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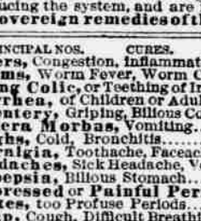

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THE FARM AND GARDEN.

FROSTED COMBS OF FOWLS.

An authority remarks that the comb is easily injured by severe cold, and the larger that member the greater the injury, as it requires more blood to keep it warm than if small and close to the head. The comb indicates the condition of the bird. If it is of a bright scarlet red it denotes health, but if the points turn black you may depend upon it something is wrong. When the comb becomes frosted all that portion injured rots off, and the bird suffers pain. If a hen it will not lay until the injured comb is healed, while a cock with a frosted comb becomes unwell and unserviceable.—*New York Witness.*

HOW TO FEED FOR RICH MILK.

There can be no question among practical dairymen, however much scientific men may doubt it, that rich food will produce rich milk—that is, food rich in fat will add to the fat in the milk. The common practice among the best dairymen is to feed the cows fully with such food as is given under ordinary circumstances, and then either change a part of it or add to it some other kind which contains a large quantity of fat. Thus, a cow fed on clover hay, with as much cornmeal as she will eat, may have two quarts of the meal changed for two quarts of cottonseed meal, which contains nearly three times as much fat as the cornmeal. This change of food will almost always result in the production of more butter without increasing the milk—that is, the milk is richer in fat. A cow that is fed on hay and bran will increase in butter if the bran is displaced by cornmeal.—*New York Times.*

LEARNING TO WALK.

During the winter after the rush of the work is over is a good time to break the colts. Get them accustomed to light work in the winter so that if need be they can be used to some extent during the more pressing work in the spring. One item is of great importance in breaking the colts, and that is to train them to walk well. A larger part of the farm work is done in a walk and it will make considerable difference in the amount of work done whether the team are good walkers or not. One item in doing this is to only work them with horses that are good walkers. One of the best plans of managing a colt is to commence walking it with a good gaited but steady going horse that will take whatever load they are hitched to without difficulty. If, however, he is slow, the colt will soon learn the same gait, and little care in this respect at the start will make a considerable difference in a short time. Be sure at first that the horse used in breaking the colt is naturally a good walker and then see that the colt is well broken beside him and an important point will have been gained.—*Chicago Times.*

PRUNING TREES IN WINTER.

Notwithstanding many say that winter pruning of trees is injurious, I contend that it is not. If done when the wood is not frozen, and the wounds (any over one-fourth of an inch in diameter) be cemented over or even coated with boiled linseed oil, there is no danger of black spots or the flat headed borer taking advantage of it. The covering of the wounds can be done a month after the pruning, as by that time it will have dried so as to take the oil or cement the better. I have already done some pruning this fall. There is another advantage in pruning now, where the rabbits are plenty, as the green brush will give them something to bark, instead of their attacking young trees, much to their injury oft times. If young trees are properly trained from their infancy there need be no other tool needed than a good pocket knife. The pruning of trees in June, as some recommend, I demur most emphatically, as from all my experience, where it becomes necessary from the effects of storms, the result was injurious. It stands to reason that when a tree is in full growth that any foliage taken from it, the result is a check, and cannot be otherwise than injurious.—*Colman's Rural World.*

HOW TO DRESS CALVES.

"Calves from three to six weeks old, and weighing about 100 pounds, or say from eighty to 120 pounds, are the most desirable weights for shipment," said a leading dealer in Faneuil Hall Market. "You ask the way to dress calves," said he; 'there is only one way. The head should be cut squarely off. In some cases the head is scalded and dressed and sent to market, but in most cases is overlooked and left at home. The legs should be cut off at the knee joint. The entrails should be removed, excepting the kidneys. The liver, lights and heart should be taken out. Cut the carcass open from the neck through the entire length,, from head to crotch. If this is done they are not so apt to sour and spoil during hot weather. Do not wash the carcass out with water, but with a dry cloth. Do not ship until the animal heat is entirely out of the body, and never tie the carcass up in a bag, as this keeps the air from circulating, and makes the meat more liable to become tainted

"Mark for shipment by fastening a shipping tag to the hind leg. Calves under fifty pounds should not be shipped, and are liable to be seized by the health officers as being unfit for food. Dealers, too, are liable to be fined if found selling these slunks, for violation of the law. Very heavy calves, such as have been fed upon buttermilk, never sell well in the Boston market, for they are neither veal nor beef."—*Boston Cultivator.*

HAULING OUT MANURE.

After the harvest work is finished and the plowing for the seed has been done there is usually a good opportunity for hauling out manure, and, for winter wheat and grass that is to be sown in the fall, this is one of the best times to manure; and by applying after plowing the work of preparing in a good tilth will work it well into the soil. On many farms it is difficult to find time to haul manure during the main work of cultivating the corn and of harvesting the wheat, oats and hay, so that a considerable quantity will, in many cases, accumulate, and both the meadow and wheat will be largely benefited by an application of this kind. When it can be done the better plan is to haul the manure direct from the stable to the fields and to scatter direct from the wagons, taking pains, of course, to scatter evenly, and to avoid leaving in large lumps, as, if they get dry and hard, it is sometimes difficult to properly fine. In order to secure the best results with manure it is important to have it in such a condition that it can be thoroughly incorporated into the soil and applied on the ground. After plowing the work of harrowing should follow, to get into a proper tilth for sowing the seed. With both winter wheat and fall-sown grass it is very important to have the soil to the depth of at least three inches worked into a good tilth, and the harrow or spring-tooth cultivator can be used to a good advantage in doing this, and if the manure is scattered before this is done it will be worked well into the soil. Clear up thoroughly; everything that can be converted into a good fertilizer should be gathered up and hauled out. The majority of our soils need all the fertilizer it is possible to secure, and a thorough cleaning up of the stables, sheds and yards should be made at this time.—*Farmers' Review.*

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Mature plants for winter work.

Harvest ice and fuel crops early.

Feed and water stock regularly.

Arrange to farm better next year.

Lay your plans for next year's work.

See that each fowl gets its share of feed.

Carefully save all the meat scraps for your fowls.

Now crowd the feed if you are fattening beef, pigs or poultry.

Never allow your horses to stand in the wind or cold unblanketed.

Remember that sand, gravel and like substances are essential to fowls.

Watch prices and prospects, and market your produce opportunely.

Wise stock raisers now try to grow meat rather than to accumulate fat.

Land plaster, carbolic acid and kerosene are all good for the chicken house.

Do not forget that hens learn to eat eggs by having the broken ones left in the nest.

Do not neglect to place clean, pure water every day in accessible places for for your fowls.

Starving or freezing an animal is one way to render farming both unprofitable and unpopular.

Make the most profitable use possible of all by products, for in these often lie the profits of farming.

Organization and co-operation are potent factors for farmers; give them your encouragement and support.

Alternately starving and gorging a pig does not make "a streak of fat and a streak of lean." Feed regularly.

Twenty-five or thirty pounds of granulated sugar syrup is sufficient winter and spring food for one colony of bees.

In no place will it pay better to feed out refuse, cabbage herds and other green stuff than in the poultry yard.

While generally it is not advisable to make a specialty of hogs, yet, nevertheless, they can be kept on every farm with profit.

Even in winter it will be found best to change the materials in the nests occasionally, in order to keep them from becoming foul.

If pigs are to be sold before they are matured care should be taken to have them in a good growing condition in order to realize fine prices.

On hardly one farm in ten is any provision made for saving liquid manure, that valuable fertilizer which is nearly equal in value to the solid portion.

The principal reason why fall pigs are not more profitable is because sufficient care is not taken to receive a healthy, thrifty growth during the winter.

Hogs never should be allowed to sleep on the manure piles, it induces mange as well as an unhealthy condition in the system, that it will be found best to avoid.

Let fowls now have full sway among the grass, shrubs and orchards. They will enjoy the exercise and make havoc among the grubs, slugs, worms and other insects that are injurious to vegetable life. Moreover the diet is cheap and healthy.

Covering strawberries, spinach, kale, pansies, etc., should now be attended to at once if it has not been done already. Bear in mind that the covering should be light, evergreen boughs are the best; salt sedge or thatch next, and coarse, strawy horse manure next.

How delighted most farmers would be to own a cow that would give a pound of butter every day for a year! But such cows are not difficult to find if properly fed and cared for. And still we can't induce one farmer in twenty, perhaps not one in a hundred, to find out what either his best or his poorest cow is worth to him.

Black currants are not so much used in this country as in England where their merits are better appreciated; they are very hardy and prolific and make jellies, tarts and preserves that are esteemed a great delicacy by the English. The liking for the raw fruit must be acquired by practice; few people relish them the first time they eat them, but become very fond of them after a while.

The native hemlock is, to our eye, most beautiful of evergreens. For hedge it has no equal—making a beautiful and compact one—standing shearing perfectly into any desired shape. It is easily transplanted, and when its new and bright green foliage appears it is exquisitely beautiful. It makes handsome trees in isolated positions and is among the best of windbreaks.

ALLIANCE TOPICS.

The Southern Farmers Opportunity And Duty.

An Exposition of What Constitutes a Prosperous Country; Skilled Labor is Wealth.

By the operation of nature's laws this year would seem destined to be the turning point in the financial condition of the great mass of the farmers of the world. For years past the price of the products of the farm has been gradually decreasing, and the decrease has been intensified by the abunbance of the crops raised, not only here but in all the great cereal-growing countries of the world. The effect of this decreased value has been to materially reduce the area planted to cereals; but this reduction alone would not have been sufficient to cause any substantial rise in the value of crops, had it not been that nature had come to man's assistance, and by climatic causes, operating not only here but almost throughout the world, caused a material reduction in the crop yields, sufficient, we believe, to cause a near approximation to supply and demand, and to lift from the market that overwhelming surplus which whilst it existed surely prevented a rise in value. We are now in receipt of the returns of the year's crops from the principal producing countries of the world, and an examination of them yields some startling results. Taking this country first, we find that there will be a probable decrease of 115,000,000 to 120,000,000 bushels of wheat below the crop of 1889; corn will show a decrease of about 600,000,000, and oats will yield less by probably 300,000,000 bushels than last year. Adding these three staples together, we have a gross deficiency of 1,020,060,000 bushels of grain in this country alone. The returns from England show that she will need to import quite as much wheat as last year, say 144,000,000 bushels. France, also, will need to import from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 bushels. Indeed, the whole of Europe, taken together, will require to import about 20,000,000 bushels. The Indian wheat harvest is officially reported at 13 per cent. below the average of the last five years, with a decrease in area of 1,500,000 acres and in yield 955,000 tons. With such figures as these before him no one can doubt but there must be a substantial increase in the value of all the cereals during the winter, and we are strongly of opinion that this will be a permanent increase, as the shortage will, from the natural increase in population and decrease in the area of available land, be a permanent one—that is to say, that even giving good average crops, the surplus having been swept away by this year of diminished production, supply and demand will continue for some years to nearly balance each other, and so a permanent higher level of prices will be maintained. Now here is the Southern farmers' opportunity, and he should make haste to seize it. In this and the adjoining Southern States we have had rather under an average wheat crop, but we have an abundant corn crop. Let, then, every farmer economize in the use of wheat and corn, and hold them as long as he can conveniently. Usually corn is extravagantly fed here and other equally valuable feeds are neglected, or, if used at all, only to a very small extent. Bran, cotton seed, and cotton seed meal may with great economy be substituted for a part of the corn ration for horses, cattle and hogs. Bran will no doubt advance in price, but may yet be bought so as to save money when compared with corn. The cotton crop being a large one, cotton seed and cotton seed meal is likely to be cheap and ought to be used freely. In this way corn may be saved and money be made by its sale whilst the head of paying stock on the farm need not be reduced. Market all stock in excess of what can be well and profitably fed at once, and do not waste an ounce of corn upon them.—Southern Planter.

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SKILLED LABOR IS WEALTH.

The South in natural products is without a rival, says the Constitution. All the world utilizes her raw material for commerce and manufacturers.

But the raw material alone cannot make any section rich. We have inexhaustible fields of iron, but the erude iron is comparatively of little value. It takes skilled labor to make it count. A single iron bar worth $5, worked into horseshoes is worth $10.50; made into needles it is worth $355, and made into balance springs of watches it is worth $250,000!

This is an example of what skilled labor can do.

Then we have cotton. A bale is worth about $50. Skilled labor comes along and turns it into calico worth $250, or into the finest lace worth $10,000!

We might go on indefinitely on the line, but these two illustrations show how the value of a crude product is multiplied when skilled labor takes hold of it.

Here in the South we are just entering upon our march of industrial progress. Our greatest need is to have our labor properly trained. The technological school is Georgia's latest effort in that direction. With the judicious support of the State it will open for our brainy and ambitious young men brighter, more useful and more profitable fields in developing our material resources than any profession can offer. Money spent on this school will be a good investment. It will train up an army of workers who will turn our iron and cotton and other raw material into thousands of useful and beautiful forms that will make this the richest spot on the globe.—Alliance Record.

The World Supplies England's Herbage

English farmers ransack the world for herbage plants. Italy has yielded a variety of rye-grass long naturalized and universally prized in our country. From the far-off shores of New Zealand are brought large quantities of the seed of the Dactylis glomerata or cocksfoot grass; and timothy grass seed or meadow catstail, as well as the seeds of the fescues, come in thousands of bags from America. Alsike, a hybrid clover, is imported from Canada and Sweden; white and red clover seed from Austria and France.—*Boston Cultivator.*

There are 157 farmers in the Vermont Legislature.

WHEN THE NEW WEARS OFF.

He was a youth, and she, a maid,
Both happy young and gay,
They loved—and life to them was fair
As one continuous May.
The croakers saw this happiness,
And said, "Ah, love is blind;
Your're happy now, but care will come,
When the new wears off, you'll find."

They married, and then their life grew rich
With calmer, riper joy;
They were as man and wife more fond
Than when as girl and boy.
Their "friends" could not endure the sight,
And said, with worldly wit,
"It will not be so bright and fine
When the new wears off a bit."

Ah, well the new wore off, of course,
And then, what did they find?
An oldness which was better far,
For love is not so blind
As selfish care, and loving hearts
New joys will always meet,
So, when the new wears off, they'll find
Old love the more complete.

—*Myrtle K. Cherryman, in Free Press.*

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Give no quarter—Men who don't tip.

Always worn out—Rubber overshoes.

A suit for damages—The small boy's.

"What do you do for a living?" "Breathe!"—*Life.*

A young man shouldn't strike his moustache when it's down.

If a courting match is not declared off it must end in a tie.—*Picayune.*

'Tis a painful affliction, I fear,
When farmers have corn in the ear.
—*Judge.*

Married people, it is said, live longer than single ones. It seems longer, any way, to many.—*Boston Traveller.*

It is always good to look on the best side of things; but if you are buying them it is safer to look on both sides.

As down the wall the convict slid,
When he for freedom made a break,
He murmured—in the shadow hid—
"Excuse the liberty I take!"

Patient—"Jehosaphat? You've drawn the wrong tooth." Dentist—"Well, it will cost you only two dollars for an artificial one."—*Munsey's Weekly.*

For all the doctors long have tried
Not one of them has found out yet
The point of death exact and true—
But what about the bayonet?
—*Philadelphia Times.*

"Just see that trombone player. His face is red as a beet from blowing hard." "Yes; he certainly ought to know what is meant by strains of music."—*Boston Herald.*

"Did you tip the waiter?" asked a diner in the House restaurant of a new comer. "No; but I felt as if I'd like to tip him over and then step on him."—*Washington Post.*

THE FINISHING TOUCHES.

He went o'er his speech
Some two hours after,
And put in parentheses
(Hear!) (Cheers) and (Laughter).

Ordinarily we are not in favor of lynch law, but here comes a chap who has produced an instrument which looks like a piano, but hidden away in the inside are six violins, two 'cellos and a couple of violas.—*Pittsburgh Chronicle.*

Mrs. A.—"How do you like our new neighbor?" Mrs. B.—"I never met such an ignorant woman as she is. She can't talk about anything but paintings, books and music. She doesn't know a word of gossip about anybody."—*Manhattan.*

Teacher (in geography class)—"How many inhabitants has Alaska?" Pupil—"About 35,000." What proportion of these are white?" "About one-seventh." "Of what color are the remainder?" (After some hesitation) "Don't know. They never wash."—*Chicago Tribune.*

A Western man who was touring through the East, in passing a meadow, heard the driver say: "Abandon the direct progression to the straight thitherward, and deviate by inclinatory and aberrant dextrogyration into a dextral incidence." It was an amateur Boston farmer saying, "Gee, Buck," to his yoke of oxen.—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*

Miss Wellalong—"What a spiteful little thing that Miss Youngly is! Why, would you believe it, Mr. Candor, she told me the other day that I was beginning to look old. Now, you don't think any one would take me for being old, do you Mr. Candor?" Mr. Candor—"Well, one might just for a moment, but certainly not after he had heard you talk."—*Boston Courier.*

Six Hundred Feet of Frost!

For many years scientists have been perplexed over the phenomenon of a certain well at Yakutsk, Siberia. As long ago as 1828 a Russian merchant began to sink this noted well, and after working on it for three years, gave it up as a bad job, having at that time sunk it to a depth of thirty feet without getting through the frozen ground. He communicated these facts to the Russian Academy of Sciences, who sent men to take charge of the digging operation at the wonderful well. These scientific gentlemen toiled away at their work for several years, but at last abandoned it when a depth of 382 feet was reached, with the earth still frozen as hard as a rock. In 1844 the academy had the temperature of the soil at the sides of the well taken at various depths. From the data thus obtained they came to the startling conclusion that the ground was frozen to a depth exceeding 600 feet.

Although it is known to meteorologists that the pole of the lowest known temperature is in that region of Siberia, it is conceded that not even that rigorous climate could force frost to such a great depth below the surface. After figuring on the subject for over a quarter of a century geologists have come to the conclusion that the great frozen valley of the Lena River was deposited, frozen just as it is found to-day, during the great grinding up era of the glacial epoch.—*St. Louis Republic.*

A lighthouse built of masonry or concrete is said to be the only thing that can stand the terrific force of the seas on Hatteras Shoals.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

NEW WAY OF COOKING BEEFSTEAK.

Buy a nice sound steak; spread over it a dressing made of bread crumbs soaked in boiling water and seasoned with salt, pepper, butter and sage to taste. Then make the steak, spread with this dressing, into a roll. Tie it round and round with a string to keep it together. Place in a dripping pan with a little water and bake in a moderate oven. After taking from the oven remove the cord and slice the roll ready for the table. It is very nice either warm or cold.—*Boston Globe.*

HOW TO COOK RICE.

Rice is becoming a much more popular article of food than heretofore. It is frequently substituted for potatoes as the chief meal of the day, being much more nutritious and much more readily digested. At its present cost it is relatively cheaper than potatoes, oatmeal or grain-grits of any kind. In preparing it only just enough cold water should be poured on to prevent the rice from burning at the bottom of the pot, which should have a close-fitting cover, and with a moderate fire the rice is steamed rather than boiled until nearly done; then the cover is taken off, the surplus steam and moisture allowed to escape, and the rice turns out a mass of snow-white kernels, each separate from the other, and as much superior to the usual soggy mass as a fine mealy potato is superior to the water-soaked article.—*Boston Cultivator.*

BRAISED DUCK.

Draw and singe three ducks. Canvas Back, if you can get them—of course, any other variety will answer, if you cannot procure the first. After the ducks are drawn, wipe carefully with a damp cloth and truss them in good shape. Slice one onion, one carrot, a turnip and two or three slices of celery into a braising or baking-pan. Put the ducks on top, add one quart of stock or water, cover with another pan and bake in a quick oven three-quarters of an hour, basting every ten minutes. When the ducks are half done, dust with salt and pepper. When they are done dish them. Put two tablespoonfuls of butter in a frying-pan to brown. When very brown add two tablespoonfuls of flour and brown again, then add one pint of the liquor from the pan in which the ducks were braised. Stir continually until it boils. Take from the fire, add two tablespoonfuls of mushroom sauce, salt and pepper to taste. Moisten the ducks with this sauce, garnish with cress and serve.—*New York Observer.*

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Tallow, applied warm, will soften and finally cure corns and bunions.

Apples will not freeze if covered with linen cloth, nor a pie or custard burn if in the oven with a dish of water.

Dishes browned by use may be cleaned by letting them remain half or three quarters of an hour in boiling soda-water.

Purify clothes that have been kept from the air by laying pieces of charcoal (wrapped in paper) in the folds. Try the open air at first.

To preserve apples, spread them on a grating, but not in contact with each other, as one bad apple will spoil the others by starting decay.

Two apples kept in the cake box will cause moderately rich cake to remain moist for a great length of time, if the apples are renewed when withered.

Turpentine and black varnish is the blacking used by hardware dealers for protecting stoves from rust. If put on properly it will last through the season.

The best way when hot grease has been spilled on the floor is to dash cold water over it, so as to harden it quickly and prevent it striking into the boards.

Don't forget to have a few beans of coffee handy, for this serves as a deodorizer if burnt on coals or paper. Bits of charcoal placed around are useful in absorbing gases and other impurities.

Lemons should be kept hung up in an open work basket, or a bag made from a net. Soap should be cut into convenient-sized pieces and piled neatly on one end of the shelf, so that the air may circulate and dry it.

Keep your jelly in a cool, dry closet. Either write the name of the variety of the jelly on a neat little slip of white paper, and paste this on the side of the glass, or write in the centre of the covers before pasting them on.

A porcelain kettle is the best for preserving; too large a quantity should never be cooked at one time. Large fruits may be put in the syrup, cooked rapidly at first, and then slowly, to preserve the shape; if the fruit is cooked and the syrup yet thin, take up a piece at a time carefully, boil the syrup until thick, return the fruit to it and cook slowly.

A pretty way of serving eggs for tea is this: Cut bread in nice square pieces and toast. Take eggs out of the shell, keeping yolks whole. Beat the whites to a stiff froth, lay the beaten white around nicely on the toast, drop yolks in centre of white ring, salt and put in hot oven to bake a few minutes. When you take them out of the oven, pour a little melted butter on toast.

A Large Clock.

One of the largest clocks in the world is the great Parliment House clock, usually called the Westminster clock in London. The dials are 22.2 feet in diameter. The depth of the well for the weights is 174 feet. Weight of the minute hand, two cwt.; length, fourteen feet; glass used in dials, twenty-four tons. The large bell is heard ten miles off; the small ones four or five.

$3000 A YEAR! I undertake to briefly teach any fairly intelligent person of either sex, who can read and write, and who, after instruction, will work industriously, the situation or employment at which you can earn that amount. No money for me unless successful as above. Easily and quickly learned. I desire but one worker from each district or county. I have already taught and provided with employment a large number, who are making over $3000 a year each. It is NEW and SOLID. Full particulars FREE. Address at once, E. C. ALLEN, Box 420, Augusta, Maine.