FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

Sheep for Renovating Pastures.

A Massachusetts farmer says that a few years ago he had a rough, rocky pasture, which was covered with briars and bushes so thick that there was very little grass upon it. He cut off the bushes and put on sheep enough to eat everything that grew upon it for four or five years. They killed all the briars and most of the bushes. He sowed on some plaster of paris and that was all he did to it, and then he sold an acre of it was worth more and would produce more feed than three would before. If a pasture is heavily stocked with sheep and oil meal and cottonseed meal is fed to them to make up the deficiency of the food great improvement will be made in the fertility and productiveness of the pasture. English farmers have declared that they had doubled the value of their grazing lands by feeding oil cake in the summer.

Food for Hogs and Pigs.

Mr. J. N. Bartlett, So. Royalston, Mass., reported in the *New England Farmer* last winter the following satisfactory experience in feeding apples to cows and pigs: In 1880 I, in common with most other farmers about here, had large quantities of apples to dispose of. As soon as the earliest varieties were fit for domestic use, the imperfect ones were fed to my cow and pig, the food of the pig being mostly apples, from the time it was about three months old until it was killed in the following winter; and I never raised a better shoat. The apples were fed raw. I also began to feed them to my cow at the same time, but not regularly or uniformly until the commencement of winter. About the middle of November I began to give the cow daily all the apples that she would eat, which did not vary much from three-fourths to one bushel per day, not failing to do so in any instance for one day, until the following April. This month it in the fine health and flesh of the cow, the production of excellent milk and butter, and a saving of about one half of the amount of hay consumed by the same cow as compared with the winter previous. I can hardly attribute the one-half saving of hay entirely to an equal nutritive equivalent by the apples consumed, but partly to the better digestion and assimilation arising from the admission of the green, and dry food so consumed. I have been feeding the same cow I mentioned as getting apples on the same way with equal success the present season, the apples in question being those of a wild and I do state, without any excuse whatever, as feeding my cow.

Successful Poultry-Raising.

In raising poultry as much of any and save an exchange, it should be [illegible] and healthy [illegible]. Very only by an effort some systematic rules. These may be summed up as follows:

1. Construct your house good and warm so as to avoid damp floors and admit a flood of sunlight. Sunshine is better than medicine.

2. Provide a dusting and scratching place where you can bury wheat and corn, and thus induce the fowls to take needful exercise.

3. Provide yourself with some good healthy chickens, none to be over three or four years old, giving one cock to every twelve hens.

4. Give plenty of fresh air at all times of the year, especially in summer.

5. Give plenty of fresh water daily, and never allow the fowls to go thirsty.

6. Feed them systematically two or three times a day; scatter the food so they cannot eat too fast, or without proper exercise. Do not feed more than they will eat up clean, or they will get tired of that kind of food.

7. Give them a variety of both dry and cooked food; a mixture of cooked meat and vegetables is good for morning feed.

8. Give soft food in the morning, and the whole grain at night, except a little wheat or cracked corn placed in the scratching places to give them exercise during the day.

9. Above all things keep the henhouse clean and well ventilated.

10. Do not crowd too many in one house. If you do, look out for fatal diseases.

11. Use carbolic powder in the dusting bins occasionally to destroy lice.

12. Wash your roosts and bottom of laying nests, and whitewash once a year, in Summer and once a month in Winter.

13. Set the old and young have as large a range as possible—the larger the better.

14. Don't breed too many kinds of fowls at the same time, unless you are going into the business. Four will make your hands full.

15. Introduce new blood into the stock every year or so, by buying either a cockerel or sittings of eggs, from some reliable breeder.

16. In buying birds or eggs, go to some reliable breeder, who has his reputation at stake. You may have to pay a little more for birds, but you can depend upon what you get. Culls are not cheap at any price.

17. Save the best birds for next year's breeding, and send the others to market. In shipping fancy poultry to market send it dressed.

Recipes.

PIE CRUST.—One cupful lard, three cupfuls sifted flour, three-fourths cupful very cold water, a little salt; rub the lard and flour together, when thoroughly mixed, add the water, dropping it slowly.

SARATOGA POTATOES. Peel and slice on a slaw-cutter into cold water, wash thoroughly and drain; spread between the folds of a clean cloth, rub and pat until dry. Fry a few at a time in boiling lard, salt as you take them out. Saratoga potatoes are often eaten cold. They can be prepared three or four hours before needed, and if kept in a warm place they will be crisp and nice.

GRAHAM PUDDING. Mix well together one-half of a cup of molasses, one-quarter of a cup of butter, one-half a cup of milk, one-half a teaspoonful of pure soda, one and one-half cups of good graham flour, one small teacup of raisins, spice to taste. Steam four hours and serve with any sauce that may be preferred. This makes a showy, as well as a light and wholesome dessert, and has the merit of simplicity and cheapness.

CABBAGE PUDDING. One-fourth of a head of cabbage, one-half loaf of bread, one quart of milk, four eggs, butter, salt and pepper; boil the cabbage until thoroughly done, then chop it very fine; break the bread into fine crumbs; place alternate layers of the cabbage and bread crumbs in a dish, seasoning every other layer generously with butter, salt and pepper; finish off with a layer of bread crumbs; scald the milk; beat the eggs well, add them to the milk, then pour it carefully over the pudding. Bake until a light brown; half an hour should suffice. This method of preparing cabbage renders it as delicate as cauliflower.

Household Hints.

If kid gloves are laid upon a damp towel for two or three minutes, they will go on with less chance of tearing.

For a useful home rug, purchase a sheepskin and wash it thoroughly in boiling soapsuds, and when dry comb carefully and an excellent rug is made for the foot of the stairs, the fireplace, etc.

Good roast cakes can be kept in excellent condition if it is twice well washed with ice-cold hard-spring water and then dried and well pressed. This must be afterward to be well mixed with malt dust and stored in closed jars in cellars.

To protect the ironing board from dust, take two paper flour sacks, cut the bottom off from one, and paste this on the top of the other to make the required length; when done, slip this over the board. The outer covering of the board need not be taken off after ironing, if this care is taken, and much time is saved.

To wash a fine cambric handkerchief embroidered in colored silks, so that the colors do not run, the secret is to wash in a soap lather very quickly, wring the roughly and then iron, so that it dries at once. There should be no soaking, and the embroidered corner should be kept out of the water as much as possible. A little alum in the water will make the process more sure.

A Curious Excuse for Murder.

Diphtheria in childhood is not generally received as an excuse for murder in riper years, but it has lately been alleged in extenuation of that crime in an Italian court of justice. The assassin is a youth of seventeen, who, some months ago, after a quarrel with the attendant of a cafe, drew a revolver, and discharged four barrels at the unfortunate man, killing him on the spot. The facts were not disputed; there were plenty of witnesses, and the only provocation alleged was that the barman objected to this impetuous youth's going behind the bar to look for a cane which he said had been left there by a friend. Minervini, the homicide, is very respectably connected. His father had been in parliament, and he seemed to think it altogether too strong that he—a "gentleman," as he repeatedly called himself—should be called to account for shooting a waiter. He said he had been struck in the course of the dispute, and that consequently he was blind with rage. But witnesses testified that he had left the place and returned to shoot, and the judge cogently observed that he was not so blind but that he could aim straight. Minervini's friends urged that he was of an ungovernable temper, and his doctor certified that since treating him for diphtheria, ten years ago, he had had fits of rage—in one of which, it appears, he had threatened to shoot a cabman. The jury found him guilty, and, on account of his age, he was sentenced to the light punishment of five years' imprisonment. However, in five years' time he will still only be twenty-two.

Why is it that a young man and a young woman will sit for hours and hours together in a parlor without saying a word; and then, when it is time for him to leave, stand an hour talking earnestly on the front stoop in the still pneumatic air?

A vague, but horrible rumor, is being handed around with blanched lips that Oscar Wilde will marry and settle in America. Just a few more straws on the dromedary's back and war with the mother country will be inevitable.

THE OSTRICH WALTZ.

An Odd Sight in the Central Park Deer Paddocks—How to Pluck an Ostrich.

Mr. J. Protheroe, a young Englishman who has in Central Park, New York, a herd of twenty-three ostriches, recently imported from Buenos Ayres for breeding in America, went one morning with his herdsman, an elder Cape Towner, named Johnson, and a reporter, to the deer hut in which the birds are confined. When Johnson opened the door he was greeted by a series of sounds suggestive of the noise made by a fog horn.

"That's what the Dutch natives of Cape Town call 'booming,'" said Mr. Protheroe. "It expresses the same feeling with an ostrich that cooing does with a dove. I'll show you how we pluck an ostrich. Johnson, bring the stocking."

The dark herder, whom the birds regarded with nubbly-eyed affection, produced a long, white stocking. He caught one of the birds by its neck, and inserted the head and neck in the stocking. The blinded bird exhibited some nervousness.

"This bird have been so long in confinement," said Mr. Protheroe, "that they are comparatively gentle when the stocking is pulled over their necks. They fight and kick vigorously sometimes when they have been accustomed to the liberty of a large farm."

Johnson led the bird up to a stake in the hut, against which, with one hand, he held its neck. He held up a wing with the other hand, while Mr. Protheroe held the other wing, and with a pair of shears clipped off a white feather one inch from the flesh under the wing. "It would not do," went on Mr. Protheroe, "to pull these feathers out. Inflammation might set in. We pull out the tail feathers and those on the outside of the wings. One month after we cut off the large feathers under the wing, new feathers push out the old quills."

While Mr. Protheroe was speaking the longest bird kept up a rattling booming with the expression, that on them scared his sure collaborator was constantly Johnson to his attempt to so allow it. Another tried to gulp down the reporter's coat, but finding a still neck the result disgusted.

"If you will stand behind me," said the young Englishman, "we will open the door and let the birds out for their morning airing. They are dangerous when let at liberty."

Johnson pushed back the sliding door of the hut. "Now," continued Mr. Protheroe, "you will see something that you have not had the privilege of seeing in America before. Johnson gave a low, peculiar whistle, resembling somewhat the "call-booming" of the birds, and in a second out of the door into the grassy inclosure. The ungainly objects raised after him pell-mell. Their necks were extended out and their mouths were wide open. They ran about the inclosure in a lackadaisack fashion for several minutes, occasionally jumping into one another. Then they began dipping their wings and waltzing. It was a veritable waltz, and is so termed by ostrich farmers. The birds turn rapidly round and round, dipping their necks and swaying their bodies at each turn. A rhythm that could be set to music pervades their motions.

"It would be unsafe to go among them now, unless, like Johnson, you were familiar with them," said Mr. Protheroe. Two of the male ostriches began to fight at this point. They faced each other with distended mouths, dipping wings and glaring eyes. Then they began a pecking match, which was followed by some high kicking, forward, backward and sidewise. "While they are too tough to be much hurt by their own kicks, they have been known to break the arms and legs of men by them," said Mr. Protheroe. The birds are destined for California. Mr. Protheroe thinks his ostrich farming in America will be entirely successful.

Chiromancy.

M. Alexandre Dumas is preparing an important work treating of the science of chiromancy, in which he is an ardent believer. According to him the hand is the indication of the character; past, present and future are written in the lines of the palm. When Lambert, who was organizing his Polar expedition called on M. de Saulcy and told him that everything was ready, and that he was starting under auspices which guaranteed his success, he met Deslaroches, who told M. de Saulcy, when Lambert had gone, that the expedition would prove a failure. Deslaroches was laughed at, but before the enthusiastic Lambert could start, the war broke out, and he joined a free corps to meet his fate—a Prussian bullet—under the walls of Paris.

In 1804, when the empire was at its zenith, the same man read in the hand of the Empress the catastrophes which were to befall her after so much happiness. He saw the reverse of the medal, and grief choked his utterance. He could not tell what he had seen, but the empress told him that when she was quite a child a gitana had read her fate, predicting her marriage to an emperor, her splendor and then her fall, with a long period of suffering, and then the scaffold. Deslaroches admitted that much of what had been predicted would be fulfilled, but that the lines of the palm denied that the lady would meet the same fate as Marie Antoinette, although her life would probably be ended in exile.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

The tomb of Adam is still shown to travelers, about ten miles from Damascus.

The ground upon which Cincinnati stands was purchased by J. C. Symmes, about ninety years ago, for sixty-seven cents per acre.

A French paper records the case of a lady whose hair turned from black to gray between the hours of 2 and 7 A. M., during a very severe attack of neuralgia.

Among the Chinese, should the lily blossom on New Year's day it is regarded as a most happy omen, presaging the best of luck to the fortunate owner of the plant.

The first washing machine was patented in England in 1691, by John Tyzack. It was called "an engine to be worked by one or more men for the well and necessary washing and dressing of leathers and cloths."

The first trial of transfusion of blood on man was made in Paris in 1666. Some of a sheep's blood was conveyed into the veins of a madman, who seemed to become more sensible, but who died during a repetition of the experiment.

A Nova Scotia lady has a canary which one day found the water in its glass too low to reach, and, after several unsuccessful attempts to drink, hopped on its perch, and sat quietly for a few minutes. Suddenly it turned around, pulled a loose feather out of its tail, and dipped the tip into the water, putting its claw to one side of the feather, and wetting it back in the moisture. The canary repeated the trick several times, till its thirst was quenched.

The celebrated duck feeds chiefly in Ireland on the refuse of fish thrown out from the boats. In Spring the female duck plucks her breast to line her nest, and, as is positively known that Summer is coming, lines it lavishly. When it is stolen she plucks her breast again, and on its being stolen a second time a second time she makes for some down from her breast, and the nest is built for a third time. The quantity of genuine down she yields is but about 7,000 pounds a year.

The value of mesmerism was illustrated in Louisville, Ky., recently, in the following manner: A man named William Pell was troubled with a tumor on the throat, and had a difficult operation performed on him by Dr. L. W. Kaelin. Before using the knife the patient was mesmerized by one of the students, and while in that condition the tumor was removed. The patient never felt the slightest pain during or after the operation, and is doing well.

The Tomb of Jackson.

The "Hermitage," writes a Nashville (Tenn.) correspondent, is approached through a long avenue of cedars on either hand. Here, in this quiet old building, main rooms and shed rooms of brick, with wooden columns and wooden coping in front, resided General Andrew Jackson, adopted grandson of the hero, with his wife and mother and two old negroes, man and wife, about sixty years old when purchased by Jackson, nearly sixty years ago. General Jackson and his wife sleep side by side in the little garden near the residence, each beneath a broad granite slab. Inscribed in old fashioned Roman letters are the words on the slab which covers Mrs. Jackson, composed by her devoted husband:

"Here lie the remains of Mrs. Rachel Jackson, wife of President Jackson, who died the 22d December, 1828." The old hero had been elected President his first term, but did not take his seat till March 4th following. The inscription recounts her virtues in words forcible and tender, and closes:

"A being so gentle and yet so virtuous, vile slander might wound, but could not dishonor. Even Death, when he tore her from the arms of her husband, could but transport her to the bosom of God."

The day of the funeral Jackson, feeble and heart-broken, walked slowly behind the coffin, leaning upon a long cane he was accustomed at the time to carry about his farm. As the friends of the dead gathered about to look for the last time upon her face, General Jackson lifted his cane as if appealing to heaven, and by a look commanding silence, said slowly and painfully and with a voice full of bitter tears:

"In the presence of this dear saint I can and do forgive all my enemies! But those vile wretches who have slandered her must look to God for mercy."

One of the most beautiful and redeeming traits in all this rugged and heroic nature was the unalterable love and devotion he bore his wife. For seventeen years after her death the memory of this noble woman was cherished, until the summer of 1845, when he was laid to rest beside the only woman he ever loved—loved with a romantic tenderness and strength surpassing the dream of fiction.

There is but little originality of character in the world. Most men are imitators. They do that they have seen others do, and they say things they have heard said. Few have the genius or courage to strike out a new path in thought or action. The general mode of education tends greatly to this result. Everything is based on books; youth are hardly allowed to think for themselves; they are not taught to look within, and draw upon the resources which nature has placed there.

Light and the Eyes.

Professor Pickering, of Harvard observatory, points out in *Nature* that the color of gaslight has nothing to do with its painful effect upon the eyes of students and others. To test this question he had a tin lamp-shade constructed consisting of a tube six inches in length. One end was closed by a reflector, and the other by a piece of light blue glass. Two holes were made in the sides, through which passed the glass chimney of an Argand gas-burner. By experimenting with a photometer, a position was found where the light received on a book was of the same intensity and very similar color to that from a window in daytime at a distance of about six feet. A few minutes' reading, however, was sufficient to convince him that the new light was far more trying to the eyes than an ordinary gas-flame would be, the ill effects being due to the intense heat thrown down by the reflector. And this, he thinks, is the source of the whole trouble in the ordinary gas-burner. The heat radiated by the flame, the heated chimney and shade, and reflected from the printed page and all other white paper lying on the table dries the eyes, the lids, the forehead and temples. Temporary relief may be found by bathing the face and eyes in water, but it is only temporary. The hot, dry air from the lamp is also harmful, and no doubt contributes its share of its injury to the vision. These evils may both in part be remedied by placing a piece of glass so as to intercept the rays about the lamp before they strike on the book or the face. But it must be placed at such a distance from the lamp as not itself to become heated.

The better the flame the whiter it is, and the more light is thrown off in proportion to the heat. Hence oculists are recommending such lights as the students' and incandescent lamps, which burn with a small, hot, and very brilliant flame, as compared with the furnished by the argand and flat-flame burners. Statistics, said Professor Pickering, show how alarmingly prevalent near-sightedness has become of late among students. Hence anything that will tend in the future to prevent this widespread defect will be a boon to mankind. He had great hopes of the electric light in this respect. In it there was the maximum of light with minimum of heat. The ever varying intensity was an objection, but he thought we might look forward to the success of the light from the incandescent carbon strip in the near future, as a remedy for "the most wide spread evil that afflicts the human vision."

The Court's Mistake.

Judge Davis used to tell some admirable stories of an old Illinois judge, one of which we chance particularly to remember. One of the judges was rather remarkable for conveying to jurors in his charges to them his own opinions with regard to the merits of the case. In one case he had done so with great plainness, but to his amazed the jury hung out for hours without coming to an agreement. The judge inquired of the bailiff what was the matter, and learned from him that one juror was hanging out against the other eleven. He sent for the jury at once, and, stating to the jurors that he had plainly intimated how the case ought to be decided, and he understood that one juror was standing out against the other eleven. He proceeded to rebuke the juror sharply. The obstinate juror was a person as little than, and, as soon as the judge was done, he rose up and said:

"Judge, may I say a word?"

"Yes, sir," said the indignant judge. "What have you to say?"

"Well, what I wanted to say is, I'm the only feller that's on your side."—*Pro Bono.*

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