DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Some Valuable Information for the Plowman, Stockman, Poulterer, Nurseryman, and Everybody Connected with the Farm.

THE FARM.

Wheat Succeeding Beans.

Beans are a much more exhausting crop than is often thought. It is partly what they take from the soil, as well as their mechanical effect in leaving it too dry, that unfits them for preceding a good wheat sowing. Beans are also [illegible]ly a very weedy crop, as it injures [illegible] to cultivate after the plant is in blossom. Abundant weeds, joined to the exhaustion of soil by the bean crop, leaves it dry and hard. When the weeds are turned under, if rain comes to cause them to rot, the seed bed is too porous to make the right kind of wheat growth. But if there be plenty of rainy weather, cultivation and free use of the roller will make the seed bed what is needed, and a dressing of superhosphate will restore the mineral fertility that the bean crop has taken from the soil.

Peas for Pigs.

No kind of grain is better for pigs, or yet for fattening hogs, than field peas. They require less labor than corn, and for inducing thrifty growth they are superior to any grain, excepting possibly wheat. A patch of peas ought to be sown expressly for the pigs, and as soon as the peas are fully grown a hurdle fence moved from place to place will enable the pigs to harvest the crop themselves. While the vines are green they will eat pods and leaves, but as soon as the peas begin to ripen the pigs become expert shellers. It is an excellent crop to grow in orchards, and the rooting of the pigs in search of scattered grains will keep the surface mellow and cover the droppings which they make, thus insuring against waste. To grow peas in orchards and feed them down with hogs there becomes a good way of keeping the trees in best condition.

Feeding Green Corn.

An Iowa correspondent of the *Western Swineherd*, in relation to feeding green (unripe corn) says:

I am one of those who believe that intelligent care is doing more to save swine from disease than all the remedies and preventives under the sun. From the hap-hazard methods of fifty years ago has grown up systematic methods for the care of stock. And the more intelligence used in breeding and handling the greater the success. True, swine are still lowest in the scale of care, for it is a work dissipating the prejudice of ages: "that anything is good enough for a hog." We are making commendable progress—we have learned that good blood and good care tell even with swine. Yet what good care is may often be mistaken. And now I come to the point I wish to touch upon and learn how nearly general opinion coincides with my observation. If hog cholera has a special season of virulence it lies between September 1, and the holidays. I know it "hath all seasons for its own," but it is when the corn begins to glaze—when people begin cutting it up and feeding it—that the unaccountable outbreaks of disease are most numerous and fatal. It may not be the corn, but I have my suspicions that it will be well to feed the corn carefully.

An observant friend of mine once remarked in my presence that "hog cholera always comes with a big corn crop." I did not fully understand him then but have since concluded that he knew what he was saying. I conclude that the anatomical experts know what they are talking about when they say that the human and the hog viscera are gotten up pretty much on the same plan. That being so, I point this interogation: How many, human stomachs subjected to a "hard-tack" diet for six months could switch suddenly to exclusive green corn without deathly revolt? Yet it is just this sudden change that half the hogs in the country must endure in the next six weeks. I am daily passing a side-hill feed lot containing some sixty head of hogs and shoats. It is owned by a good farmer, as the world goes, but he is built on the shorthorn plan and can see no merit in anything but cattle. This lot is barren of shade and as free of grass as the sole of my shoe is of hair. A trough fed from the overflow of a tank dedicated to the more favored stock, furnishes an intermittent water (and mud) supply. Dry ear corn twice a day is the diet. I expect to see cut up green corn take the place of the dry corn. The sudden transition of one to the other may not cause pestilence and death, but twice in the past six years "cholera" has swept this hog lot shortly after green corn diet was introduced. Now this method of feeding and caring for hogs is not at all singular. It is the rule or at least the custom on many farms.

I have no doubt at all but much—probably 50 per cent—of the cholera of the fall and winter season is due to this reckless feeding. Is green food injurious? you may ask. Not at all when judiciously used. I endorse all that is claimed in behalf of the sensible use of green food, but its abuse is what I cavil at. Don't violate the plainest laws of common sense. A gradual change of foods is the practical and safe way, and in changing over to green corn if care is used the fall cases of cholera will be fewer than heretofore. If turned from other green feed to green corn there need not be so much care used, but in all changes of diet sudden and radical measures should be avoided.

THE STOCK RANCH.

Pure Water for Cows.

At this season of the year the quality of milk is often unfavorably influenced by poor water, when the cause is frequently supposed to be the inferior dried-up pastures on which they feed. Cows are not fastidious about the water they drink provided only that it be warm. They will often drink stagnant water from a pool while rejecting that of first quality fresh from the well. The cow's instinct teaches her that the cool, refreshing liquid at a temperature far below her own blood will give her an attack of indigestion. She does not care half so much for impurities in the water she drinks, because, forsooth, these impurities are discharged from the system in her milk. It is just here that man must step in and interfere for his own protection. He is only indirectly interested in the cow's health, as it affects the milk she produces. He is directly interested in the milk because it, in various forms, is a staple article of his own food. Butter made from cows fed on stagnant water cannot be rid of the original microbe infesting it, and it is almost impossible to make it keep well, however salted. This is often the trouble with summer-made butter.

Live Stock Notes.

An exchange says young pigs with thumps should be placed in clean, cool quarters, given plenty of pure, cool water to drink, and a quantity of Glauber salts night and morning. Feed freely with roots, but omit corn.

Breeders in Scotland have made several sales of Shetland ponies to American importers. The Shetland Pony Stud-book in this country and also in Great Britain has greatly stimulated the trade in choicely bred ponies with pedigrees.

Wyoming sheep men are now using Shropshire, Cotswold and Lincoln bucks much more than formerly, and are well pleased with the results. Wool and mutton are the main objects now. The cross of the mutton rams on grade Merino ewes is quite satisfactory.

Nine-tenths of the hogs bred and fattened for market by the average farmer do not have as much salt as they should. Only the hog starved for it will take an overdose when it is thrown to him. Away with the idea that it is dangerous to salt the hogs! Give it to them daily either in their slops or where they can have access to it. Wood ashes mixed with it will not hurt any.

THE DAIRY.

Skill in Cheese-Making.

I will say a few words about the application of skill in a cheese factory. When a man in a cheese factory has a weighing can all greasy inside and all spattered outside, he is not ready to sell skill. He is going to contaminate the milk, and skill and contamination won't go in partnership in diary work. When a man has not the milk spout washed oftener than once a week he is not going to supply any skill; and he cannot sell skill that way, for skill does not run through a pipe like that. Let me tell you right here that when a man sells anything he gets from a farmer, he never sells at a profit except when he sells skill, and that pays; but bad milk and bad butter are so limited in their capacity for holding skill that the buyer never detects the skill, and so he does not pay for it.

Then when a man has a milk vat that has been painted, and that may be painted yet for all any observer can tell from its outside appearance, he is not ready to sell skill.

Then when a cheese-maker does not have the hoops in his factory scrubbed oftener than twice a year, he may sell some skill; but somehow the skill outside is applied unskillfully; and you know if you have skill in a cheese with a rough outside, the buyer wants to get the cheese for the price of unskillfully made goods. I will give you a little wrinkle here. If you will buy a few cents' worth of borax and wash your hoops with that once a week, I believe you seldom would have mold on the sides of the cheese. I have had cheese stored in rather a damp place for a long while that have been treated in that way, and I cannot find any mold coming on them yet. Skill can be sold that way to advantage.

Then if a man has a strainer cloth on his vat through which the milk can hardly find passage at all—well, he has dammed the channel of skill. It does not run that way. Suffer me to say a few plain things here. There are cheese-makers who write to me complaining of the careless neglect of the farmer in not airing his milk, when they have a strainer cloth that would completely counteract all the good of aeration. The cheese-maker should remember that it is a good thing not to complain of the mote in his neighbor's eye when there is a beam in every part of his strainer's eye. —*From an address by Prof. James W. Robertson at a Convention of dairymen at Stratford, Ont.*

THE POULTRY-YARD.

Profitable Poultry on the Farm.

Miss Mary Zimmerman writes to the *Northwestern Farmer and Breeder* the following concise directions for the care of poultry.

FEED.

Poultry should be fed regularly, and a change should not be made in food too often.

The best, and most excellent articles of food for poultry is wheat, or parched corn.

Fowls must be fed twice a day and must have a constant supply of pure, fresh water.

The indestructible stone drinking fountains so generally used are well adapted to hold the supply.

The chicken house should be cleaned once or twice a week.

Poultry should have lime in some form for the formation of the egg shell.

BREEDING AND HATCHING.

Hens should be set in the evening, and furnished with a good nest in a darkened spot.

The hen should be taken off the nest every day, for food, water, brief exercise, and a good dusting.

The young chicks should not be removed until twenty-four hours after they all are hatched.

Young chickens should be fed regularly and often until five or six weeks old.

If intended for marketing they should be forced and marketed early; early spring chickens pay best.

If the chickens have been liberally fed they will be in prime condition for the table without any extra fatening.

In raising fowls for market, as a rule, the chicks should be killed as soon as ready, certainly as soon as they have attained full size, as then better prices are generally procured than later in the season.

THE MARKET.

Poultry costs less to produce than beef, and brings a higher average price.

Fowls and eggs are always in demand.

In preparing poultry for market dress as nicely as possible.

For scalding poultry, the water should be as near the boiling as possible, without actually boiling; the bird being held by the head and legs, should be immersed and lifted up and down in water three times; this makes picking easy.

Most of the poultry sold is wet picked, and such is generally preferred.

In preparing frozen poultry for the late market, dry pick the poultry, as it will keep longer, hold its color better, and commands better prices; the head should be left on, as it looks better.

THE APIARY

Marketing Honey.

Every producer should interview his customers, and ascertain the size he prefers the honey to be in, and whether he prefers comb or extracted. The editor of *Gleanings in Bee Culture* lately interviewed the commission men of large cities, who handle honey, to ascertain the size of section the trade prefer. Their replies show, almost unanimously, that the weight preferred is a trifle less than a pound; preferring it to weigh fifteen to seventeen ounces, as retailers sell by the piece, and buy by weight.

Standard Size.—The size determined upon by universal consent is 4⅛x1⅝x1⅞ inches. As this no doubt will be the standard, it will save a great deal of "vexation of spirit" if all adopt it. Shipping cases and crates for holding sections on the hives, will be manufactured to suit this, and when odd sizes are ordered, delays will necessarily ensue, which might cause the producer to lose his whole crop. I would prefer a section that would hold just as near one pound as possible. Lately I interviewed dealers, who strive to do a straight business, and that is what they prefer. Another one of the snide order preferred light weight; buying by weight and selling by the piece.

Size of Package.—This will depend largely upon where the honey is to be disposed of. Where the producer delivers in person, to consumers or to small dealers, a package of one dozen sections will be preferable. A family will take a case of this size when it would not a larger one. If shipped by express, when these small packages would be unloaded from the car, they are too often either tossed onto the load, or caught in the hands of another, and much of the honey broken loose from the sections. If enough of these small packages were packed into a crate, with handles to it, and large enough so that two men would handle it, who are paid by the day and work slowly, and sent by freight, it might reach its destination safely. So the size of the package should depend largely on how and where it is to be marketed.

THE HOUSEHOLD

Mending a Glove.

The following directions for mending a kid glove are given in an eastern paper: Every one who has attempted the task knows that it requires a particularly deft touch to mend a rent in a glove successfully. In the picture of Hilda, the heroine of the "Marble Faun," engaged in mending her gloves, Hawthorne draws attention to the grace of this peculiarly feminine task. The best glove-menders in the world, unfortunately for this sentiment, are men, "professional glove sewers," who handle the kid and needle with methodical dexterity. A rip is a simple matter to them; it is in mending a tear in the kid that they show their skill. The color of the glove is carefully matched in silk taffeta or any silk goods of firm, light quality, and in sewing silk. A piece of the silk is run on the inside carefully under the rent so as to bring the edges together, but not so as to show on the outside of the glove, and the edges of the kid are then drawn together by almost invisible stitches, as a cloth-mender mends cloth.

Properly rubbed with the finger, the rent hardly shows if it is not in a place where the stitches are stretched when the glove is worn. After a little perseverence any one can catch up this art of glove-mending and learn to do the work with something of the skill of an expert. A rip in the stitching even may be "stayed" with a bit of silk, where it is caused by a special strain, and may be kept in this way from breaking out again.

Hints to Housekeepers.

Keep cake in a tin or wooden box.

New iron should be gradually heated at first; it will not be so likely to crack.

Furniture needs cleaning as much as other woodwork. It may be washed with warm soap suds quickly, wiped dry and then rubbed with an oily cloth. Clean off the oil and polish with chamois skin.

The French method of administering castor oil to children is to pour the oil into a pan over a moderate fire, break an egg into it and stir up; when it is done flavor with a little salt or sugar or current jelly.

Whenever your little ones cough and are hoarse, and there are any signs of croup, stir a fourth of a teaspoonful of allspice in a teaspoonful of molasses, and give at once. Repeat the dose as often as necessary. It is very loosening and efficacious.

The way to can peaches is to have a kettle of boiling water and another of syrup, made quite rich. Drop the peaches into the water and let them boil until just tender when lift them out with a wire spoon and put them into the can; fill it up with the clear syrup and seal directly.

Skim-milk added to twice the quantity of warm water cleans graining or any varnished woodwork easily, and injures the varnish less than any other preparation, as proved by many years trial. It brightens up oilcloths to wash them over with skim-milk after cleaning.

To cure hiccoughs sit erect and inflate the lungs fully. Then, retaining the breath, bend forward slowly until the chest meets the knees. After slowly rising again to the erect position, slowly exhale the breath. Repeat this process a second time, and the nerves will be found to have received an excess of energy that will enable them to perform their natural functions.

THE KITCHEN.

Breakfast Cake.

Two tablespoons of sugar, two tablespoons of butter, two eggs, one cup of milk, one (scanty) quart of flower, one teaspoon of soda, two of cream tartar. Bake twenty minutes in a quick oven. Eat hot with butter.

Rice Pudding.

One and one-half cups of sugar, one cup of rice, a piece of butter half the size of an egg, put in a two-quart basin, and fill the basin with good, rich milk, put in a slow oven and bake two hours. Stir two or three times.

For Flowers.

Birch-bark canoes of various sizes are charming flower holders. One filled with dark-purple pansies is effective, the contrast of color being delightful. Very small canoes, six or seven inches long, are just the thing for holding violets.

Breakfast Balls.

A little cold beef or mutton, or both, a slice of ham or salt pork, a small quantity of bread crumbs, a little parseley (if you have it,) a little sage; chop all together and add seasoning to taste, a little melted butter and an egg well beaten. Take a tablespoonful of the mixture, dredge it in flour and make it into a ball, which fry a quick brown. This is a good way of getting rid of cold meat and is a nice breakfast dish.

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Largest Importation of draft stallions to America this season. Quality the very best. First-class horse, either breed. $1,000. Two and three year's time, 8 per cent., enabling horse to pay for himself.

The New York *Tribune* tells of a fastidious lady who drove to her butcher's and told that individual that whenever he or his assistants spoke to her through the telephone they must wash their hands and put on a coat. "It is highly indelicate," she said, "for you to speak to a lady with unclean hands and in your shirt sleeves, and unless you cease doing so I shall have to trade with the other butcher person."

Commendable.

All claims not consistent with the high character of Syrup of Figs are purposely avoided by the Cal. Fig Syrup Company. It acts gently on the kidneys, liver and bowels, cleansing the system effectually, but it is not a cure-all and makes no pretensions that every bottle will not substantiate.

Trying the Civilized Way.

Indians, about 300 of them, have been in camp at Athens, Mich., trying to get converted according to the civilized way. Wakazoo, daughter of Chief Petoskey, led the singing, and an interpreter put the words into the red man's dialect. The day services are quiet and subdued, and nothing differs materially from a quiet Methodist meeting. But when darkness gathers round, the natives, recognizing the forest as their native home, are again in their original state, and their worship is of the wildest kind. Women scream, dance, swing their arms and work themselves into such a state of excitement that they frequently fall into semi-consciousness.

A Saginaw lady who by great effort had procured a pair of the new French gloves—thirty-two buttons—was surprised and somewhat disgusted the other day to find them upon her little son's legs. The shaver had put them on for leather leggins, and they made him a good pair, coming well above the knees.

Blue is the Chinese mourning color. When you see a Chinaman wearing a blue coat or with blue braid plaited in his queue you may take it for granted that some relative or dear friend is dead.

Strange indeed that a plain thing like SAPOLIO should make everything so bright, but "a needle clothes others, and is itself naked." Try a cake in your next house-cleaning.

The authorities of the Swiss canton of Schwytz deny that they have ordered the William Tell episode to be expunged from the school books.

Delays are dangerous. Don't wait for your child to have an epileptic fit. Kill at once the worms that are making her feel so poorly by giving Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyers.

Why is a peacock like the figure nine? Because it is nothing without its tail.

"I'M locked in slumber," murmurs the prison bird in his sleep.—*Philadelphia Record.*

The breeches of promise, young man, are the ones you haven't paid for yet.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

An auctioneer is valuable only for his selocutionary ability.—*Burdette.*

IN AUTUMNAL HOURS.

Summer has gone, yet splendor hovers still
O'er the wood and dale, each wood and fen;
Morn's purple mist enfolds each distant hill,
While nightly moonlit shadows flood each glen.

Each autumn flower, while clad in richest hue,
Floats royal pennants on each passing gale;
The cardinal glows in red, gentian in blue;
While gold, from golden rod, gilds hill and dale.

Rare sunset views enrich the glowing sky,
Amber and opal clouds pile in the west,
While weird-like moonbeams floating idly by,
Proclaim a twilight filled with royal rest.

All things look rich, from apples red and bright,
To purple grapes that cluster on the vine,
From fields of corn that rustle crisp and light,
To tuft of thistle and to cone of pine!

Rich glories we find in autumnal hours—
A sense of fullness and completeness, too—
A chant of praise broods over fruits and flowers,
For beauties added ere they fade from view:
—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

The *very best way* to know whether or not Dobbins' Electric Soap is as *good* as it is said to be, is to *try it yourself*. It can't deceive *you*. Be sure to get no imitation. There are lots of them. Ask your grocer.

A wild sweet potato found growing near Paulsboro, N. J., measured twenty inches in circumfrence and weighed twelve and one-half pounds, it is said.

A Salem, Ore., woman has ripe raspberries in her garden, the second crop this year.

Is the black man who runs the three-card game a native of Monte-negro?—*Cincinnati Traveler.*

Scrofula

Is the most ancient and most general of all diseases. Scarcely a family is entirely free from it, while thousands in every city are its suffering slaves. Hood's Sarsaparilla has had remarkable success in curing every form of scrofula. The most severe and painful running sores, swellings in the neck or goitre, humor in the eyes, causing partial or total blindness, have been cured by this successful medicine. All who suffer from scrofula should give Hood's Sarsaparilla a fair trial.

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—OR,—

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