

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

STACKING FODDER.

An Ohio Farmer Describes an Apparently Excellent Method. My way of stacking fodder is as follows: I begin the stack the same as a shock, that is, by standing bundles almost perpendicularly on the ground, butts down and tops pressed together. I continue in this way, placing the bundles close together, until the shock, or prospective stack, is about 12 feet in diameter at the base (ground). This usually requires 50 or 60 bundles.



STACK OF CORNFODDER.

standing it on one of the bundles of the last or outside course of shock or stack bottom. I continue in this way, walking around the stack and placing bundles "side by side," until I come around to the starting place. This completes the first elevated course. The butts of this course being about three feet from the ground, brings them to a point about where the bundles underneath are tied. See cut.

The bundles for the next or second elevated course are placed in order by means of a two-tined pitchfork. The butts of this course are about six feet from the ground, and like the butts of the first elevated course, come to about the middle of the bundles underneath. The butts of the third or last course, consisting of say eight or ten bundles, are placed about nine feet from the ground. This makes a stack about 14 feet in height.

When the last course is placed in order the top of the stack is securely tied in two places—one within a foot or two of the extreme top, and the other around the butts of the top course.

Two men are not required to put up this kind of a stack. I built ten such stacks this year myself without any assistance. One man says he puts about 600 bundles in a stack. I put only about 120.

In stacking in this way there are no bundles lying down with butts sticking outward, as in stacks as usually built. They all stand up in an almost perpendicular form—butts down, tops up. The bundles having so much "pitch" they shed the water perfectly. In feeding from such a stack I begin with the ground course, as the bundles may be easily pulled out. The top bundles remain untouched till the last, thus leaving no part of the stack exposed to the weather.

I adopted this plan three or four years ago and like it quite well. Its advantages are: (1) The bundles having so much pitch they shed the water completely. (2) In feeding therefrom the bottom bundles are fed first and the top left to protect the stack till the last. (3) One man can take the bundles from the wagon and construct such a stack without assistance.—Frank Leslie, in Ohio Farmer.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

If you have gravel near you, improve your highways. Don't feed rats unless you mix poison with the food. Exterminate the rat. Both poison and cats are cheap.

Paint your machinery if needed. It is money well expended. Wide tires on hard roads act as rollers and improve the road.

Chopping firewood in midwinter is a mighty unpleasant business. Save the hay. Substitute corn fodder and good straw to some extent.

Do as well as your neighbor does on all lines. What he can do you likely can. Be an idealist. Set your mark even higher than you can reach, but reach as high as you can.

Lawyers will be necessary as long as there are misunderstandings among men. They are an expensive necessity. One man thinks that the opening of new farms in the west is evidence that farming is profitable. That sort of logic would indicate that all kinds of business is profitable.—Western Plowman.

A Dakota Farmer's Remedy. Frank Withee, a Yankton county (S. D.) farmer, after losing 160 out of 200 hogs, has succeeded in stopping the ravages of the lung trouble in his flock by a remedy of his own invention. When his hogs began dying at the rate of half a dozen a day he piled their carcasses in heaps and set fire to them. When only blackened and charred remains were left he fed the remnants to his hogs, with the above result. The disease is still raging in the neighborhood, and in some instances 15 hogs have died in one pen.—Farmer's Voice.

PROTECTING QUEENS.

How to Rescue Them in Case They Should Be "Balled."

When a queen is balled you'll find a bunch of bees as large as a hickory nut or larger that seem to cling together in a very solid manner. You can't pull the bees apart, and you may roll the ball over and over.

If a strange queen is thrown into a hive she is usually balled, and, as nearly as we can make out, the process is something like this: The bees seize the queen at various points till she is entirely surrounded, then other bees seize the ones that have hold of the queen, and in this position they remain fixed for hours, until the queen is dead.

If a strange worker is thrown into the hive she isn't treated the same as a queen, and nothing but a queen is ever balled. The worker may be bitten or stung, but never balled.

The balling bees generally make a hissing sound, unlike the noise they make at any other time. Whether that proceeds from anger or what, we do not know.

Sometimes bees will ball their own queen, usually for the sake of protecting her. In the middle of a ball of her own bees, it certainly seems she ought to be safe from foes. You cannot pull the bees apart so as to free the queen, and if you should succeed in getting some of the bees away, or should manage to get the queen loose, the bees will immediately seize her again. Perhaps the quickest way to get the queen free is to throw the ball into cold water. The little miscreants will scramble to get out of the water as lively as they can, and at once seem to forget all about the queen, leaving her to her own fate.

Water is not always at hand, and you can blow smoke upon the ball. If you blow hot smoke upon them, as usually you will if you hold the nozzle close enough, you will at once seal the queen's doom, for the bees will promptly sting her; but if you hold the smoke at a distance and keep up a strong stream of cool smoke the bees will soon conclude they want to find some place with a purer atmosphere.—Southern Cultivator.

INEXCUSABLE WASTE.

Why Some Poultry Men Do Not Make Their Business Pay.

One cannot fully realize the extent of loss entailed upon those making any sort of pretense to poultry raising, until the various grades of it are examined in the great markets and a selection is made of that which is desirable to suit a reasonably well cultivated taste. Here is where the critical test is made of the sort of care the poultry has received from time of incubation until properly dressed and packed ready for shipment to the central market, as well as the profit which is to be realized or the loss sustained by the systematic or careless producers.

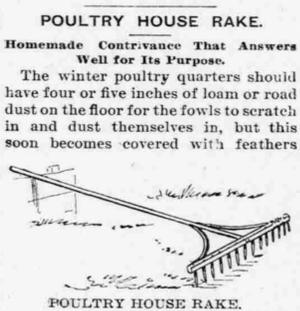
Packages stand side by side in every commission house in Chicago, amounting to thousands of tons per annum, of poultry of all grades of quality, invoking the discriminating prices which rendered unto the indifferent poultry raiser that which belong to the slothful, and unto the systematic the profits which belong to the industrious; some shippers obtaining four or five cents per pound while others obtain ten to 15 cents, and actually the higher priced product is more satisfactory to the consumer than the cheaper stuff. Some of the poultry is plump, white and nicely dressed, while much of it is thin, dark colored and repulsive to look upon. The surprising thing is that the shippers of this poor stuff are offended because they fail to receive the highest quotations in return for their shipments. There is room for a tremendous amount of improvement in the raising and handling of poultry. The farmers need a good deal of education upon this subject to enable them to do their best.—Farmers Union.

POULTRY HOUSE RAKE.

Homemade Contrivance That Answers Well for Its Purpose.

The winter poultry quarters should have four or five inches of loam or road dust on the floor for the fowls to scratch in and dust themselves in, but this soon becomes covered with feathers

and masses of droppings. A fine-toothed rake is serviceable in raking over the pens, thus collecting all feathers, etc., when they can be put into barrels with the dressing. An ordinary rake, and even a garden rake are too coarse for this purpose. The sketch shows a good homemade rake that answers well for this work. Wire nails, driven very close together, form the teeth. A strip of hard wood should be used for the head, while an old hay-rake handle can be pressed into service for the handle.—Orange Judd Farmer.



POULTRY HOUSE RAKE.

Europe's Egg Consumption. A Parisian scientist asserts that he has computed trustworthy statistics concerning the number of eggs annually consumed by the nations of Europe. According to his tables the greatest egg-eating countries are England and Germany. In 1895 England imported 1,250,000,000 eggs, for which was paid about \$20,000,000. The eggs came principally from France. During the same year Germany imported 20,000,000 pounds of eggs, also representing about \$20,000,000. Most of these eggs came from Russia and Austria-Hungary. Of all European countries Russia has made the greatest advance in exportation. In 1890 she exported only 11,000,000, but in 1895 the number rose to 1,250,000,000, representing a value of \$10,200,000. A significant fact in connection with these statistics is that in those countries which are the greatest exporters of eggs the omelet is the favorite dish.

SUITABLE STREET GOWNS.

Costumes for the Winter Season Approved by Dame Fashion.

The gowns which most interest our readers at present are those designed for the street, traveling and for general wear, and are made with less fullness and weight than heretofore. The skirts are made up with five, six or seven gores, depending upon the width of the material, which governs economy in cutting. The seven-gored skirt is rather the favorite, and is used when the material warrants it. The back is plaited or gathered, and the space at the top containing the fullness is very narrow. Some of the skirts that are plaited in the back are laid in tiny side-plaits, while others have three box-plaits graduated to a narrow space at the top, the outer plaits overlapping the inner ones. Street skirts are made from 4 1/4 to 4 1/2 yards in width, and all fit closely across the front and hips, with an easy hang across the front and sides at the bottom. All the fullness is worked toward the back-breaths, which are cut with a bias seam directly in the back, to give the standing-out effect so much desired. Many dressmakers are wiring the tops of their skirts in the lining across the back, to give a slight bustle effect. A small pad directly under the dress-band in the back which fills in a hollow found in most figures is an addition to all gowns, and the weight is really less felt.

The drop-skirt is much used, and is economical where one wishes to use the same lining for several skirts. The lining, which is usually of silk, is cut and fit precisely like the outside, and can be hung from separate bands or attached to the same belt. If worn with one skirt alone, hang them from the same band and catch all the seams once lightly together up a distance of 20 inches from the bottom.

Sleeves were never more varied in style or more becoming to the figure than the sleeve of to-day, which makes the hug or much exaggerated sleeve-covering of a short year ago look indeed like a burlesque. The prevailing sleeves are fitted as snugly as is comfortable, from the wrist to a considerable distance above the elbow, above which we find puffs, frills or draped fullness, which may be tucked, shirred or plaited, but no fullness is carried on the under part of the sleeve. The very small leg-of-mutton sleeve still finds favor, especially on gowns of quite heavy material. While many of the sleeves show a trimmed top—that is, the fullness trimmed with bands, straps or galloons—the best style street gowns show sleeves of comparative plainness, and must fit to perfection. Skirts for the street show a variety of foot trimming, though the elegance of the plainly finished skirt still holds its own in the handsomer and heavy weight materials.—Woman's Home Companion.

CALLS HIMSELF "PROFESSOR."

The Man with the Striped Shirt Was Appalled.

The train was about to leave the station, and a young man leaned over the seat, shook hands with the middle-aged gentleman, and said: "Good-by, professor."

A man with wide stripes in his shirt bosom looked at him narrowly, and after the train started said: "Kin you do any tricks with cards?" "No; I never touch a card."

"Mebbe ye play the pianny?" "I know nothing of music, except as a mathematical science."

"Well, ye ain't no boxer. I kin see by yer build. Mebbe ye play pool?" "No."

"Er shuffleboard?" "I never heard of the game before."

"Well, say, I've guessed ye this time. It's funny I didn't think of it before. You're a mesmerist?" "I'm nothing of the kind."

"Well, I'll give up. What is yer line? I know ye're in the biz, 'cause I heard that young feller call ye 'professor.'"

"I am an instructor in Greek, rhetoric and ancient history."

"An' yer can't do no tricks ner play music ner hypnotize?" "Of course not."

The man turned and gazed out of the window on the opposite side of the car. "An' he calls hisself 'professor,'" he said, to himself. "Don't know how ter do anything but talk Greek 'n' things, an' calls hisself 'professor.' Talk about nerve!"—Philadelphia Record.

Artists. Make a rich paste with the white of one and the yolks of two eggs, four ounces of sugar, six ounces of butter, a pinch of salt, a pound of flour and just enough water to make it of the right stiffness for working; work it lightly, roll it out to the thickness of a quarter of an inch, line some pattypans with it, fill them with uncooked rice and bake them in a moderate oven until done. Use strawberries, cherries, peaches or other canned fruit to fill them, after removing the rice; add more sugar if necessary, put them in the oven to get quite hot, and serve, or they may be allowed to get quite cold before serving.—Leisure Hours.

Almond Cakes. One pound of sifted flour, half a pound of butter, three-quarters of a pound of sugar, two eggs, half a teaspoonful each of essence of lemon and of bitter almonds, two teaspoonfuls of ground ginger, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, four ounces of almonds, blanched and chopped very small, two ounces of mixed candied peel, also very finely chopped. Mix all the dry ingredients together, then rub in the butter; add eggs and essences last of all. Mix to a smooth paste, and roll out on a floured board to half-inch thickness; cut in round or fancy shapes, and bake on a dry tin in a slow oven.—Ladies' Home Journal.

In the second century a formidable line of fortifications was constructed by the Roman emperors from the upper Danube to the upper Rhine to keep out the Germans.

MUSIC IN NERVOUS DISORDERS.

Alleged Cure of a Child Due to Chopin's Sombor Waltzes.

The value of music in the treatment of certain forms of nervous diseases has before now been called attention to by physicians. One advantage perhaps of this therapeutical agency is that in the event of its doing no good it is not likely to do harm. In a recent number of the Gazette Medicale attention was drawn to the remarkable result attending the administration of music to a little girl of three, who was afflicted with serious nervous disorders, resulting in epilepsy and paroxysms of fear, which kept her awake all night. The ordinary remedies, including bromide of potassium, were tried without any effect, and at last the physician recommended the mother to play some soft, rather melancholy music to her daughter before putting her to bed. Chopin was recommended, especially the waltzes in the minor key. The remedy worked like a charm, for it is said that from the night the child went to bed under the influence of music she lost all her nervous symptoms and slept without waking until the morning. In order to prove that this was not the result of mere chance, the music was omitted on one evening, and the child passed a night of misery, not so intense as before the adoption of the treatment, but still very marked.

NOT DUE TO HER SERIOUS TALK.

Mother Permitted a Spanking to Exert Its Persuasive Powers.

"Did you notice," asked the girl with the saintly expression of the girl with the laughing eyes, "how beautifully Tommy Jackson behaved in church to-day?"

The girl with the laughing eyes nodded silently, and the girl with the saintly expression went on dreamily: "I think that I must have managed to touch his stony little heart at last," she said, thankfully, "but it has been a hard struggle. I talked to him seriously on Saturday when I was calling on my Sunday school pupils, and his mother seemed much interested. She said she had punished him severely only the Sunday before last, and see how shamefully he behaved last week. While yesterday—"

"She punished him, too," interrupted the girl with the laughing eyes, merrily, "only she reversed her usual order of proceedings. Generally she spansks him after she comes home from church, and he forgets all about it before the next Sunday comes around. But yesterday she had a brilliant idea and today she spanked him before setting out."

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\$100 Reward \$100.

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AFTER six years' suffering, I was cured by Pisco's Cure.—MARY THOMSON, 29 1/2 Ohio Ave., Allegheny, Pa., March 19, '94.

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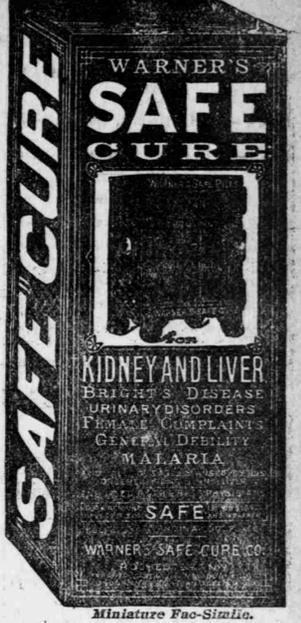
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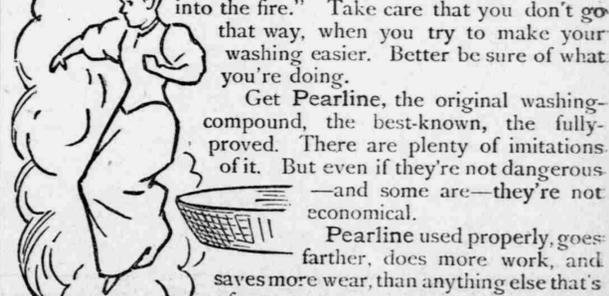
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