

St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

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A FATAL ERROR.

It was a very courteous man
With manners perfect quite;
No one was ever more urban,
Or could be more polite.
To hear him murmur: "Thank you, sir!"
Was really quite a treat;
To see him bow, with labors grace,
Was happiness complete.
But though a man be most polite,
Some time he's sure to slip
From grace, and once a cruel fate
Made even this one trip.
For one day a sweet girl said "Yes,"
(How strange are Cupid's pranks!)
And then he lost her, once for all,
Because he murmured: "Thanks!"
—Covington Journal.

FOR THE SLEEPLESS.

Various Hints to Court Sleep
When It Is Slay.

The Latest Scientific Explanation of the
Cause of Insomnia, and How Refreshing
Sleep Can Be Secured—Think
of Old Dreams.

If any unusually acute inventor could tell us of an infallible contrivance for going to sleep just when we wish to do so there can be no doubt whatever of the substantial benefit which would thereby be secured for mankind. Some fortunate individuals, like Napoleon I., can command sleep the moment they lay their heads on the pillows, others find themselves all through life sleeping the sleep of the just every night, without any difficulty; being experienced as to occasional wakefulness, except when illness happens to interfere.

The Duke of Wellington, who always slept on a camp bedstead, had a maxim that when a man turned in bed it was time to turn out; and here it may be remarked that great soldiers appear to be peculiarly constituted in their power to summon sleep at will. Possibly this may be due to the habits of discipline which they have learned. They say to their brains: "Go to sleep," and at once the word of command is obeyed.

Insomnia, however, is an evil of civilization which is growing, and if the letter which a correspondent has addressed to a weekly contemporary is to be relied on a plan has at last been hit upon to cure the malady and to secure nature's sweet restorer at a moment's notice. We are all familiar with the stereotyped advice in cases of this kind to "turn the pillow," to "think of something else," or to imagine and count a number of mountain sheep going through a gate. Many a time and oft has the too-wakeful brainworker attempted to carry these and similar prescriptions into practice, usually with results disproportionate to the efforts involved.

It may be said without much exaggeration that the man who can first imagine a flock of sheep, then a half-open gate, and then can force his hypothetical sheep to go through one by one without crowding or dodging or turning tail, is fit for treason, stratagems or writing the sublimest poetry. It is no ordinary man, and it is for ordinary individuals that the saving prescription is required.

What, then, does our latest savior of society precisely recommend? First of all he enters into a sort of philosophical rationale of sleep and no sleep. "It is no, I believe," he writes, "generally accepted that our conscious daylight-thinking processes are carried on in the sinister half of our brains"—why does he not say the left half at once?—"that is, in the lobe which controls the action of the right arm and leg." He has thought and thought again of what use "the dexter half of the brain" could possibly be, and he concludes that the right lobe is the organ which is employed doing what is called "unconscious cerebration" in table-turnings and other spiritualistic manifestations.

Now, during sleep we "unconsciously cerebrated," which accounts for our dreams being of a character which the correspondent only faintly describes when he calls them fantastic, non-moral and spillover. Missing on these matters, he came to the practical inference that to bring back sleep when lost we must quiet the conscious, thinking and left side of our brains, and bring into actively the right side alone.

This sounds all very well, but it might turn out very difficult to split our brains into two halves and begin using the right side when we want the left to be employed. However, the proof of this particular prescription of course lies in the question whether it really induces sleep or not.

"Armed with this idea," says the commendable experimental correspondent, "the next time I found myself awakening at two o'clock in the morning, instead of merely trying to banish painful thoughts and repeating, as was my habit, that commendable soporific, 'Paradise and the Peri,' I reverted at once to the dream from which I had awakened and tried to go on with it. In a moment I was asleep. And from that time the experiment, often repeated, has hardly ever failed. Not seldom the result is sudden as the fall of a curtain, and seems like a charm."

It would be more consoling if we were told that the plan "never" failed, instead of "hardly ever;" also we need advice as to when a person has had no dream to think of, or can not for the life of him remember what it was; and obviously it is impossible to begin to think about our last dream when one has only just gone to bed. With these deductions the plan may as well be worth trying as any other. We can not always have a volume of sermons at our bedside.

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL.

Bee-Keeping.

Bee-keeping is different from all the other small industries. It is all the while a study. In the study of the honey bee, every day presents some new phase—some new problem for solution, to entertain and instruct.

The wide-awake bee-keeper is fully alive to the importance of the work required in the apiary. As soon as the bees commence to gather pollen, the queens are stimulated to the production of eggs, and brood-rearing goes on with vigor if the colonies are strong, with plenty of food for the larvae, great quantities of both honey and pollen are used up, and unless the colony has on hand sufficient honey to last till they can gather from natural sources, the colony is destined to perish. What bloom there is in February yields but little honey; and most frequently at this time the weather is too inclement for the bees to stir.

All colonies should be examined this month, to see their condition. The bottom boards of the hives should be kept clean; for in the debris of wax and dirt there are plenty of eggs of the bee-moth to hatch and develop into destructive larvae. If you find any deficient in store they must be fed. To ten pounds of granulated sugar add a gallon and a half of water, and agitate the mixture until all the sugar is dissolved. Feed a pint or a quart at a time, or as much as the bees will take up. If the weather is cold, the feed must be placed immediately over the cluster, in a feeder that will allow them to crawl to the food without a loss of heat.

If the weather is mild and the bees can fly, it is more convenient to place it in a feeder that can be attached to the outside of the hive, and at the same time admit of the bees crawling to the feed from the inside. With this style of feeder there is no danger of robbing, and it obviates all necessity of opening hives, removing covers, etc.

After you commence to feed, keep it up until they have stored a sufficient quantity to last till they can gather from natural sources. With bees, "poverty frees the general currents of the soul," pretty much the same as it does with humans. When a colony of bees feel themselves rich and above want, they work with a vim, breed rapidly, and generally throw early swarms. These are the only kind of colonies that enrich the bee-keeper and make his profits. When a colony is too weak to be built up into a strong one in time for the honey-harvest, it had better be united with some other weak one.

Provide yourselves with empty hives, frames, sections and foundations, etc., before the time you want to use them. If you "take time by the forelock," you may save your bees, and will save your temper, and stop your thinking profanely.—*Cor. Southern Cultivator.*

Spring Management of Strawberries.

Work on the strawberry bed should commence before the plants begin to grow. The sooner the manure is spread over the plants the quicker will be its effects after spring sets in. There are several reasons for giving a good coating of manure, one being to supply plant food and the other to protect the vines. If this is done early no damage will be caused to the plants, but if it is delayed until the plants begin to grow it is often the case that where the manure is very concentrated, such as the droppings from poultry, the plants will be killed.

A mulch or covering should consist of manure, as it will be a saving of labor, and the plants will get the benefit of the matter dissolved by the rains. The covering is not intended to keep the plants warm, as that is impossible, but to prevent the ground from warming too early or too suddenly. It is just as important to mulch in those sections where the climate is mild as it is to do so where the winters are severe, owing to the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground. If the ground is frozen it can be partially kept in that condition by the mulch, which prevents the plants from being thrown up out of the soil, and also from beginning growth too early in the season. In this section the winter is seldom very cold previous to January, and the necessity for a mulch is greater in a mild winter than at any other time, owing to the liability of the plants to begin to grow too early.

Except in the middle of the row the strawberry bed needs no cultivation unless the plants are grown in single stools, but to facilitate picking the crop, all weeds that may appear should be pulled out by hand as soon as possible. Every weed that is allowed to remain robs the plants and lessens the crop. Wood ashes are excellent for strawberries, but if commercial fertilizers are used, high grade salts of potash, and at least two bags of superphosphate per acre, will be the best form, and it should be applied early in the season, first raking off the mulch and breaking all lumps of the manure, so as to have all the substance as fine as possible. If there is liability of dry weather, which is injurious to strawberries, the use of chopped salt hay around the single stool plants will be of advantage. All fertilizers should be evenly distributed, and may be used liberally.—*Philadelphia Record.*

Material for a Dust-Bath.

The dust-bath is the toilet of the cow. With it she cleans her body and washes, rids herself of vermin and

DELIGHTS IN THE ENJOYMENT IT AFFORDS.

In winter, however, when the ground is frozen hard, it sometimes becomes a difficult matter to provide the bees with a dust-bath, especially if there are several flocks. Now is the time to lay up a supply of dirt for the purpose. The dirt should be fine and well sifted, in order that it may be more properly adapted to the purposes intended. Wood-ashes are unsuitable, owing to the caustic properties of the potash, which creates sores on the skin should the weather be damp. Finely sifted coal ashes entirely free from admixture of a wood ashes, are excellent, but a full supply is not always obtainable. The cheapest and easiest mode is to lay by a supply of dirt, either from the road or the field, but it should be perfectly dry, or stored in a dry place, or it can not be used when the necessity arises. In winter a box one yard square and six inches deep, filled within an inch of the top with the dirt, is just what the bees will appreciate. The dirt may remain in the box as long as it is dry and clean, but should be removed at least once a week. By sprinkling a few drops of a solution of carbolic acid in the dust bath, any unpleasant odors may be removed, and the dirt rendered more acceptable.—*Southern Planter.*

Garden on the Farm.

To open the subject we may say: First, the garden should be near the dwelling, so that the family can have easy access to it; should have a south or a southeastern exposure; and last the soil be a light loam and naturally well drained. The location being a starting and important point, the other two requisites of soil and drainage, if not right by natural conditions, must be made so by artificial means, such as underdraining, if too wet, and the application of woods' mold or sand, if too stiff. No trouble in culture or production will follow after a proper soil is obtained. Second, the shape of the garden-plot should be a parallelogram, with sides three times longer than the ends; a roadway through the center lengthwise will be useful in hauling in and dumping manure on either side for convenient spreading; the planting and cultivation in long rows parallel to the roadway may be done by light one-horse plows and other implements. About one third of the ground at one end may be devoted to grapes and small fruits, and when these need culture it may be given by passing between the rows light crop, such as bush-beans or peas. Irish potatoes, between the spaces, with their culture and manuring, would be beneficial to the vines and shrubs. Third, a neat and substantial inclosure is an indispensable.—*Southern Planter.*

HERE AND THERE.

—Haul out your manure now and get it out of the way before spring. By so doing the manure will be in better condition for the crops.

—When the spring rains come do not allow any of the water to flow into the well. Grade up around the well so as to turn the surface water off.

—Salt is said to be an excellent fertilizer in peach orchards. A better fertilizer would be twenty parts wood ashes to one of salt, applied broadcast.

—One of the most important items of poultry management is to keep the drinking vessels clean. In order to do this it will be necessary to wash out clean every day or two.

—Thousands of dollars' worth of grain is destroyed annually by mice, rats and other vermin, that may be saved by using half-inch wire netting under the floors of stables and barns.

—Moist, damp soil, is sometimes the most valuable. Celery, and in some sections onions, do best on such soils. If the soil is sandy strawberries will thrive better on damp soils than on a hot wet.

—The properly-fattened animals marketed the moment they reach the points where further feeding would entail a loss, are always profitable to the feeder. But it takes a good judge to know when this point is reached.

—The hatching of the tent caterpillar can, to a great measure, be prevented by going through the orchard and picking off the clusters of eggs that can be found upon the limbs. During the winters is a good time to do this while the foliage is off, as they can be seen more readily.

—Point is an important substance on the farm. It preserves the buildings and adds to their appearance. Farmers who neglect to use point are not economical. It adds much to the value of everything on the farm, stops holes and cracks and saves its cost in a single season.

—In selecting turkeys for breeding have either the hens or the gobblers two years old. It is not best with this variety of fowls to breed from all young stock. If the hens are young have a two-year-old gobbler. A little point taken on these points will result in a better class of fowls.

—Eggs used for setting should always be clear. If covered with filth or dirt of any kind the probabilities of their hatching are largely decreased. While it is not desirable to handle any more than is strictly necessary, at the same time it will be better to wash off clean than to not them dirty.

—Several dairymen who have been successful in feeding ensilage to their cows do not recommend the use of any variety of corn for the silo which will not fairly ripen a crop of ears before cutting. Corn thus matured furnishes part the grain ration needed with the average ensilage.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

—Buttermilk can always find an excellent market at home if fed to pigs and poultry.

—A successful grower of trees claims never to fail if it is disposed of the black knot finally if it is cut off in an early stage and turpentine applied.

—Clover soil leaves a much larger amount of plant food in the soil than timothy; in seeding down to build up the fertility clover should be used in preference to any thing else.

—When trimming grape-vines let them be cut and trained so as to admit of the air and sunshine. Too much shade is sometimes the cause of rot, as it invites moisture. Trim the vines while the weather is cold.

—The food for horses should be varied occasionally. They are not fond of a monotonous diet, week after week, and an occasional feed of carrots, bran or oil-cake helps to maintain appetite and condition.—*American Agriculturist.*

—The old-fashioned practice of wintering calves at the straw stack, with only an occasional feed of cornstalks or hay, is wasteful. Young stock, well fed, will show more gain for their feed than they will when older.

—Two excellent results of life on the farm, compared with life on the street, are the humanity and economy engendered in young people who help to feed the many dependents on the farm, and who find no other way of gathering needed pennies but by that of slow earnings and careful saving.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

—While winter pruning can very often be done, and thus lessen the necessary work to be done in the spring, at the same time it is important to do the work properly, as many a good tree has been seriously injured by improper pruning. By pruning annually, at least to a considerable extent, the taking off of large limbs is easily avoided, and time of itself is quite important.—*Western Plowman.*

—There is no doubt about it that nine-tenths of the farm-made butter is spoiled, especially in winter, from keeping the cream too long before it is churned. This is usually because so little milk is gotten in the winter, but add water to it so as to one-third fill the churn, and go to work on it. The water will help the winter cream and greatly improve the quality of the butter.—*American Dairyman.*

—The ridges made by the drill in depositing seed-wheat are no inconsiderable protection to the plant in winter. Besides shielding it from the winds, they serve to hold the snow, which, being moist, is a still better protection against the cold. Some farmers even take pains to drill wheat fields so that the ridges shall run east and west. Only the midday sun will thaw in winter, and at midday the snow is thus behind the ridges and protected from its rays.

—For farmers in general the South-down is perhaps the most profitable sheep, because its mutton is of a superior quality, and brings so high a price in the market, that these sheep can be profitably reared for meat alone, without reference to the fleece. But there is a good profit also in the wool, which stands next in fineness to that of the merino, and the fiber is so strong that for some kinds of cloth it is preferred by the manufacturer to all other sorts. These sheep are hardy and so active that they thrive well even on the short pastures of hilly land. Thousands of them ought to be rapidly imported for the increase of our flocks.

SOILING GRASS SEED.

Why Spring Work is Becoming More Popular Every Year.

What a world of change this is, surely, and change is no more apparent in any other direction than in farm practice. Heretofore it has been thought indispensable to have a grain crop for the protection (?) of grass and clover seed, as if grass and clover can not take care of themselves! They do this too well when they spring up as weeds where we don't want them, and, in fact, they are able to do it as well where we do want them; consequently we are gradually cutting loose from the foster crops, and are sowing clover and grass just as we sow any other crops, giving them all the ground, and all the light and air. I sowed a few acres of clover and timothy, last spring, alone. The land was thoroughly well plowed and worked with a pulverizer. The grass and clover—a peck of each per acre—were sown, and a light, sloping-tooth harrow was run over the surface. It was a pleasing sight to see the young grass, like hair, coming through the surface in two weeks after sowing, and the round clover leaves interspersed among the tiny spikes of the grass. Nothing interfered with that grass, and it came on quickly, covering the ground by the end of May (it was sown in April), and in August it was a dense mat. In September I turned a lot of calves on to it and they fed it down, and now it does not differ at all in appearance from an adjoining part of the field seeded the year before with oats.

But oats! A few years ago the man who sowed grass seed with oats would risk being thought imbecile at least, perhaps crazy. Fall grass was thought the only crop to seed grass with, and clover was sown on the snow, or on the frozen ground, or on the hard, beaten surface, haphazard, and usually it did die. Then the poor catch was complained of and seedlings that had fallen made poor meadows and scanty hay. The thing cured itself, grass would no longer grow in the old way, and fresh land must be provided, and oats necessarily usurp the place of the fall grain. I say usurp, because the crop is a usurper, needless and injurious, because it robs the grass and clover of the food they need and must have or perish. But grass and clover are sown with oats, and the practice is becoming popular and general. Just as a boy on a log learns to get out of reach of the shore of the pond, and keeps within knee depth of water, so we farmers hang on to the spring grain seeding, and can not break loose because the young grass is so tender, we think. It is tender, doubtless, but it is too tender to be burdened with a hungry crop to starve and shade it from the air and sun. If one can not bring himself to this belief, he must choose the oat crop as the foster, and if he does well with the land, giving it manure liberally, the oats will pay for it, and the grass will repay for it, and fit the soil well; the grass and clover will make out to stand the strain and show a fine aftermath on the stubble, and give a good account of themselves the next year. I have about thirty acres thus seeded with oats, not that I thought the oats helped the grass, but that the land was good enough for both—as it was—and I wanted the oats anyhow. But for several years past I have lost every clover-seeding made in fall crops, and I have had but poor timothy and other grass from fall sowing. If one will study the drift of experience now given in the agricultural journals, he will find that the old method is fast being abandoned and that spring sowing is becoming popular and successful. Thus we change and advance, but unless one reads of what is going on, he gets left behind.—*Henry Stewart, in Rural New Yorker.*

NUTRITIOUS FRUITS.

The Banana and Plantain are Staple Articles of Diet in the Tropics.

The banana is much softer and more delicately flavored than the plantain. The fruit when ripe contains seventy-four per cent of water; of the twenty-six remaining parts, twenty are sugar and two gluten or flesh-forming substance. Like rice, it is not by itself a perfect food, but requiring the addition of some more nitrogenous material as pulse or lean meat. When dried and converted into meal, it is less nutritious than the meal of the grains mentioned. In tropical countries it is, nevertheless, a most valuable food, and is so extensively consumed as to take the place of cereal grains as the ordinary articles of diet. About six and a half pounds of the fruit, or two pounds of the dry meal with one-quarter pound of salt meat or fish, form in tropical America the daily allowance for the laborer. The pulp of the plantain is squeezed through a fine sieve and formed into loaves which, when dried, will keep a long time. The unripe fruit often becomes the staff of life; it is dried in the oven and is eaten in this state, and will keep such a length of time that natives carry it with them when proceeding on journeys. While unripe the fruit is filled with starch, and when dried has a resemblance to bread both in taste and composition. The loaves made by the ripened pulp are saccharine and not farinaceous. There are many instances of men subsisting entirely upon bananas, who have been despoiled from ships in tropical climes. Mr. Stanley, in his book "Across the Dark Continent," frequently mentions bananas as one of the principal articles of food for his party, and as one of the most important crops of the natives. He states that "villages and banana fields were always found together." Also, that in the dwarf lands bananas as long as his arm and plantains as long as his dwarf (just one yard) were sufficient food for a man one day.—*American Analyst.*

THE TENOR'S REVENGE.

He Swears Ours the Encore and Decides to Try It Himself.

He was a tenor singer noted for the sweetness of his voice, and consequently a favorite with the public. This was gratifying to him, but encores grew tiresome after a time, and he began to consider it unfair that he should be compelled to perform double work every night that he sang. He thought these things over until he waxed wroth.

One day, while promenading the principal street of the city where he was singing, he thought he would do a little encoring himself and see how it would work. He stepped into a hat store, found the proprietor, whom he recognized as a patron of the opera, and asked the price of a silk hat.

"Seven dollars," was the reply.

The tenor selected one and paid for it, and then he shouted, "Encore!"

"What do you mean?" asked the proprietor, in amazement.

"Repeat the hat," said the tenor.

"Certainly, sir," said the proprietor, handing down another, and exact duplicate.

The man with a voice picked them both up and started for the door.

"Hold on there!" cried the hatter, "you haven't paid for that other hat."

"I got it on an encore," explained the tenor.

"An encore?"

"Yes, it's an encore hat. I paid for one and then I called for an encore and got it. That's all right."

"But we don't do business that way."

"You oblige us to, though."

"Explain."

"Tres volontiers. You were at the opera last night, were you not?"

"Yes, I was there; but I don't see what that has to do with your getting a hat for nothing."

"Listen. You paid to hear the opera sung?"

"Certainly I did. I'm no deadhead. In Spring we call the two hats—"

"Don't call them yet. You didn't pay to hear that opera sung twice, did you?"

"How absurd! Certainly not. What do you say to \$12 for the two—"

"Say nothing until I get through. I am the tenor of that opera troupe. Nearly every aria that I sang I was required to repeat, and if I am not mistaken you yelled encore a dozen times more than any one else. Metaphorically speaking, you were getting two hats—and this caps the climax—for the price of one; see?"

The hatter did see, and he wanted to make the singer a present of a hat to set the matter even, but he declined it, bowed and pursued the even tenor of his way.—*Texas Siftings.*

WHIMS ABOUT BABIES.

Superstitions Thickly Hedge About the Innocent Little Thing.

Among Vosges peasants children born at new moon have their tongues better hung than others, while those at the last quarter have less tongue, but reason better. A daughter born during the waxen moon is always precocious.

A pair of tongs or knife put in the cradle will satisfy the Welsh mother as to her child's safety. The knife is also used in parts of England.

A small bit of red ribbon is all the Roumanian infant requires to secure it from harm, while the Esthonian mother attaches a bit of amanita to two child's necks. Garlic, salt bread and steak are first put in the cradle of a new-born child in Holland. A sufficient preventive for an Irish babe is a belt made of women's hair.

In lower Brittany on the birth of a child neighboring women at once take it in charge, wash it, crack its joints and rub its head with oil to "soften its cranial bones." It is then wrapped up in a tight bundle and its lips moistened with brandy "to make it a full Breton," says the Manchester Union.

In modern Greece the mother, before putting the child in its cradle, turns three times around before the fire while singing her favorite song to ward away evil spirits.

In Scotland it is also said that to rock the empty cradle will insure the coming of other occupants for it.

If you rock the cradle empty—
Then you shall have babies plenty.

The Swedish mother puts a book under the head of the new-born infant that it may be quick at reading, and puts money into the first bath to guarantee its possession in the future.

The Turks load the child with amulets as soon as it is born, and a small bit of mud well steeped in a jar of water, prepared by previous charms, is stuck on the forehead.

In Spain the child's face is swept with a pine-tree bough.—*N. Y. Star.*

Sips of the Legal Tongue.

A lawyer told me that he heard one of his learned brethren make a funny remark the other day. They were talking about a case in which the learned lawyer was interested, when the latter remarked: "I was talking to Colonel—about that case, and I asked him a question, and whether he answered it in candor or jesture I can not say." And this reminds us of another learned lawyer of the city bar, who had the ambition to shine as a law-maker in the State Senate. He was telling his fellow-citizens why he was the best man for the position, "I understand," he said, "that my opposition is a drinking man; that he drinks vinous, maturated or spirituous liquors. As for me, I don't drink any one of 'em."—*Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald.*

Teacher—"When does suicide become a crime?" Smart Boy—"When it becomes a confirmed habit." "Nonsense, sir. Why is suicide a crime?" "Because it injures the health."