

AGRICULTURE.

DOMESTIC.

HUMOROUS.

FEEDING IN COLD WEATHER.—Whether it is due to carelessness or to a want of knowledge of the requirements of the fowls we cannot say, but many who keep and breed fowls adhere to the old-time practice of feeding corn, corn and nothing else, winter and summer, and then expect their fowls to do well, to lay plenty of eggs and to keep in good health. They may, no doubt, will set fat on such food, when given in liberal quantities, but then that is not all that is required. In summer fowls require food which will not cause a production of much fat, while in winter they require food of a more heating nature to successfully resist the cold, although it should be given not too liberally, or else they will become too fat, and the food should be changed at regular intervals to obtain the best results. During the winter months it will be found to be a good plan to warm the grain and other feed before feeding it, and not leaving the feed out in the morning before the weather has become warm. This latter is very necessary with Leghorns and other large combed birds. A supply of meal scraps, or a mush made of corn meal with a fair proportion of finely chopped meat, should be given during the winter, to supply the absence of bugs, worms and hoppers, which the summer affords.

FROSTED ROOTS AND PLANTS.—If a potato is frozen and again thawed, a portion of the starch will have been converted into sugar, but the potatoes are ruined for culinary use. The freezing of parsnips and salsify in the soil where they grow has the effect to convert an additional portion of their substance into sugar, but these vegetables are rendered better for cooking. So also a certain amount of frost increases the solid matter of some plants, cabbage for instance, and also increases their saccharine. Again, beets and carrots, as the weather becomes cold, or after frosty nights set in, largely increase in nutriment, and especially in sugar. If these facts are borne in mind it will help the farmer greatly in knowing the proper time to gather root crops. Potatoes must not be chilled at all. Beets are injured by actual freezing. Thus varieties which grow in the soil, and which should be gathered before they are liable to be frozen; those varieties, the bulbs of which grow under the surface, may be left longer; carrots longer still. Cabbages, turnips and rutabagas continue to mature through freezing nights set in, largely increase in nutriment, and especially in sugar. On the other hand are better for being frozen while in the soil.

MANURE FOR THE GARDEN.—A good supply of manure for a garden should be made from the refuse of any household. A shallow pit may be made, and some chaff, short straw, the contents of a worn mattress, grass, sods, weeds, woolsen rags, burned bones, waste from the kitchen, wooden ashes, chimney sweepings, sawdust, and other refuse, chip-dust, saw-dust, manure from the poultry house, old boots and shoes chopped into shreds, and all such matters may be thrown into this pit and the waste slops of the house, soap suds, &c., may be thrown upon them. In the course of a year a large pile can be gathered, and if a cow and a few chickens are kept the waste from them may add largely to the heap. The heap should be kept built up squarely and hollow at the top. A bag of bone-dust added to the top will increase its value. A pile six feet square and three feet high, and help to produce sufficient vegetables to supply a large family.

TO RELIEVE CHOKED COWS.—My way is to open the mouth of the choked animal and insert a clevis wide enough to keep the jaws distended, and give space for the passage of a large pile of hay, or this clevis in place, while my boy passes his hand through and picks out the apple or other obstruction. Any boy whose hand is small enough without crowding, can easily remove the trouble with entire safety. I have tried to do it myself but my hands are too large. It is no difficulty or danger if the clevis is firmly held in position.

SCROFULA IN COWS.—In the advanced state of this disease, treatment of any kind will be entirely useless. The disease, like consumption in man, is invariably fatal. But its most serious feature is the considerable period that often elapses before the result is reached, and during which the animal becomes less valuable. Milk from such a cow is apt to produce phthisis or consumption in man; and I would be suicidal to consume it, knowing it to come from such an animal.

POTATOES can be kept from rotting by dusting them with lime, using about one bushel of lime to 40 bushels of potatoes.

MUSIC IN HALF AN HOUR.—Not long ago a burly countryman, standing six feet in his hobnails, called at the house of a teacher of music. In answer to his rather powerful knock, the door was opened and his business inquired into.

"I see by this brass thing that the lady teaches music," he said, in a tone which implied some doubt on the subject.

"He was told his surmises were beyond question.

"Then what I want is just to take a few lessons on the piano," he replied; "but, I am not a commercial speculation, he added, cautiously:

"Is she dear in her charges?"

"He was referred for information to the lady herself, and was requested to wait while his object was reported.

"Stop a bit," he said with evident mistrust of his resources; "you see it is just this: I sing in the choir at our church, and I don't know no music like the rest of 'em; but I be come down for a training in the militia, and I thought as how I'd have half a hour 'with the lady at the piano, so as how to know as much as 'others when I get home."

"You don't expect to learn the piano in half an hour, do you?" exclaimed the servant who had answered the door. "Why, the young ladies who come here are playing from morning till night, and they come all of them year around, and then can't play, all of them."

The country chorister opened his eyes.

"You don't mean that!" he gasped. "All the year round! from morning till night! What a heap o' money it must cost to be sure! I don't think I'll trouble the lady. Only to think, straining on piano for morning till night, all the year round! Well, well!—and pulling himself together, the musical militia man went off in a fit of abstraction.

THE VALUE OF SOUP.—There are hundreds of families in comfortable circumstances who never have soup at dinner (which without soup is always a failure), unless it be in a sort of ragout, the product of what farmers call a boiled dinner. They are not aware how easy it is to procure ordinary soup, and how cheap it is. It can be made of almost anything, and a pot of water placed on the stove may be the recipient of divers odds and ends of meat and vegetables to excellent advantage. After these have been boiled a few hours there will be found in the pot a very good soup, wholesome, nourishing, appetizing, and its cost will be nominal. If the experiment were tried, many families would be surprised and pleased at the result. They would have much better dinners for almost nothing than they have hitherto had any idea of, and are accustomed to soup they could not be persuaded to relinquish it. A simple soup benefits at once health, appetite, and the purse.

TO BOTTLE CIDER.—Put your cider in a cool cellar; add one pound of double refined sugar to each gallon of cider. Keep the bung out until the cider is done working—say one month; then close the bung until the cider has obtained the flavor to suit; the sooner you bottle it after it is done working the sweeter it will be. I generally bottle January 1; it must not be bottled before it is done working, or it will break the bottles. Use champagne bottles only, (it will burst any other kind), and straight velvet corks; soak the corks in warm water, compress them, drive them in with a wood mallet; set the barrel up 16 inches, so as not to disturb it when you draw it in the bottles, as you will ruin it if disturbed after working; draw direct in the bottles; add to each bottle one teaspoonful sugar; cork it up immediately after filling; double wrap each bottle; lay on the side in a cool cellar. It will keep for years.

GAME BIRDS.—Fine game birds are always heavy for their size; the flesh of the breast is firm and plump, and the skin clear; and if a few feathers be plucked from the inside of the leg and around the vent, the flesh of freshly-killed birds will be fat and fresh-colored; if it is dark and discolored, the game has been hung a long time. The wings of good ducks, geese, pheasants and woodcock are tender to the touch; and the endorsement of prominent divines for their uses, of sentiment, and high moral tone. It will find welcome in many homes. The work makes a magnificent holiday present. Agents wanted, everywhere, to sell it.

SHE HAD HIM THERE.—One day lately, one of our fascinating store clerks who desires to be considered a "Beau-Hickman" in politeness, rushed out to a wagon that had just stopped before the store, and with one of his sweetest smiles addressed a rather pretty "country girl" with "shall I help you to alight?" "No, thank you," she securely said, "I don't smoke, but if yer' got any chaw'er tobacco" but yer' close, young man, I'll sample it. He meekly handed her his plug, which, after biting a large chew off, she complacently put in her pocket with a "thank ye, this'll do me for a few days." "Phancy his pleelkins!" "But sich is life."

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FOR PIMPLES ON THE FACE, USE HESKELL'S TETTER OINTMENT. It never fails to remove them. Cut this Out.—It May Save Your Life. There is no person living but what suffers more or less with Lung Disease, Cough, Cold or Consumption, yet some would die rather than cure them. Dr. A. Bochner's Cure for Lung Disease has lately been introduced in this country from Germany, and its wonderful cures are attested by the most eminent physicians. It is in proof, and is out of the world.

HESKELL'S TETTER OINTMENT will cure every form of Tetters.

VEGETINE Will Cure Cancer. PROOF! PROOF! PROOF! Mr. H. R. Stevens writes: "About two years ago, a cancer made its appearance on my face, left side of my nose, and it was so large that it was the size of a pinhead (very small). It increased in size, and spread on my face until it became as large as a common egg. I tried all kinds of remedies and advice from a physician. It was spreading and eating into my flesh very fast. I was very much distressed, and I went to a physician who cured Cancer; he did not give me any relief, and I was about to give up. I suffered night and day. It would bleed at times very profusely. Everything was done that was possible to relieve me, but my brother had a cancer on his lip; he submitted to an operation, being well discouraged. I was one day in the hospital, and I checked the swelling into my flesh. I could see it was gradually healing. I kept on taking Vegetine, and the cancer slowly disappeared until I had taken sixteen bottles and it completely cured it. It has left a large scar on the nose, but I feel it is my duty to recommend Vegetine to all like sufferers, as it is certainly a great 'Blood Purifier.' I have used several bottles of Vegetine, and it has greatly improved my general health. Yours, most respectfully, W. F. CLEARVINE."

YOUR names are annexed, can testify to the above, and I have no objection to their being used in connection with Vegetine as a valuable medicine. Respectfully, N. E. COR, Main and Franklin Sts. Thousands will bear testimony (and do so voluntarily), that Vegetine is the best medicine known yet placed before the public for removing and purifying the blood, eradicating all humors, impurities or poisonous secretions from the system, invigorating and strengthening the system debilitated by disease; in fact, it has done more for me than any other medicine. H. E. COTTON, Prescription Druggist, Chicago, Illinois. Vegetine is the best-selling blood purifier and gives the best satisfaction of any in the market.

VEGETINE A Valuable Medicine. Prepared by H. R. STEVENS, Boston, Mass. Vegetine is Sold by All Druggists

With Edison's new machine you can see a man a hundred miles away, but you cannot see with it the man owing you a little bill who dodges around the corner when he notices you coming.

NEW YORK CITY has twelve aldermen who can't spell the word "achievement" as the rest of us do. Take courage, brother—the dawn is ahead.

COMETS have heads and tails, and we have read somewhere about "coma tops," which leads us to presume that they are provided with feet.

A GREAT big ripe tomato, if well aimed, will do more to make an orator forget his subject than all the cheers a mad crowd can utter.

"Why are the men of genius so often bachelors?" asks Miss Kate Sanborn. It is possible that it is because they are men of genius.

A PRACTICAL joke is poor fun, because the laugh doesn't reach all the way round.

WHEN a man goes on a tear it is but natural he should rip out an oath or two.

COMMENT is unnecessary, and so is a bolt on the back of a bridegroom's neck.

It's a very bad eggs sample if