FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

Household Hints.

Spirits of ammonia, diluted with water, if applied with a sponge or flannel to discolored spots of the carpets or garments, will often restore the color.

Soot falling on the carpet from open chimneys or carelessly-handled stove-pipes, if thickly covered with salt, can be brushed up without injury to the carpet.

Paint stains that are dry and old may be removed from cotton or woolen goods with chloroform. It is a good plan to first cover the spot with olive oil or butter.

Hot alum water is the best insect destroyer known. Put the alum into hot water and let it boil till it is all dissolved; then apply the solution hot to all cracks, closets, bedsteads and other places, where any insects are found. Creeping things are killed by it, while there is no danger of poisoning the family or injuring property.

Recipes.

WARMED CABBAGE.—Take boiled cabbage when cold and chop in a tray a little, add pepper and salt to season, a few spoonfuls of thin sweet cream or a little milk and butter; set in a steamer and heat.

SCOTCH CAKES.—Scotch cakes are economical so far as egg are concerned, and if made with care, will melt in the mouths of children. To one pound of flour allow half a pound of butter and a quarter of a pound of sugar; let the butter stand in a basin near the fire to soften, but not melt; when soft, rub it and the flour together; then kneed in the sugar. Roll out in a sheet half an inch thick; cut out cakes about two inches square; bake until they are of a light brown. Put them away in a stone jar, and they will in a day or two gather moisture enough to be soft.

GREEN PEAS AND ONIONS.—Shell half a peck of fresh green peas; if the pods are not perfectly clean, wash them before shelling, but do not wash the peas; peel a pint of small white onions; wash a small bunch of mint, and tie it up again; put into a saucepan over the fire four tablespoonfuls of butter and one of flour, and stir them until they are smooth; then add the peas, onions and mint, and a palatable seasoning of salt and pepper, cover the saucepan, and stew its contents gently for half an hour. Then remove the mint, and serve the peas and onions in the sauce in which they were cooked.

SQUASH PIE.—Take three-fourths cupful of squash after it is boiled and sifted, one egg, a good tablespoonful of sweet cream, and four tablespoonfuls of sugar, beat well together, pour in a cupful and a half of rich milk, add a little cinnamon and a few drops of extract of lemon with half a teaspoonful of salt, stir together and set over a kettle of boiling water in a tin pan to heat nearly scalding hot; pour into a deep plate lined with paste and bake till it rises up in the middle and seems cooked. Some may prefer it less sweet, and three tablespoonfuls of sugar will answer.

Sifting Coal Ashes for Poultry.

It is often in the winter, difficult to procure dry earth in which the fowls can dust themselves, as they like to do daily, and sifted coal ashes from an excellent substitute. Unsifted ashes are not so good, as they are full of sharp cinders. But with a box in which to sift the ashes without covering one's self with them, a good supply of dusting material may be kept on hand and supplied to the hens as needed, an old chicken coop will answer for a box, cut a hole in the top, place over it a half barrel, and into this fit a common sifter, as shown in the engraving, sift nothing but the fine ashes into the box, throw the cinders away, or return them, and never use wood ashes for a dust bath, as the lye in them will injure the plumage of the birds.

Study the Cow's Peculiarities.

A dairyman should study the peculiarities of each cow. Some cows will appropriate all the extra food they can digest to the secretion of milk, and even deplete their systems to keep up a full flow of milk. Such cows should be especially well provided for—their generosity should be reciprocated. These are the cows that pay for feeding. They pay back the principal with a large percentage of interest on all the extra food given them. They are the only good cows that will pay for extra feeding—in fact, they are only good cows that will pay for feeding at all. And a dairyman may rest assured that a cow that will not respond to liberal feeding by an equal increase of milk is not worth keeping, and instead of adding to his income, runs him in debt every year.

Look after the Wagon Wheels.

The severest strain, in the cart or carriage, comes upon the wheels. The felloes especially are exposed to alternate mud and drouth, according to the prevailing weather. The paint soon wears off, and the wood absorbs the water from every mud puddle through which the vehicle is driven. In a dry time the wood shrinks and the tire gets loose. The remedy is a new setting of the tire, and a bill from the blacksmith. It is much cheaper to clean up the carriage occasionally, and give the wheels a dressing of linseed oil, as hot as it can be put on. The wood will absorb a good deal of the oil and will swell the tire so as to make the tire tight. It will prevent the rotting of the wood and make long-lived wheels. When the wheels have soaked up all the oil they will take, put on a good coat of paint.—*Agriculturist.*

Corn vs. Oats for Horses.

The comparative value of corn and oats as food for horses may be briefly stated as follows: Corn is deficient in many elements of nutrition so necessary for recuperating the constant wear and tear which necessarily takes place in the body of a living animal. On this account, horses which are exclusively fed on corn and hay do not receive this kind of nourishment which appears necessary for the due support and maintenance of the animal fabric; hence, we must not be surprised that corn-fed horses show evidence of being languid, by sweating profusely while being worked, lack of vitality, etc. Oats, on the contrary, contain more of the essential elements of nutrition than any other article of food which can be fed with impunity to horses, but are decidedly nutritious. They are the cheapest, because there is less risk in feeding them, and experience has proved that horses properly fed on oats and timothy hay, with regular exercise, good grooming and proper sanitary regulations, can be brought to the highest state of physical culture, and can perform more work with less evidence of fatigue than when fed on any other article of food.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

Take Care of the Tools.

Millions of dollars are expended in this country every year for agricultural and horticultural implements and tools; and by far too great a proportion of such tools are neglected and not properly cared for. In many cases they rust out more than they wear out. Remember, therefore, whenever a tool, implement or farm machines is laid by for any length of time, it should be protected from injury by rusting. Take half pound lard, add to it a piece of rosin half the size of a hen's egg and melt together over a slow fire. This may be done in an old tomato or fruit can, or in some other convenient vessel. When completely melted, remove from the fire, and stir with a stick until cold. This makes a soft ointment which may be applied with a cloth. Whatever metallic tool or part of a tool put away for the winter if smeared with a thin coating of this will be perfectly protected from rust. Not only the costly implements of the farm, but knives and forks not often used in the household, may be protected. A mere film is all that is required. The wooden handles of tools should, also, receive from time to time a good coating of some good paint. Nothing pays farmers better than a little care rightly bestowed upon their implements.—*Rhode Island Rural.*

Hog Cholera Cure.

During the last five years my hogs have taken the cholera four times, and I have always cured two-thirds of those that were sick and stopped it on the rest with little trouble and expense. When one is known to be sick with cholera put the whole herd in a close pen. Get a long neck bottle, put one gill of milk and half a teaspoonful of pure carbolic acid in it. Let one man catch the hog by the ears and set him up between his legs, holding his head up, another man with bottle in one hand and a short stick in the other as thick as a man's wrist; put the stick in the animal's mouth crosswise so that he cannot break the bottle in pouring the contents down. Put him out of the pen for fear you might dose him twice, which would be dangerous, as the acid is poisonous in large doses. If they are not all well in a week repeat the dose. I never had to repeat it, I never separated them, but if confined in a pen I turned them out. The government spent many thousands of dollars to find out the best remedy for this disease, and, if I mistake not, carbolic acid in small doses, given in some way internally, and separating the sick from the healthy and burning the carcass of the dead, was decided to be the best method of stamping out this plague.—*J. A. Dodge, in Journal of Agriculture.*

Do Commercial Fertilizers Pay?

This very common question occurs in the agricultural papers every year. It can be answered very briefly. It pays a good farmer, who knows how to use it, and who buys for cash, to apply ammonia, potash and phosphoric acid to his land if it needs it and he can get them at their commercial value. A poor farmer who buys it on a credit and does not know what he is buying, it will not pay. If, instead of buying anybody's manipulated fertilizers that are offered to him on a credit, he confines his purchase to pure ground bone (fine,) and then supplements this with all the stable manure, cotton seed and ashes that he may be able to save or purchase, a farmer will find that it is profitable to use certain forms of commercial fertilizers, while it may not pay to use certain other forms. I repeat, it will pay to buy ammonia and soluble phosphoric acid where bought for cash and a full equivalent of the same obtained for money if it is used in accordance with the laws of nature, otherwise not. Our farmers have literally thrown away thousands in their common practice of putting highly soluble and concentrated fertilizers in one single furrow and as deep as they could get it, when, if they had put it broadcast and near the surface, they might have saved as many thousands as they have lost by the unnatural practice that they have followed so long and which they are loth to believe is wrong. Any farmer can prove this question very easily if he will proceed intelligently to give it a fair test, and it is a very important question for our farmers to solve.—*Southern Farmer's Monthly.*

London Swindlers.

An ingenious fraud has lately been practiced in London. A tall, well-dressed man, apparently a city merchant on his way home from business, is seen talking on the street to a man in workingman's dress, who carries a basket and some tools. The "merchant" accosts some well-dressed passenger, and tells him the "mechanic's" tale of want and employment and family distress. He adds that he has satisfied himself of the truth of the story, and is about to give a trifle; will the gentleman join in giving a small sum to relieve deserving necessity? The apparent respectability of the voucher often succeeds where a common begging petition would fail, and the person accosted generally gives something. A gentleman who had given a small sum saw both swindlers issue from a public-house some time after. Of course on seeing him they decamped.

A clever dodge has lately come to light, which shows how thoroughly the swindler understood those on whom he was to operate, and forms a curious commentary on the relations between servants and tradesmen. A man having the appearance of a gentleman's servant called on several tradesmen in a fashionable part of London, asking them to come to a certain house for orders for different classes of goods, at the same time throwing out a suggestion that a small gratuity for himself would be acceptable, and might not be lost by the tradesman in a distribution of further orders. In a number of instances small sums were given; but when the shopmen attended at the place named they found their services were not required, and that the fees had flowed into the pocket of some other rascal.

A Schoolmistress and Stocks.

"Guess I won't go to school to-day," said a Carson urchin with an *Appeal* in his hand.

"Why not?"

"Consols has fallen off ten cents, and I don't dare show up until it picks up some."

"What has the fluctuation of Consols got to do with your studies?"

"A great deal," answered the boy. "My teacher has 100 shares of the stock, and when it falls a few cents we catch it heavy. I keep my eye on the list, and when there's a break, you bet I don't go to school. I play sick. Golly! how she lasted me the time Mount Diablo went down to $2. When it was swelling at $20 she was as good as pie. I was the first feller that got on to the break, and told the boys of my class that if she didn't sell there'd be the devil to pay. I heard Uncle Frazier say that it was a good short, and I never slept a wink for a week. I grabbed the *Appeal* the first thing every morning; when I saw her keel down to $16 I skipped to the hills. My! how she did bang Johnny Dolson around that morning! I was in hopes that blasted mine would pick up, but the water got into the lower levels, and I knew we were in for it. She licked somebody for every dollar it dropped. After it struck $8 it picked up a little, and we had time to git. My mother's been patching my pants ever since the big break in the Sierra Nevada, and if the market don't take a turn pretty soon I'm going to quit the public school and go to work on a ranch. —*Carson City Appeal.*

Gold in Ancient Times.

Gold was in excess in ancient times, and mostly taken from the rivers in Asia. The fables of Pactolus, of the golden fleece of the Argonauts, of the gold from Ophir, the history of King Midas, etc., all point to an Eastern origin of this metal. According to Pliny, Cyrus returned with 34,000 Roman pounds of gold (about $10,000,000). The treasures exacted from Persia by Alexander the Great amounted to 351,000 talents, or $400,000,000. Gold also came from Arabia, and upon the Nile from the interior of Africa. Pliny calls Asturias the country in which the most gold is found. A tablet bearing the following inscription was found in Idanha Velha, Portugal. "Claudius Refus returns his thanks to Jupiter for having permitted him to find one hundred and thirty pounds of gold."

These sources of wealth have ceased to flow, and the endeavor of several Englishmen to reopen them have been unsuccessful. Bohemia, Mahren, Silesia, and Tyrol, all have produced gold, and the receding of the glaciers has caused old mines to be uncovered, while upon the Italian side, at Monte Resa, Val Sesina, and Val Ansaca, gold-mines are still worked to-day, although with indifferent success. The only works of any note are those of Kremnitz, Hungary. It may, therefore, be safely asserted that Europe is completely exhausted in this respect.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Puget Sound ships a million feet of lumber daily to foreign ports.

COSTLY CANES.

Expensive Handles for Canes and Umbrellas—Some Queer Canes.

A paragraph has been going the rounds of the press to the effect that a Georgia lawyer has a cane, the head of which is carved to represent the head of a duck, holding a $650 sapphire in its bill, and with two diamonds worth $7,100 each for its eyes. "It may be true," the affable young man having charge of the cane department in a large jewelry house said; "but the figures are pretty steep. It is not an infrequent thing for men to come in here and order canes that cost $500 or $600, gold heads with jewel settings, you understand; but a $14,750 cane is rather beyond our experience. For ordinary sale the canes we keep in stock do not run over $120. We always have on hand a cord or so of canes that run from $60 to $120. 'Gold-headed presentation canes?' Yes, we sell a good many of them, but hardly ever to the out-of-town buyers.

Our more expensive canes are those in which artistic fancy enhances the value of the gold. Here is one, a modified shepherd's crook of hammered and chased Roman gold, the greatest peculiarity of which is its price—$115. This hammered crutch head of blended red and yellow gold is worth $120. Here are a lot of new designs, Indian and Persian fancies, unique, and some of them pretty, that run from $90 to $115. They are made of gold, the beauty of which is that it was put through certain chemical treatments that brought it out looking like almost anything but gold. This one, for instance, that looks like steel, is gold, and so is that one resembling a red enamel. Some of these light ones, were made up as cheap as $50, but we have none so low-priced on hand now. These very dainty little square crook gold-headed canes, or switches rather, we sell as cheap as $35 to $50.

From these let us pass to the silver heads. Of them we have a great variety, from $8 for a plain hammered silver ball up to $25 for a large one of the newest fashion, which is a close imitation of an old fashioned buck horn handle, or $75 for one like this, which is, as you can see, a combination of silver, gold and copper that looks like a sort of marble metal. There is a wide diversity of styles in silver heads, some of them, as you will notice, the plainest possible "solid lump" or simple ball—and others full of fancy and exquisite workmanship. There is a novel and pretty thing, a perfectly round ball of rock crystal held in place by silver clasps, that we sell for $25. A man came in here the other day offering for sale a couple of canes that he had made, I believe. They were composed of small, thin pieces of agate, cornelian, and other stones, in alternate layers, set on a steel rod and highly polished. I should think there were 200 pieces in each cane, and he only wanted $25 each for the completed canes. I don't see how they could be gotten up for the money, but we did not invest in them.

"The materials generally play for the sticks are malacca, bamboo and ebony. There are some very handsome and costly canes made in Mexico from some animal substances, clarified as the Mexican saddle seats sometimes are, and inlaid with silver. General Jack Crescent used to have one that he refused $150 for. Then fine canes are occasionally turned out of what is represented to us as hippopotamus hide. In fact, gentlemen bring all sorts of sticks to have fancy heads put on them. Whatever the stick may be, its value is nothing compared with the head we put on it in most cases of that sort. Diamonds, sapphires and other precious stones are very often set in them to order. Of course we keep no such jeweled heads in stock.

We don't have so much call for fancy carved ivory and solid imitation silver heads, monkeys' and dogs' heads, and birds and such things as we used to do. People seem to go in now for rare and fine sticks, lasting and reliable ones, and the cane dealer who wants to keep up with the times must have an almost infinite variety of sticks from all parts of the globe. I've seen one, a plain rough stick, without a ferrule, and only a bent crook at the top, that was said to have been worth $17,000 when it came into the country. It was hollow, and had diamonds packed in it. That was several years ago. I guess the custom-house chaps have dropped on that dodge. Anyway, I never hear of its being played now. I have seen a German cane with a flute in it, and another that would hold a good drink of schnapps, and one that was a pipe when you took off the ferrule and a cap on the head; but all those things were mere eccentricities. We are never called on to make such things.

A party of Philadelphians recently made a practical test of rat flesh as an article of diet. The rodents had been caught and caged while young, and fed carefully upon grain and green food. At the meal in question they had been carefully prepared, and were served with an appetizing sauce in company with other viands. The flesh, after cooking, was found to be quite light in color, much more so than either the rabbit or the squirrel, and possessing a delicacy of flavor entirely unknown to either of the last mentioned animals. The experiment proved entirely successful, and a diet of rats, prepared under proper conditions, was voted to be both practicable and economical.

The President of the German Diet.

Law and usage have united to give the president of the diet a position widely different from that of the "speaker" in England or America. His powers are in some respects more, in other less, extensive. He appoints no committees, and is therefore without that opportunity to reward friends and influence legislation. He can with difficulty create precedents by his rulings, and contributes little to the body of parliamentary law. Even his powers of discipline and police are to a considerable extent shared by the vice-presidents and the secretaries, who are consulted in a very serious crisis. Put on the other hand he has no little influence in shaping the course of debate, through the practice, which may be, but seldom is, contested, of fixing the "order of the day," or programme of business of each session. The ratio of ambitious orators is much smaller in a German than in an American parliament. Precedence is less anxiously considered; time counts for less; and there is less wrangling over points of order and procedure. A debate is a very formal affair, the names of those who desire to speak being commonly submitted to the chair in advance, and by him arranged into a convenient succession of pros and cons, who follow one another with depressing regularity, much like boys in a village cyclone. In general it may be said that while in Germany, as in America, the speakership is a mark of party confidence, it is not, owing to the different conditions of political life, treated as a step toward higher honors, elective or executive.

This statement holds true, moreover, not only of parliamentary prominence as recognized in the person of the president, but also of parliamentary prominence on the floor and in debate. It is seldom rewarded in the formation of cabinets, and can claim for itself nothing from the state. There are men in the German Reichstag whose forensic talents would adorn any legislative body in the world, and who, presumably, if in office, would develop a administrative talents not inferior to those of the forum, who in England or France could command, and, if party conditions were favorable, would receive, portfolios in the ministry, but who under the German system may spend their lives in unprofitable debate, without ever being invited to share the work of construction and execution.—*Harper's Magazine.*

[New York Graphic.]

O'Donovan Rossa's Opinion.

O'Donovan Rossa, speaking of the Great German Remedy to a friend, said, "Mr. Rossa has been cured of a very severe attack of neuralgia by St. Jacobs Oil, as she will gladly tell you, if you call at my residence, 579 Bushwick ave., Brooklyn, N. Y."

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