THE FARM CISTERN.

Clean hands and faces and a clean conscience go with plenty of clean, soft water to use. Cistern water as clear as the glass you hold it in is one of the blessings farmers can enjoy that city people cannot, because of the smoke.

A wooden cistern is better than none and will last longer than the rainwater barrel with its "wiggletails." Our cement cistern is thirty-five years old, cost about eight dollars and no expense for repairs and holds about fifty barrels. Any farmer who knows enough to do a good job of cleaning his boots can make a cement cistern. A plasterer's trowel costs forty cents to $1.50. Get a barrel of good cement. The kind your dealer keeps will do, as a cistern, all in the ground, does not have to resist wear and weather like a cement sidewalk. By good cement, we mean that which, wet with as little water as possible and moulded into a little brick, will become hard like a stone, in a day or two. Try your cement and keep the brick in a damp place while it sets and hardens. Use two barrels of screened sand to one of cement. Dig the hole for the cistern carefully, smoothing the clay walls so there will be no uneven places to have too thin a coat of cement over them. Make the bottom six inches deeper in the middle than at the sides. At the top of the firm earth dig the hole four inches larger clean around to the top of the ground. This ledge is to begin to lay brick on with which you arch over the cistern to make the top like that of a jug. A cistern seven feet across will hold nearly ten barrels to the foot, and one eight feet across will hold over twelve barrels to the foot. Make the cistern as wide as deep for least cost. A small roof needs a large cistern so some heavy rain will fill it, while a large roof will not need so large a cistern as it will fill the cistern oftener. The daily use of water being the same in each case.

Digging the hole is the hardest part of the whole job. Thoroughly mix dry, one measure of cement with two measures of sand. Use as little water as possible and wet up about half a pailful of the dry mixture at a time and use quickly. You will soon find just how much water to measure in. Lay up the brickwork on the solid ledge of earth, bringing each course of brick in a little more than the one before, slowly at first and then faster until you come to the neck of the cistern, when you build nearly straight up again to allow a covering of earth to keep out frost. Put a four-inch tile in the wall for the waste pipe near the top of the cistern. Begin to plaster on the cement at the top so you will learn how by the time you get down to where you must do a good job. Round off two of the corners of a short, wide board and nail a handle under the center of the bard. Use this to hold the cement near your work, spread on a half pail of wet cement quickly and rub it hard to squeeze the particles of sand together and then let it alone so it can set. If any cement gets set before it is spread on the wall you must throw it away. You cannot do a smooth job for your cistern is round and your trowel is flat, but try to get three-eighths or one-half inch covering all over the inside. Cover the cistern so the cement will set slowly and in two or three days put on a second coat of cement. Cement of stone or brick in the second coat near the lowest place and on the side near the waste pipe. Give the second coat a few days or a week to set, keeping the top covered so it will not dry too quickly.

Before you fill the cistern get a four-inch galvanized iron pipe with an obtuse elbow, push the short arm tightly into the tile and let the long arm reach down so one edge rests on the stone or brick. Then, when the cistern fills above the waste pipe all the waste water will go up the waste pipe and the stagnant water and dirt that always settle to the bottom will be cleaned out by the surplus water. Never let the dirty washings of a rool at the beginning of a shower, into the cistern, and keep out all tree leaves and seeds or they will blacken and pollute the water.

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A Sudden Twinge

Of pain is generally the first warning of an attack of rheumatism. It feels as if the disease were in the bones or muscles, but the real cause of rheumatism is found in impure blood. In order to cure rheumatism the blood must be cleansed of the poisonous impurities which are the cause of the disease.

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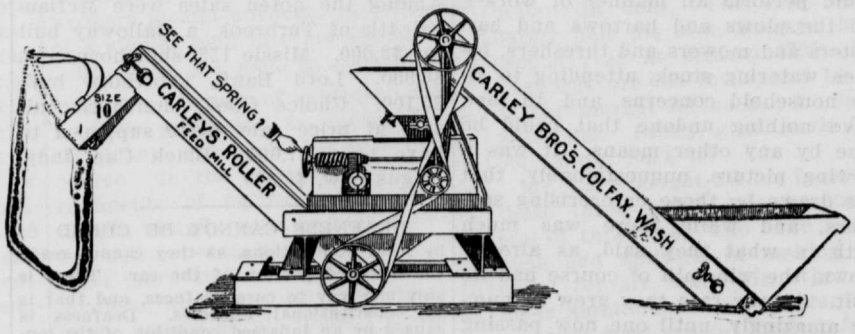

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