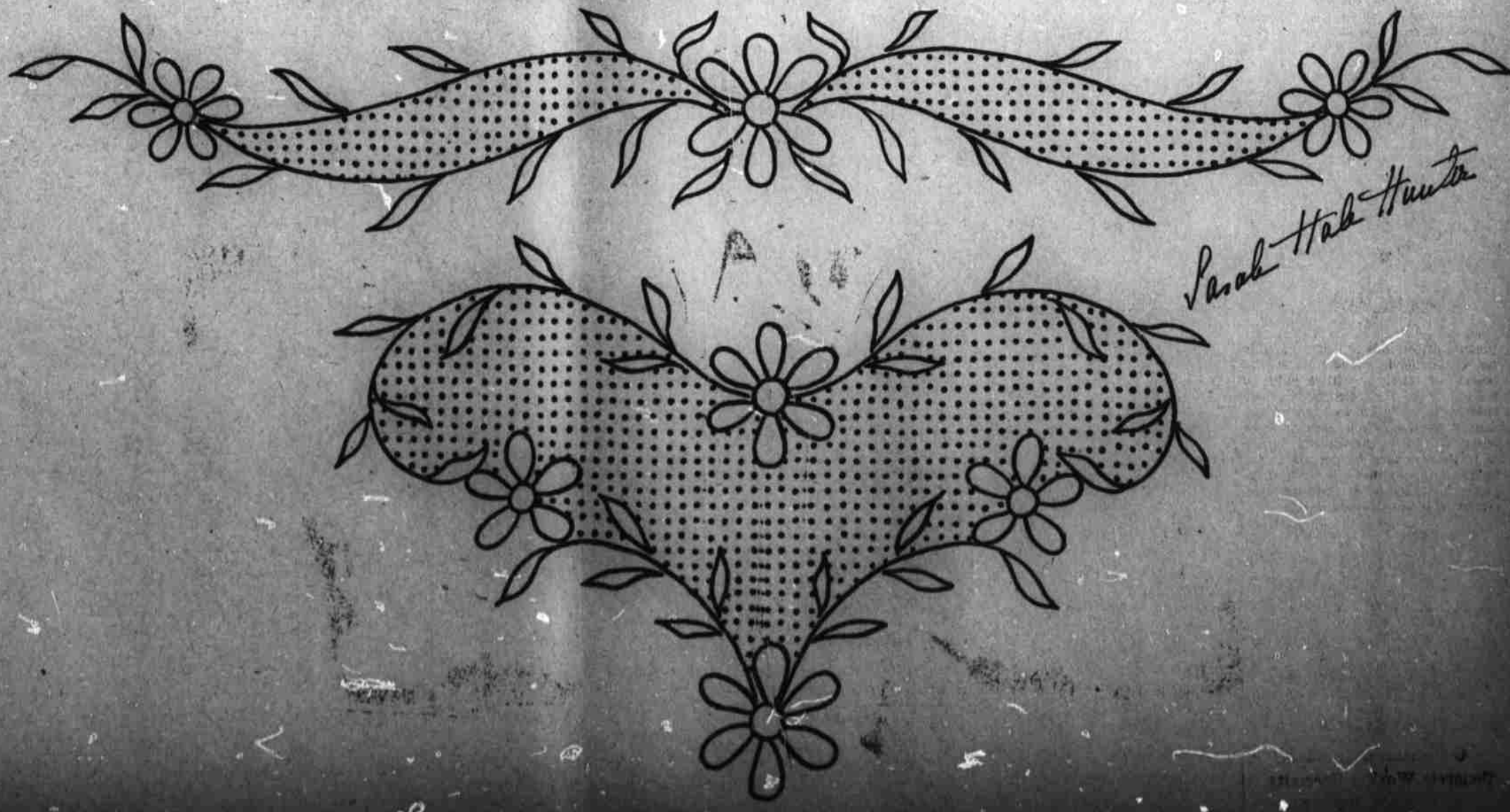
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