AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How the Agricultural Fair Benefits the Farmer—A Handy Contrivance—Something About the Horse and How He Should be Cared For—Other Topics Concerning the Farm and Home.

The Farmer Feedeth All.

My lord rides through his palace gate,
My lady sweeps along in state,
The sage thinks long on many a thing,
And the maiden muses on marrying;
The minstrel harpeth merrily,
The sailor ploughs the foaming sea,
The huntsman kills the good red deer,
And the soldier wars without a fear,
But fall to each whate'er befall,
The farmer he must feed them all.

Smith hammereth cheerily the sword,
Priest prescheth pure and holy word,
Dame Alice worketh broidery well,
Clerk Richard tales of love can tell,
The tap-wife sells her foaming beer,
Dan Fisher fisheth in the mere,
And courtiers ruffle, strut and shine,
While pages bring the Gascon wine;
But fall to each, whate'er befall,
The farmer he must feed them all.

Man builds his castles fair and high,
Whatever river runneth by.
Great cities rise in every land,
Great churches show the builder's hand,
Fair palaces and pleasing bowers,
Great work is done be't here and there,
And well man worketh everywhere;
But work or rest, whate'er befall,
The farmer he must feed them all.

THE FARM.

The Agricultural Fair.

Attendance upon the agricultural fairs is one of the important, and to a great extent unappreciated, means by which farmers can easily obtain both pleasure and profit. It is true, as is often asserted, that too many of our fairs have made horse-trots and side shows of various kinds altogether too prominent. But even where the legitimate purpose of an agricultural fair seems to have been almost wholly forgotten, and the advertising "attractions" are foreign to the proper spirit of the occasion, the intelligent and thoughtful farmer can find much that will be pleasant and useful. Then, too, by his presence and influence, and by his contributions as an exhibitor, he can do much to improve the character of the fair and to bring about a better state of things for the future.

Even at a fair which, from an agricultural point of view, is far from first-class, the farmer will find many things that he does not have at home, and will be able to obtain a good deal of information. He will find different breeds of the various classes of live stock and can judge much better of their relative merits, and of their adaptation to his circumstances and conditions, by looking them over than he can by merely reading about them. Different varieties of corn and other grain will be exhibited, and he can form a pretty correct opinion as to whether any of the sorts are superior to the ones which he has under cultivation. He will also find specimens of the new varieties of potatoes, and can decide whether it will be best to give any of them a trial the next season. The same is true of the numerous kinds of garden vegetables.

In regard to fruits a great deal of information can be obtained. Nearly every farmer will find specimens of varieties which he does not grow, but about which he has read. He can note their special characteristics and compare their qualities with those of the sorts which he produces. Farm implements and machines will also be on exhibition, and, by looking them over, the visitor may get many excellent ideas about labor-saving implements. Even if he does not find anything that he needs to purchase, he will get much useful information in comparing the machines of different makers.

Not the least of the benefits which the farmer will receive from attending the fair will be gained by meeting friends and acquaintances who are in the same line of business, and in talking with them about the various methods of doing farm work and the relative value of different crops and varieties. Then, too, aside from all direct business interests, the change from the everyday work of the farm, and the meeting and conversing with other people, will be of great and lasting benefit both to body and mind.

Not only should the farmer go to the fair but he should take his family with him. Even more than himself the boys and girls need the change from ordinary duties and the information that is to be obtained at the fair. They will there find much to interest them in, and make them contented with, farm life. And far more than any other member of the family the wife needs the change which attendance at the fair will give to the routine of daily life. She will see numberless things in which she will be interested, meet many old friends, get numerous helpful hints, and be greatly encouraged for faithful work in the future.

By all means go to the fair. If possible enter something for exhibition and thus gain a personal interest in its success. Take the family along and "make a day of it." If wisely improved it will be a day of many benefits and will be long and pleasantly remembered by all. —*Practical Farmer.*

A Handy Contrivance.

This is a handy block for resting a team on the hills. It is made from a piece of scantling 4x4 inches; 5x5 will answer better if the hills are very steep, and 12 inches long. A hole was bored through it near one end, in which a handle was secured, long enough to place the block behind the wagon when standing by the front of the team. This allows the driver to place and remove the block with one hand, while holding the lines with the other. The handle can be fitted in the socket of the brake lever when not in use.—*J. H. A., in Farm and Home.*

ABOUT THE HORSE.

Stable Ventilation.

Nothing in the ordinary surroundings of a horse can be so injurious as the absence of good ventilation. Any number of horses are kept in places where no ventilators exist, and in many places where ventilators were put in by a well-meaning hand, one finds them stuffed up with straw and hay. Now, when it is remembered, says a practical writer, that a horse breathes much stronger than a man, that the exhalations from his skin and elsewhere are greater than from any human being, it only stands to reason that ill-ventilated stables cannot possibly be preservative of a horse's health any more than a foul-smelling room would be of a human being's health. If a stable owner wants to know the atmosphere that his horses breath, let him be the first man in the stable of a morning, when, unless his power of scent is all but gone, he will often have occasion to be horrified at the air his animals have to breathe. Free ventilation may have a tendency to cause colts to stare but that is not half as bad as to undermine a horse's health by making him breathe foul air. Good light is likewise of great importance in the stable. Vegetation will die in the half-darkened room; it wants the sun's rays to keep up its vitality; the trees in the forest grow straight so as to obtain their share of the light, and their lower branches die off because the light does not penetrate to them Is it reasonable to suppose that animal life can be deprived of the vitalizing influences of light with impunity?

When to Train a Horse.

Twenty years ago the average trainer believed that the time to break a colt was at from 3 to 5 years of age. The performance was a stand up fight between the trainer and the colt, and perhaps the colt came out of the mill worsted —he certainly came out worse. Now all is changed. The youngster grows up under control—he never knows absolute freedom, and therefore he never feels subjection. Before he is strong enough to make stubborn resistance he has forgotten there is anything to resist. To go as he is guided and do as directed has become his natural habit. His whole early life is an inductional course of education.

A Harness Attachment.

Mr. Jos. Hannan, of Bartholomew County, Ind., sends to the *Rural New Yorker* this drawing of his device for holding down a horse that is inclined to rear and prance:

It is made complete with four snaps, one ring and one buckle, as shown in the cut. To put on the contrivance snap the ends marked B to the rings in the breeching straps, bring the ends A inside the girth, pass up through loop in the breast strap, and snap to the rings in the bits.

THE DAIRY.

The Cow as a Machine.

Cows have frequently been compared to machines in years past, but just now a number of dairy writers are protesting against this comparison. This illustrates very forcibly the soundness of which we said a few weeks since about the trouble that is often caused by a half truth. The cow is a machine; that is, there are many points of similarity between these specimens of animate and inanimate creation. The cow, like the machine, takes certain raw materials and transforms them into a finished product; which in both cases, is dependent largely upon the amount and quality of the raw material. Other points of similarity could be noted and it is therefore correct to say, speaking metaphorically, that the cow is a machine. But the similarity will not hold when carried to all the characteristics of each. For instance, the machine has not the nervous temperament of the living organism, which must be kept in mind in caring for the cow. But how utterly ridiculous and foolish it is, unless one is writing to fill space, to occupy a column in the attempt, therefore, to prove that the cow is not a machine. Both sides are right so far as they go; each side resting on a partial truth.

One writer, who recently tried to argue that the cow is not a machine, was doubly foolish and nonsensical because he rested his arguments on the statement that, "A machine may be pounded with a hammer, kept out in a storm and cold, and be neglected," but said he, "let any of these evils come upon a cow and a decreased flow of milk follows." The idea that a machine can thus be maltreated and exposed is too absurd to need refutation. Many delicate machines if subjected to neglect, the oxidizing of the elements, or rough, heavy blows would suffer almost as much as the nervous temperament of the cow. Stop this profitless old argument about the material of different sides of the shield. The age has plenty of useful and vital life issues.—*New England Farmer.*

THE APIARY.

Skunks as Bee-Eaters.

Skunks not only make raids upon the poultry, but they find it very profitable to attack the bees' stores of honey, says *American Cultivator.* They are unable to get into the hives, not having the gnawing powers of some of the other rodents, but they succeed very well in killing the bees. Their mode of procedure is to scratch on the outside of the hive until the attention of the bees is attracted, and they come outside to ascertain the cause. Then they catch the bees as they emerge from the narrow doorway and proceed to eat them. They prefer those bees with honey in their sacs, and the dead drones in front of the hives are not touched. The skunks would be a greater nuisance if they could get in at the honey, for they would then be in their glory. However, one or two of these creatures can rapidly depopulate a hive by the method mentioned. Traps are about the only thing that will stop this, and as skunks are not at all pleasant things to handle, unless dead, this method of catching them is not always satisfactory. Steel traps only wound them and do not kill unless it catches them in some vital part.

Cuban Honey Fields.

From the news which comes to us from Cuba, it is a wonderful honey country. The flow begins in December and lasts until May, and does not entirely cease at any season of the year. The honey produced is mainly extracted, of good quality, for southern honey, and sells at 50 to 70 cents per gallon in New York city. The yields reported are some of them very large, as much as 150 to 200 pounds per colony, from apiaries ranging from 400 to 500 colonies.—*Rural Homes.*

THE POULTRY-YARD.

Do Hens Pay?

The question is often asked: "Do hens pay?" My experience enables me to answer: "Yes." I have twenty-one Leghorn hens that from Feb. 5 to April 30 have produced fifty-eight dozen eggs, which at 18 cents per dozen amounts to $10.44. It cost me for feed in that time $2.55, leaving me a net profit of $7.80. I had a number of white Leghorn pullets that laid when they were four months and ten days old. I think for an all-round hen, summer and winter, cold and warm weather, the white Leghorn stands in the front rank.

I will also state that, independent of the profit in eggs, the poultry droppings since last October mixed with good loam once a week formed a bulk of twenty bushels, which I believe will prove worth 50 cents per bushel in my kitchen garden. I judge from my last year's experience, when from two quarts of string beans sown I sold seven bushels of beans at 80 cents per bushel, or at a profit of $5.60; that did not include what was used on the home table.—*Mrs. H. K., Midlothian, Vt., in New York World.*

How to Keep Eggs.

The egg begins to grow stale almost as soon as it is laid, and the cause of many failures to preserve eggs perfectly fresh, says the *Farmers' Monthly,* is found in the fact that decay set in before the preserving began, and of course it continued in spite of efforts to arrest it. In preserving eggs, therefore, take none but those fresh from the nest. This is the first rule to observe. The next is, no matter what process you use, keep the preserved eggs in the coolest dry place possible; dampness will mould them, heat will rapidly evaporate their natural moisture, and any process which will keep them absolutely air tight will keep them fresh for an indefinite length of time. Among the countless methods recommended is this one:

Take five quarts of rock salt, five pounds of unslacked lime and a quarter of a pound of cream of tartar; dissolve in four pails of water, which makes sufficient pickle for a barrel of eggs. Eggs are always to be kept under pickle.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

Household Hints.

A KITCHEN grindstone that sits on the table is not expensive and lasts a generation.

AFTER washing a wooden bowl place it where it will dry equally on all sides, away from the stove.

SALT extracts the juice from meat in cooking. Steaks ought not therefore to be salted until they have been broiled.

ALWAYS remove the contents of tin cans the moment they are opened. It is positively dangerous to leave canned goods in the open air.

ONE can grate horse-radish without very badly affecting the eyes, by grating it in front of the fire. Open the front stove doors. Onion can be peeled in the same way.

SAVE all your broken and crooked carpet tacks, and keep them in a box in the kitchen for cleaning bottles They are better than shot, for the sharp edges scrape off all the stains.

SUET should be cooked before it is stale. Boil for two or three hours, then strain it through linen cloth. One-fourth of this fat and three-fourths lard is a good mixture for frying doughnuts.

TO CLEAN porcelain saucepans fill them half full of hot water, and put in the water a teaspoonful of powdered borax, and let it boil. If this does not remove all the stains scour the pans well with a cloth rubbed with soap and borax.

TO KEEP lamp chimneys from breaking put a cloth in the bottom of a large pan, fill the latter with cold water, and place the new chimney in it; cover the pan and let its contents boil one hour, then take the pan from the fire and let the chimney remain in the water until it is cold.

THE KITCHEN.

Practical Recipes.

MUFFINS.—On quart of flour, one cup of sugar, one pint of milk, a rounding tablespoonful of butter, two heaping teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Bake either in pans or gem pans.

CANNED BLACKBERRIES.—These are canned just as the strawberries are except that less sugar is needed; about a quarter pound to a pound of fruit. Granulated sugar is the best to use as it is the purest sugar you can buy.

CHERRIES WITH TAPIOCA.—Soak one cup of tapioca in two cups of cold water. Let it simmer in a pint of water slowly until the tapioca is clear; while hot, stir in a pint of stoned and sweetened ripe cherries. Put on ice for a while and serve with cream and sugar.

LUNCH CAKES.—One cup milk, four cups flour, two tablespoonfuls butter, half cup sugar, two eggs, two tablespoonfuls currants, one teaspoonful baking powder. Cream the butter and sugar, and stir them into the beaten eggs and milk. Add the flour and baking powder, and last of all the currants washed, dried and dredged with flour. Roll out the dough, cut into rounds, and bake in a moderate oven. Split, butter, and eat while hot.

GOOSEBERRY JAM.—Use equal parts of gooseberries and sugar, adding if possible a little currant juice to give a pretty color and flavor to the jam. Partly cook the berries in the currant juice before adding the sugar. Watch it carefully and stir frequently in the last part of the process or it will stick to the kettle. Cook until on trial it will become stiff in cooling, then remove to jars or glasses and seal hot.

LEMON JELLY.—Take one box of gelatine, four cupfuls of sugar, the juice of four lemons and soak together for ten minutes in one quart of cold water. After the gelatine is thoroughly soaked add one quart of boiling water and stir until the gelatine and sugar are well dissolved, then strain through a jelly bag. Pour the jelly in a mould and set away to cool.

Very Hard Luck.

Jones—It is too bad. I believe I was born on an unlucky day.

Smith—Why so?

"Here I am, a mere nobody, and yet the man that I made sits to-day in the halls of Congress, and he don't acknowledge his debt, either."

"That is strange. To whom are you referring?"

"To Colonel Blank."

"But he owes all his political success to his brilliant war record."

"Yes; but if it had not been for me he would not have any war record."

"How so?"

"I was drafted, and sent him to the war as my substitute."—*Philadelphia Call.*

A WRITER in *Our Country Home* sensibly urges that drivers of teams should sit upon the left side of the vehicle where the habit is, as in America, to "keep to the right." By so doing the driver will be able to see the hubs of approaching vehicles, and thus shave danger of collision closely with a greater degree of safety than is possible when he sits on the other side, often with another person on the seat between him and the middle of the road.

DEATH has made havoc among the general officers of all grades that served in the confederate armies. Of the total number—498—only 184 are now living. G. P. T. Beauregard is the only general surviving, and Kirby Smith the only general with temporary rank. There are eight lieutenant generals and thirty-three major generals still living, the other survivors are brigadier generals.

Woe to the Conquered.

The Romans cried "*Væ Victis!*" "Woe to the conquered!" at their triumphs. To-day many of us are being conquered—our peace, our rest and daily appetite wrested from us by that invader of the stomach, dyspepsia. Succor we sue for from a hundred sources. Temporary relief we sometimes obtain. But a hearty meal, the simplest indiscretion in diet, and the Protean imp returns with redoubled vigor to torment us. A persistent use of the great anti-dyspeptic and regulating tonic, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, is best calculated to drive into permanent banishment every form of indigestion, temporary or chronic. No less efficacious is it for malaria, biliousness, constipation, rheumatism, kidney and bladder ailments. This remedy of specific utility and many uses overcomes them all. 'Tis a safeguard, too, against the effects of temperature apt to revive an attack of "La Grippe."

THE statistics of the average size of families in the various countries of Europe, which are of considerable interest for the status of public morals, are the following: France, 3.03 members; Denmark, 3.61; Hungary, 3.70; Switzerland, 3.94; Austria and Belgium, 4.05; England, 4.08; Germany, 4.10; Sweden, 4.12; Holland, 4.22; Scotland, 4.46; Italy, 4.56; Spain, 4.65; Russia, 4.83; Ireland, 5.20.

The Only One Ever Printed—Can You Find the Word?

Each week a different three-inch display is published in this paper. There are no two words alike in either ad., except One word. This word will be found in the ad. for Dr. Harter's Iron Tonic, Little Liver Pills and Wild Cherry Bitters. Look for "Crescent" trade-mark. Read the ad. carefully, and when you find the word send it to them and they will return you a book, beautiful lithographs and sample free.

"DOT boy of mine ish going to make a goot business man," said Mr. Beckstein. "Yesterday I told him I was going to leave all my broberty to him ven I died, und vat you s'pose he say to me?" "I don't know, Mr. Beckstein." "Vell, he say he vill throw off 5 per cent. for spot cash."

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.

BISHOP TURNER, the Georgia colored divine, is back of a movement to send colonies of his people to Africa. He will make a trip across the water to investigate the promised land before completing arrangements for the first shipment.

Information for Ladies.

Ladies, if you desire information that will be of untold value to you and prevent a vast amount of anxiety of mind and bodily suffering, send for a six months' supply of Ozona to the Michigan Medical Institute, Albion, Mich., lock box 70.

REV. A. W. MANN, the pioneer deaf mute preacher, writes: "The ratio of deaf mutes to the hearing is as 1 to 1,600, so there are over 40,000 in the United States and about 1,000,000 in the world."

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.

HE—"Yes, darling, and it shall be the purpose of my life to surround you with every comfort and to anticipate and gratify your every wish." She—"How good of you, Harry! And all on $12 a week, too!"

CONDUCTOR E. D. LOOMIS, Detroit, Mich., says: "The effect of Hall's Catarrh Cure is wonderful." Write him about it. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

"DID your husband take my temperance sermon to heart?" asked the Rev. Binks. "O, yes. He got rid of all his whisky." "Good. Where is he now?" "Sleeping it off."

THE best cough medicine is Piso's Cure for Consumption. Sold everywhere. 25c.

THE world is full of men who never forget a promise that is made to them.

FITS.—All Fits stopped free by Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. No Fits after first day's use. Marvellous cures. Treatise and $2.00 trial bottle free to Fit cases. Send to Dr. Kline, 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa

PASTOR KOENIG'S NERVE TONIC

The Best Remedy III in this world, says J. Hofherr of Syracuse, N. Y., is Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic, because my son who was partially paralyzed three years ago and attacked by fits, has not had any symptoms of them since he took one bottle of the remedy. I most heartily thank for it.

The Best Ever Used.

WHITEWATER, WIS., October, 1890.

When 17 years old my son was first attacked by epileptic fits, at intervals of one year, then four months, three months, two months, one month, then every three weeks, every nine days and later even twice a day. We used many remedies for fits, but all without benefit. Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic is the very best we ever used and he is again strong, his mind has again improved and is clearer.

G. H. SCHARPF.

FREE—A Valuable Book on Nervous Diseases sent free to any address, and poor patients can also obtain this medicine free of charge.

This remedy has been prepared by the Reverend Pastor Koenig, of Fort Wayne, Ind., since 1876, and is now prepared under his direction by the

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Sold by Druggists at $1 per Bottle. 6 for $5. Large Size, $1.75. 6 Bottles for $9.

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FREE Name or describe your disease and I will send *Free Prescription.* Thousands cured. DR. F. NOLAN CROWLEY, Terre Haute, Ind

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Heartily, with relish, and without distress afterward? If not, we recommend to you Hood's Sarsaparilla, which creates a good appetite and at the same time so invigorates the stomach and bowels that the food is properly digested and all its strength assimilated.

"I have been taking two bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla for weakness and no appetite. With great pleasure I will say that I think it has done me much good, because I am now able to eat like a man." J. C. S. CHURCHILL, Richardson Hotel, Monmouth, Ill. N.B. When you ask for

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Don't be induced to buy any other. Insist upon Hood's Sarsaparilla—100 Doses One Dollar.

The Soap that Cleans Most is Lenox.

DONALD KENNEDY

Of Roxbury, Mass., says

Kennedy's Medical Discovery cures Horrid Old Sores, Deep Seated Ulcers of **40** years' standing, Inward Tumors, and every disease of the skin, except Thunder Humor, and Cancer that has taken root. Price $1.5o. Sold by every Druggist in the U. S. and Canada.

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WANTED! MEN TO TRAVEL. We pay $50 to $100 a month and expenses. STONE & WELLINGTON, Madison, Wis.

"August Flower"

Mrs. Sarah M. Black of Seneca, Mo., during the past two years has been affected with Neuralgia of the Head, Stomach and Womb, and writes: "My food did not seem to strengthen me at all and my appetite was very variable. My face was yellow, my head dull, and I had such pains in my left side. In the morning when I got up I would have a flow of mucus in the mouth, and a bad, bitter taste. Sometimes my breath became short, and I had such queer, tumbling, palpitating sensations around the heart. I ached all day under the shoulder blades, in the left side, and down the back of my limbs. It seemed to be worse in the wet, cold weather of Winter and Spring; and whenever the spells came on, my feet and hands would turn cold, and I could get no sleep at all. I tried everywhere, and got no relief before using August Flower Then the change came. It has done me a wonderful deal of good during the time I have taken it and is working a complete cure."

G. G. GREEN, Sole Man'fr, Woodbury, N. J.

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