

**FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.**

**PROVIDING WINTER COWS.**

One reason why there are fewer winter cows is that it is often difficult to get them in heat for breeding at the right season. It is easy to breed them in spring, when warmer weather and good feed combine to bring them into breeding condition. A spring milch cow, gradually growing poorer all summer, will not breed in fall, unless heavily fed with nourishing food for several weeks to bring her into heat. Oats are probably the best for this purpose, though for cows that have grown very poor oil or cottonseed meal mixed with bran should be added.—*American Cultivator.*

**A VEGETABLE GARDEN.**

I would urge, says a writer in *Vick's Magazine*, every farmer to have a vegetable garden, and a good one, for, while a poor one is better than none at all, a good one is so much better that one ought never to be satisfied with anything else. Let him make up his mind to work it at least as well as he does other portions of his farm, and he will find, if he carries out this resolution, and keeps an account of the results, that there is no other portion of the farm which furnishes so much of the family's living, therefore none that "pays" so well. That this is the fact, everyone who has a good garden will tell you. It is also a fact that those who have the best gardens appreciate them most. Poor gardens are only to be tolerated on the principle that "half a loaf is better than no loaf at all." Not only does a good garden represent greater quantity, but superior quality, for fine vegetables cannot be grown in a garden not properly cared for.

**RULES OF BREEDING.**

Only the possession of superior merit or the ability to produce offspring forming such merit gives an animal or a breed a claim to the title "improved stock." The personal qualities of the animal to be used in breeding are more important than those of their ancestors; the qualities of parents more important than grandparents, and vastly more important than those of any more remote ancestors. The offspring resembles the parent much more frequently than it does some remote ancestor. Pedigree is important; the test of its value is the merit of the animals forming it. The top crosses are more important than more remote ones.

Continued selection is essential to improvement or maintaining a high degree of excellence. No breed, no family, has uniform excellence in all its members.

Food, care and training are as important as pedigree in developing or maintaining excellence.

Remarkable development in any one quality is often accompanied by comparative or actual weakness in other directions, but it is easily possible to secure a good degree of excellence in several directions.

It is often wise to breed for more than one purpose. The largest number of horses, cattle and sheep owners do not want animals fitted for only one use.

The greatest good to the greatest number of farmers is secured by encouraging the large increase in number and general dissemination of improved stock and moderate prices. Intelligence and good judgment among breeders should be relied on to keep up the standard of merit rather than the restrictive regulations as to registration, importation of stock, etc.

It is wise to encourage the use of good cross-bred sires if pure bred ones cannot or will not be purchased.

For the great mass of farmers, the cheapest, safest and best method of improving their stock is the continued use of good sires and best females obtainable, but the present low prices of pure-bred stock makes it an especially good time in which to lay the foundation for a full-bred flock or herd.

The multiplication of unimportant points required in pure-bred animals is an evil, as in all other attempts to increase or diminish the reputation of animals of any breed or family on any other points than that of actual merit.—*Professor Morroe.*

**FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.**

As a rule, the nearer the maturity of the plant the greater its feeding value. There may be some exceptions, but it is most emphatically true of corn.

Horses certainly resemble men in this respect—no two individuals are alike, and further, in that while kindness goes a long way, sometimes force is necessary.

Care should be taken to train the young turkeys to roost in the poultry house. If some pains are taken when they are young they can be readily taught to do this.

Every farmer ought to grow all the feed for his stock, the grain included. He therefore saves transportation and middlemen's profits, and knows precisely what he is feeding.

When is there a better time to paint buildings than in the fall when the frost

has killed the flies, the rains have laid the dust, and the work on the farm is closed for the season?

Hogs fed on corn alone can scarcely be altogether healthy. When farmers come to properly realize, if they ever do, that a mixed diet is necessary to health, the country may, perhaps, bid a long farewell to hog cholera and its attendant evils.

In buying fruit trees with which to plant a young orchard it is cheapest to buy the best; and be sure to buy young trees and not too large ones. Such trees are not so much injured by transplanting, and grow and do better than older and larger trees.

Most house plants are watered too much in winter. Even in greenhouses, where a uniform and higher temperature than is possible in most living rooms is maintained, the evil is more apt to be from too much rather than too little water. Unless the plants are kept warm enough to grow rapidly, water is an injury. It lowers the temperature of soil until the roots barely vegetate, and if the soil has much vegetable matter, it poisons them by developing humic acid.

**RECIPES.**

**Corn Meal Gems**—One cup granulated meal, two teaspoonfuls flour, two teaspoonfuls sugar, one heaping teaspoonful baking powder, one egg and sweet milk enough to make a thin batter; bake in gem tins in a well heated oven.

**Crumb Omelet**—To one cup of bread crumbs add one cup of milk and stir in four or six eggs; season with pepper and salt and a little chopped ham, if liked; fry in a well greased skillet, fold over and serve on a warm plate. Potato omelet is made by substituting mashed potatoes for the crumbs.

**Baked Bean Soup**—Take cold baked beans, add twice the quantity of water and let them simmer till soft, then rub through colander and add as much strained tomato, a small onion chopped fine and simmer twenty minutes more, adding water till of right consistency. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

**Veal Ragout**—Take a breast of veal, bone it nicely, flour it and fry a nice brown, then keep it hot by the fire and make the gravy thus: Take the bones that come out of the veal, and any other small pieces that you do not want, and stew them in a pint of water with some onions, peppers, salt and cloves; when done strain it and add the butter the veal was fried in, a little flour that has been browned and some catsup. Stew the meat in it until done.

**Among the Seal Catchers.**

Attoo, Alaska, the most westerly point of land where the American flag flies, is an island fifteen or twenty miles in extent, and of volcanic origin, like all the others of this long chain. It is inhabited by about a hundred and thirty hardy, honest-hearted Aleuts, who subsist by seal-hunting, fishing and the propagation of "blue" foxes and domestic geese.

The Aleuts are honest, kindly people, and no explorer or visitor need have the least apprehension about going among them quite alone and unarmed. They are all Greek Christians, and better Christians in their daily life and behavior than many of our fellow-countrymen nearer the centre of government.

They prosecute seal and whale fisheries to some extent as a means of livelihood, but their principal business is the pursuit and capture of the sea otter.

An expert Aleutian hunter sometimes clears two thousand dollars a year from this industry alone. Aside from fish and the flesh of young seals, their food supplies comes to them mainly by the way of the traders to whom they sell their furs. They dress also for the most part in woollen clothing of the "ready-made" class, which the traders bring them, and their women are said to be close and admiring imitators of Paris fashions, although the "fits" which they obtain are not always as would win the approval of French modistes.

**Congressional Furniture.**

It takes a lot of furniture to fit out the Capitol. It is a pretty big building to furnish with tables and chairs, carpets and rugs, desks and bookcases, washstands, and what not, without taking into account the articles of ornamentation. There are no hundred attics in the country that could furnish, in a combined effort, as much rubbish as is stowed away in that building, some lying away in dark holes, and some serving still as furniture. There are, of course, some articles of furniture that are made valuable by their age and historic association. There are the desks at which our great men of the early days wrote, and the chairs they occupied, and there are rare old pieces of mahogany that are valuable independent of their association, but what an auction sale it would make to sell out all the ramshackle furniture thereabout. It is proposed to recommend to Congress this session to have such a sale, and to make an appropriation to refurnish all the House side, where the furniture is in the worst state of dilapidation.—*Philadelphia Telegraph.*

**Flat-Foot.**

The bones of the foot are arranged from behind forward in the form of an arch, upon the top of which falls the weight of the body. The bones are held together by ligaments which yield a little when pressure is applied, thus forming a sort of elastic cushion which prevents the jar of walking or jumping from being communicated to the rest of the body.

Under normal circumstances the arch should sustain the weight of the body, and when a person rests his whole weight upon one foot, there should be a space at the middle of the sole which is not brought into contact with the floor except at the outer border.

In certain people, whose tissues become lax through debility, the tissues which bind these foot-bones together lose their normal tension, becoming flaccid and easily stretched, so that the bones are not kept in their fully arched position, but tend to flatten out.

Such a condition is known as flat foot. It may be present in varying degrees, and is difficult of correction in proportion to the extent of the falling and the length of time it has existed. Persons whose occupation forces them to stand or walk a great deal, especially if they are very heavy, are most likely to suffer in this manner.

There is noticed first an aching sensation in the arch of the foot or under the heel. Sometimes almost the only evidence of the condition is the presence of pain, which may be thought to be neuralgic or rheumatic, and may be situated at a distance from the real seat of the trouble. The patient walks with a peculiar stamping step, as though he had wooden feet, and generally "toes out."

Recent cases are relieved without much difficulty. Sometimes it is sufficient if the person makes an effort to walk with the toes straight forward, and to tread upon the outer border; or a similar end may be gained if the sole of the boot is built up a little thicker on the inner side. In older and more severe cases artificial supports become necessary, these being plates of steel, either worn inside the shoe or built into the counter. The immediate relief to the wearer is very great, and generally a complete cure results after a longer or shorter time, the ligaments becoming strengthened and allowing the artificial support to be discarded.—*Youth's Companion.*

Brazil is so vast and yet so poorly equipped a country that in remote sections the people did not know of Dom Pedro's deposition and the establishment of the Republic until some weeks after it had occurred.

**Weighing His Wife.**

Two jolly old boys whose combined avoirdupois would reach somewhere above 500 pounds occupied two seats in a Third Avenue Elevated train. They just beamed with happiness and good nature, and exemplified the wisdom of the old exhortation: "Laugh and grow fat."

They compared notes on weight. One declared that when he and his two "boys" got on the scales they tipped the beam at 850 pounds, but his wife was so thin that she formed no obstruction to the sunlight and cast no shadow.

Both laughed uproariously at this and then the other old fogey declared that he could never get his better half to step on the scales and be weighed, because she is so ashamed of her adipose tissue.

"But I got the best of her," chuckled the fat boy, wheezing asthmatically. "I got her in my grocery wagon the other day, and on a pretext that I wanted to talk with Pettigrew, the coal dealer, I drove up in front of his office. She didn't notice, but I stopped the horse just as the wagon was square on the platform sales in front of the office. Then I motioned to Pettigrew and he weighed the whole shebang. Afterward I came back alone and got the wagon weighed with only myself in, and subtracting the result from the first weight I found that I had a 297½-pound wife."

"But I can't have any fun with her about it, she's so mad at the trick I played on her, though I keep a-tellin' her that I love her by the pound."

Both the fat boys laughed so heartily at this that they almost choked to death in concert, to the great alarm of the guard, who called their station out of place in order to get them off his train so that they wouldn't die on his hands.—*New York World.*

**Catching Salmon by Hand.**

The canning of salmon is one of the greatest industries of Alaska. The canneries are situated near the mouth of some river or the outlet of a lake, up which the salmon passes in schools to deposit their spawn. As they return, the stream and the bay are so alive with them that they are caught by millions, and often tossed into the boat or on to the shore with the hand. The output of the canneries for Alaska alone during the past year is 500,000 cases, each case containing forty-eight one-pound cans, and worth at the cannery \$5 a case.—*Mail and Express.*

The deepest bored hole in the world is said to be near Leipsic, Germany. Its depth is 5735 feet, and it took six years to bore it.

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