

FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

The Apple Orchard.

Jesiah Hoopes says in the New York Tribune: One may apply fertilizers to the soil and yet neglect the trimming, washing the bark, and destruction of injurious insects. I consider all of very nearly equal importance. A top-dressing of any good rich compost during autumn will pay the owner of an old orchard as surely as if applied to his wheat-field or potato-patch. And yet the farmers allow the trees to "run out," to use a common expression, from ignorance or parsimony. As to breaking up the tough soil of an old orchard to infuse health in the trees, some difference in judgment exists, but I never could see the use of destroying the roots, when equally good results may be gained by simply scattering manure over the surface. Let farmers try the latter and mark the result; then follow up the good work next spring by haying back the tops of all old mossy trees, and apply a coat of alkali in weak solution to the bark of the body and larger branches. Like whitewash for this purpose.

Greed of Cows.

It is hardly necessary to tell any one, says the *Lexington Journal*, that the domestic cow is a great feeder, and that this is especially true of cows that are great milkers. The appetites of domestic animals are largely wear years of feeding for certain ends has made them, and they may, therefore, be regarded as in a measure abnormal. This is shown clearly enough by the great milk and butter tests, which have shown that cows can be systematically overfed up to a point where death quickly follows. Therefore, in the case, it is necessary in feeding cows to be careful that rest or stimulation converts their appetite to abnormal regularity and indulgence. The over-indulgence which a cow will practice at times, when allowed unrestricted access to grain or apples, is usually due not only to the greatly increased appetite induced by an unusually active older, but the more to a want of regularity in feeding and the neglect of the feelings of the demands of such an appetite as they develop. With proper feeding cows can be trained to take care of themselves with a good deal of food before them. Even with apples, than which no kind of food is more dangerous to cows when given in excess, this statement holds good, and when properly trained, being fed at first moderately, and the quantity gradually increased, they soon learn to measure the quantity their stomachs can manage, and may be safely trusted in the orchard, as any other animal. In the case of hens the trouble arises from the unnatural distension of the rumen by innumerable overfeeding it with coarse feed in an effort to satisfy the appetite induced by any great draft upon the system. Thus strengthened with half more of a grain entrant food than the animal can digest before fermentation becomes active enough to be injurious. It may be stated here, that red radishes, apples are a neutral safe, and an excellent milk-producing food.

Care of Cattle.

A great mistake is sometimes made in ventilating cellars and milk-rooms. The object of ventilation is to keep the cellar cool and dry, but this object often fails to be accomplished by a common mistake, and instead, the cellar is made both warm and damp. A cool place should never be constructed unless the air (blown) is cooler than the air within, or is at least as cold as that of a very little warmer. The warmer the air, the more moisture it holds in suspension. Necessarily, the cooler the air, the more this moisture is condensed and precipitated. When a cool cellar is aired, a warm air entering the air being in motion appears cool, but as it fills the cellar, the cooler air with which it becomes mixed chills it, the moisture is condensed, and dew is deposited on the cold walls, and may often be seen running down them in streams. Then the cellar is damp, and soon becomes mouldy. To avoid this, the windows should only be opened at night, and late—the last thing before retiring. There is no need to fear that the night air is unhealthful, it is as pure as the air of midday, and is really dry. The cool air enters the apartment during the night, and circulates through it. The windows should be closed before sunrise in the morning, and kept closed and shaded through the day. If the air of a cellar is damp, it may be thoroughly dried by placing in it a peck of fresh lime in an open box. A peck of lime will absorb about seven pounds, or more than three quarts of water, and in this way a cellar, or a milk-room may soon be dried, even in the hottest weather. A bushel of lime absorbs twenty-seven pounds of water, and still appears as a dry powder. In this condition it will spread over the garden or lawn, or around fruit trees, or it may be used for whitewash. This preparation is often necessary in the dairy, because of the prevalence, where air is damp, of mildew, and the various forms of mould. The orange and red kinds of mould especially, which sometimes form upon the cream, have a most injurious effect upon the butter.

—American Agriculturist.

Farm and Garden Notes.

Lack of comfort in animals hinders fattening.

Many primroses are killed every year by over-watering.

Shearing lambs in midsummer is claimed by English farmers to greatly increase the growth of the carcass.

To prevent drain pipes from stopping up pour a hot solution of potash into the pipes every month or two.

Many horses have a habit of sleeping standing. It is not a good one, and horses should be broken of it if possible.

Trees on the outside of an orchard are usually more prolific. There is more sunlight and air, and the roots have a free range.

Churning sweet cream is not considered a good method by many leading authorities, the better plan being to allow the cream to ripen somewhat.

Forces against clear weather and the thoroughly dried in the sun will keep in much better condition, in the long run those that have not been dried.

Several years since a gardener discovered that by planting kiss-mallow seeds in earth that had a layer of coal ashes above and below it the vines were not molested by cutworms.

A cool, deep, and rich soil is highly susceptible to success in the culture of heraceous plants and herbs. Especialiy is this true of lilies and other bulbs that are usually set out at this season of the year.

Don't put rotten potatoes into the cellar. Don't put so much corn into storage that it can't dry thoroughly. Don't put unpeeled corn-shucks into the cellar unless you want a fire. Don't try to feed a calf that you don't need.

An old farmer says to his day-laborers potato-beetle in a soil salver with them by spraying once with a mixture made in proportion of 5 pounds each of "starched lime" and copperas, and 20 gallons of water. Beside, it benefits the plants.

Potato, dandelion and other weeds in a lawn may be destroyed by placing a little sulphur with a stick in the crown of each plant. The soil should be carried in an open-mouthed bucket with a long handle, so that fingers and clothes are protected.

Household Hints.

If nutmegs are good when picked with a pin, oil will instantly cease to exist.

When sponge cake becomes dry it is to be moistened in butter milk and spread in the grass in the sun.

The warmth of doors is generally increased by a good coating of layers of paper over the carpet.

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Milk kept in an earthen jar or even tin cans will keep sweet for a long time if well wrapped in a wet cloth.

Never put salt into soup when cooking till it has been thoroughly seasoned, as salt prevents the soup from rising.

If saffron bark is sprinkled among dried fruit and vegetables it warns insects from getting in, and will not injure their flavor.

Recipes.

Apples Choux.—Line a buttered loaf pan with shortening and break up the edges of the bread in white egg and mix the paste with a smooth apple sauce seasoned with lemon rind and nutmeg or cinnamon over the top with strips of bread, put a small quantity of butter on top, and bake one hour.

Health Sausage Potatoes.—Boil and boil potatoes are served in this manner. Cut the raw potatoes in thin slices, brush melted butter over them and cover the wire broiler to prevent their sticking to it; broil them dark brown. Boiled sweet potatoes are to be slightly broiled, just enough to warm through, and at the same time to show the marks of the broiler.

Brownie.—Whisk the yolks of five eggs thoroughly and add to them four ounces of flour, half a teaspoonful of salt and a tablespoonful of sugar; stir in half a pint of lukewarm milk and the whites of the eggs well beaten. Grease a small pan slightly and fry the cakes very thin, shake the pan to prevent burning and when they are a delicate brown on the under side turn them artistically as possible. When done put them on a hot plate with sugar and a dash of cinnamon on each and straw over the top one quantity of fine sugar. Hold over it a shovel full of live coals to melt the sugar.

Shredded Oatmeal Cakes.—The shredded oatmeal put up in tin cans is a blessing to those who dislike the annoyance of preparing the fish in the old-fashioned manner. Open a one pound can of the shredded fish and wash it in two waters, then cover with a liberal quantity of warm water and let stand half an hour; squeeze out the water, separate the particles of fish and add to it half a pound of warm mashed potatoes. Whip these together tightly, add a saltpickful of white pepper, two ounces of butter and two yolks of two eggs well beaten; wrap all together and with doused hands shape the mixture into dainty little cakes; drop them in smoking hot fat and fry to a golden color.—New York Cook.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The advantage of fresh air from the open windows in a sleeping room has received strong proof from an incident of the cholera in Spain. In the house of a rich merchant the cholera attacked, first of all, the one person who slept in the only room of the dwelling which was without a window.

Pike's Peak Railroad, when completed, as it is soon expected to be, will be the most notable track in the world. It will mount 2000 feet higher than the Lima and Oroya Road in Peru. The entire 30 miles of its length will be a succession of complicated curves and grades, with no piece of straight track longer than 300 feet.

The acreage devoted to the cultivation of tobacco in the United States is said to have increased from 638,411 acres in 1880 to 709,000 acres at the present time, while the product has increased from 172,661,000 pounds in 1871 to 181,485,000 pounds.

A German traveller, Doctor Gerhard Röhrs, states that it is an enormous benefit to him to eat the seeds of beans that had a layer of coal ash above and below it, the values were not molested by cutworms.

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The last thing at which General McClellan was seen the day of his death, given to him by his son, was the news of the battle of Antietam. He was preparing a series of articles in the *Magazine of American Antislavery* on the subject of the war, and the last of them was to be one on Antietam. It was not finished. From between the leaves of a book lying by the author's bed, he said to his wife, "I have a few words to say to the world."

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SIGHT RESTORED BY FRIGHT.

A lady has for years been in great suffering from neuralgia, and at one time was attacked with convulsions of the brain. From a gradual failing sight the lady three or four months ago lost entirely the use of her eyes and became, as it was thought, hopelessly blind. Expert medical attendance failed to effect any relief, and gave her little hope of ever regaining her sight. Recently the sudden and alarming cry of "Fire" rang from the lips of one of her daughters.

"Has he been in politics long?" "Oh, doctor, my husband is nearly dead." "No, our last year he worked hard for James A. Garfield." "He did speak to me, though." "He will get well, madam! He has a strong constitution, and is a good man." "I am afraid he has not much time left." "He will improve rapidly, and will be restored to health again."

"What is the name of the physician who treated him?" "Dr. G. W. Smith." "Is he a good man?" "Yes, he is a good man." "Does he practice in this city?" "Yes, he does." "Is he a good man?" "Yes, he is a good man."

"How long has he been ill?" "About six weeks." "Is he a good man?" "Yes, he is a good man."

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