

AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

REMEDY FOR CUTS AND WOUNDS.

An excellent application for wounds on animals is an ointment made as follows: Four ounces of lard or vaseline, (the latter is the best,) two ounces of Venice turpentine, mixed by melting; in this is stirred one ounce of acetate of copper (verdigris) in fine powder, until the mixture is cool. It is applied by means of a feather. Carbolic vaseline is kept at the drug stores for this use, and is also useful.—*New York Times.*

TOMATOES AS A FARM CROP.

It is a mistake to suppose that extremely rich soil is needed to grow paying crops of tomatoes. The fact that in highly manured gardens led to this erroneous notion. But it is also the fact that as these grow the plants ran too much to leaf and too little to fruit. The fruit where much manure is used is also more liable to rot. This crop uses more of potash and phosphate than potatoes, and if both these minerals were supplied the plant would be properly balanced, and its fruit less liable to premature decay. Dry, sandy soils with mineral fertilizers produce earlier and better crops than richer soil more heavily fertilized with barn yard manure.—*Boston Cultivator.*

IRISH METHOD OF SAVING POTATOES.

When the potatoes are dug in Ireland, they are immediately picked up and deposited in a trench near by, about three feet deep and two and a half feet wide, and heaped very carefully in pyramidal form, peins being taken to avoid bruising them. Straw is then placed over them to the depth of about two inches, and earth placed over the straw to the depth of about four inches. Another layer of straw is placed on top of this, and then more earth on top again. This is done to exclude both the air and sunshine.

By carefully saving Irish potatoes after they are ripe, in the Southern States, where two crops of these potatoes can be made in one year, there would be no difficulty in securing good potatoes for the farmer's table from January to January. The second crop of Irish potatoes is planted from late in June to August. They should be sprouted under moist straw before planting.—*Piscataway.*

CELESTY.

Probably no class of people suffer more with rheumatism than farmers, and yet the remedy for this dreadful disease is, or should be, right at hand. If celery were eaten freely sufferers from rheumatism would be comparatively few. It is a mistake idea that cold and damp produce the disease—they simply develop it. Acid blood is the primary and sustaining cause. If celery is eaten largely, an alkaline blood is the result, and where this exists there can be neither rheumatism nor gout. It should be eaten cooked. Cut it into bits and boil till soft in as little water as possible. Add to this half as much milk as there is water in the celery, thickened with flour and seasoned with butter, pepper and salt. If you cook it nicely and give it a fair trial, I am sure you will soon leave potatoes out of the daily bill of fare as celery. It is nice as a sauce for any kind of cold meat or fowl, or for roasted poultry or game of any kind. Children will like it poured over boiled potatoes, or it may be drained from the sauce, mixed with mashed potatoes, formed into little cakes and browned. A ready-witted woman will find numerous ways of serving it.—*Country Gentleman.*

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF DUCKS.

There are many advantages in raising ducks, one of which is that on a small place where you wish to have a garden a very low fence will keep them inside of their own lot. They grow quickly and are first-class table fowls, are less liable to diseases than chickens and will lay in as many eggs. If provided with good shelter and feed they will lay early in February and continue on regularly until late in the spring or early summer. When quite small they need attention, but after the feathers make a good start they can be let run and, with the exception of being fed and watered, they will need but little care. They are remarkably good foragers, and if given the run of the orchard or a grass lot will pick up the greater part of their own living. They should have comfortable quarters and plenty of water for drink, but a pond or running stream may be dispensed with, as they will thrive quite well without either. The Pekin is one of the best varieties, on account of its size and color, and the feathers may be picked during the summer. Ducks, however, should not be picked during their laying season.—*New York World.*

THE ART OF FEEDING HORSES.

An English veterinary surgeon recommends that those who have charge of horses should be taught that the stomach of a horse is not like the rumen of a cow, a mere receptacle for food, but an essential organ of digestion for a limited capacity, which does not need to be crammed in order to perform its proper functions, and that it cannot be so treated without danger to the animal; and that the teeth of the horse are provided for the purpose of masticating the food, and that the food which does not require mastication should be sparingly, if ever used. He further recommends that no horse be put to work immediately after a full meal, and when a horse has done a heavy day's work it should be allowed to stand in the stable until it is cool and comfortable before being fed. A little water may be given, and if a little good hay be put into the rack it will occupy his attention, and besides requiring proper mastication, will further have the effect of stimulating the stomach to secretion and prepare it for the reception of

the feed which is to follow. Should a horse require more food than usual to supply the extra waste of tissues caused by hard work, give it by all means, but let it be in excess in its albuminoids, and let the horse be fed oftener and not increased quantities at a time.—*Horse and Stable.*

THE VALUE OF THE SIRE.

The sire is half the herd. A well bred pedigree bull may be bought for about \$150, a good horse for about \$300, a boar for \$20 and a ram for the same money. By weeding out the inferior females you will get, in the first cross, a most excellent animal for labor or meat. Then by careful selection and continuous breeding up, in four generations you arrive at fifteen sixteenths bred animals, essentially as good as pedigree animals, except that they may not be eligible as breeders.

You may still further improve your grades by selling the original sires when you have bred up to three-fourths blood, replacing them with higher-priced animals of the same blood. Then if you have bred to only the best females from which to continue to breed females for service, you will be surprised to find how short a time it takes to acquire a breed of really superior animals and that for wool, flesh, milk or labor, will command the highest prices in the market, thus finding that the investment is one of the best ever made.

Never breed from a grade sire, however cheap the price may be. The progeny of a half-bred sire on females not of improved blood can never get you a half-blood, however long you may breed, and if you start with females containing some good blood, the business proposition would be still more against the use of a grade sire. Rather than buy a grade sire at any price you would better join with a neighbor and buy a sire in partnership.

In fact, if the farmer will take the price of two average good cows it will buy a bull good enough to put in his herd. So two good sows will buy a creditable boar, four ewes a buck, and four mares a serviceable sire; but never sell the best females in order to buy a sire. Never sell the best grade females until you have a surplus; and, above all, once you begin to establish a grade herd, never depart from the original breed with which you commenced.—*Prairie Farmer.*

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Poor salt makes poor butter. Geese are easily and cheaply raised. Always be systematic and thorough. Crown corn and clover are conquerors! Arrange supports for climbing plants. Bantams are small eaters and fair layers. Cultivate less land if your manure heap is small. Generally speaking, the medium-sized breeds are the best. The man is favored who is obliged to work, and is happy in that work. It is generally conceded that nests made on the ground are the best. Steady application is what counts in any business, especially in farming. Bear in mind that clean earth is the best absorbent for poultry-houses and runs. There are some things one farmer can do better than anyone else. That is the thing for him to do. Keep an account of time lost. You will be surprised to know how much time is spent foolishly. Thistles, daisies, dock weeds and wild morning glories are pets that should be kept down from the start. No satisfactory reason appears why women should not find in poultry culture a remunerative occupation. Keep the brain bright by use and the muscles well exercised; hard work is a good remedy for the blues. Remember that thousands of dollars go abroad every month for eggs that ought to be produced at home. Keep a strict account of everything pertaining to the farm. Know the cost of a bushel of corn, or a ton of hay. Poultry men in the vicinity of large cities find that broilers bring more money than anything else in the poultry line. Concentrate your labor, concentrate your manure, and you may concentrate your crops without lessening the quantity. If you do not want the sills of your barns and sheds to decay keep the dirt away from them so that they will remain constantly dry. Keep the best room open at all times to the boys and girls, and let there be books and papers from which they may educate themselves. All that is needed for the novice in constructing his fowl-house is a practical building, with good shelter, proper ventilation and a few internal arrangements for roosting, dusting and nesting. Look out for the leaky roofs on your lives! They are more disastrous and annoying to bees, than a leaky roof would be to you on your own house. A good coat of thick paint run well into the cracks will generally answer the purpose. The beginner has to commence at the foot of the hill, and learn by experience. True he should have some knowledge of bees and their ways in order to begin. He needs to read some good bee-book, and should take one or more bee-periodicals. If a farmer has a good grass farm let him make a specialty of hay; if he has a taste for raising corn and roots, let him make them a specialty; if a love for raising horses or cows or making butter, let him put his brain and muscle into these.

First-class farm help is getting scarce, and those who would secure the services of a good hand for the harvest must do so soon. When you get a good man try to make it for his interest, as well as yours, to employ for more than one season.

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS.

TO KEEP FURS IN THE SUMMER.

When you are ready to put away furs and woollens and want to guard against the depredations of moths, pack them securely in paper furo sacks and tie them up well. This is better than camphor or tobacco or snuff scattered among them in chests or drawers. Before putting your muffs away for the summer twirl them by the cords at the ends, so that every hair will be straight. Put them in their boxes and paste a strip of paper where the lid fits on.—*Dry Goods Chronicle.*

TO RESTORE WORN GARMENTS.

The mystery to many people how the scourers of old clothes can make them look as good as new is explained in the *American Analyst* as follows: Take, for instance, a shiny old coat, vest or pair of pants of broadcloth, cassimere or diagonal. The scourer makes a strong, warm soap and plunges the garment into it, soaks it up and down, rubs the dirty places, if necessary puts it through a second sud, then rinses it through several waters and hangs it to dry on a line. When nearly dry he takes it in, rolls it up for an hour or two, and then presses it. An old cotton cloth is laid on the outside of the coat, and the iron passes over that until the wrinkles are out; but the iron is removed before the steam ceases to rise from the goods, else they would be shiny. Wrinkles that are obstinate are removed by laying a wet cloth over them and passing the iron over that. If any shiny places are seen they are treated as the wrinkles are; the iron is lifted while the full cloud of steam rises, and brings the nap up with it. Cloth should always have a suds made especially for it, for in that which has been used for white cotton or woolen clothes lint will be left in the water. In this manner we have known the same coat and pantaloons to be renewed time and time again, and have all the look and feel of new garments. Good broadcloths and its fellow cloths will bear many washings, and look better every time because of them.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF PRESERVING EGGS.
The most common way of preserving eggs is to "lime them." By this process they can be kept for twelve months, or longer, but when boiled the shells are so affected by the lime that they invariably crack. For all other purposes of cookery a "limed" egg is about as good as a fresh egg. There is, however, a prejudice even against eggs that have been perfectly preserved. For all culinary uses an egg must be "above suspicion." Nothing is more delicious than a perfectly fresh-laid egg, and nothing more repulsive than one that is at best doubtful. Many grocers sell limed eggs all winter as fresh, and the number of such eggs used in New York in the winter season is enormous. Eggs packed with the small end down in dry salt and bran, about half and half, will keep several weeks. If they are dipped in linsed oil before packing they will keep longer. To prepare a mixture for preserving eggs with lime, add a pound of quicklime to a gallon of water, and let the preparation cool for twenty-four hours. Pour it into a jar or covered bucket, where it will not be liable to be stirred, and drop into it perfectly fresh eggs. Be careful not to stir the mixture when removing the eggs. A French method which has been commended for preserving eggs is the following: Dissolve four ounces of beeswax in eight ounces of olive oil, and brush over every portion of the egg with the mixture. When the substance hardens pack the eggs carefully, the small end down, in bran. It is said eggs will keep in a cool place two years by this process, and it is certainly worth trying. The object in all cases is to exclude the air from the shell.—*New York Tribune.*

RECIPES.

Graham Bread.—For one loaf take one cup wheat flour (fine), two cups graham, one cup warm water, 1 1/2 teaspoons soda dissolved in water, one-half cup yeast, one-third cup molasses, one teaspoon salt. Stir all together, let rise once, and bake slowly for one hour, or a little longer as needed.

Soft Gingerbread.—One and a half cups of molasses, one-half cupful of sugar, one and a half cupfuls of sour cream, one-half cupful of sour milk, one-half teaspoonful of salt, two teaspoonfuls of soda, one teaspoonful each of ginger and cinnamon, flour to make a not very stiff batter. Bake in sheets in a moderate oven.

Chicken Pudding.—Cut up a spring chicken, and cook tender in a little water; take up, spread on a dish, season with pepper, salt and butter. Make a thick batter, Butter a pudding dish, and put a layer of chicken in, and pour over a cupful of batter. Continue until the dish is full. Bake and serve with butter sauce in a gravy boat.

Frosted Lemon Pie.—The grated rind and juice of one lemon, one cup of brown sugar, the yolks of two eggs, one-half cup of cold water and two tablespoonfuls of flour or cornstarch. Line the plate with paste and fill. When baked frost with the whites of the eggs beaten to a stiff froth with three tablespoonfuls of sugar, and brown lightly in the oven.

Succotash.—Put one pint of young lima or kidney beans into a kettle of boiling water; add a teaspoonful of salt and boil twenty-five minutes. Score and press out sufficient corn to make one pint. Drain the beans; add them to the corn; add a half pint of cream or milk, a tablespoonful of butter; salt and pepper to taste. Cook and stir continually for five minutes and immediately serve.

Sweet Tomato Pickle.—Slice one gallon of green tomatoes, sprinkle with salt, let stand twenty-four hours; drain; take two quarts vinegar, add four cayenne pepper pods, one cup molasses, two tablespoonfuls mustard seed and two tablespoonfuls each of whole cloves and cinnamon bark; let this come to a boil, add four sliced onions and the tomatoes, boil eight minutes. These will keep a year in cans or jars.

Hints for Housekeepers.

If one wishes to cool a hot dish in a hurry it will be found that if the dish be placed in a vessel full of cold salt water it will cool far more rapidly than if it stood in water free from salt.

Silk must never be ironed, as the heat takes all the life out of it and makes it seem stringy and flabby. If, however, you wish to dress out old bits of silk and ribbon for fancy work, use an iron only moderately hot, and place two thicknesses of paper between that and the silk.

Silver can be kept bright for months by being placed in an air-tight case with a good sized piece of camphor.

Clothespins boiled a few minutes and quickly dried open or twice a month become more durable.

Boiling-hot liquid may be safely poured into a glass jar or tumbler by first putting a silver spoon in the dish. Be careful, however, that a draught of cold air does not strike the vessel while hot.

A gargle of salt and water used before retiring at night will strengthen the throat and keep off bronchial affluents.

Biscuits can be warmed to be as good as when just baked by placing them in the oven dry, covered closely with a tin. It is a great improvement over the old way of wetting them.

Pine Lands

Are now in demand and persons having such lands for sale will consult their best interest by writing to Joe S. Nix, Atlanta, Ga., who makes a specialty of the sale of improved steam engines, saw mills, cotton gins and other machinery, and also of the purchase of timber lands for persons who desire to engage in saw-milling.

The man who is always wishing he were dead is sure to be the first to rush for the door of a theater at the cry of fire.

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The pleasant flavor, gentle action and soothing effects of Syrup of Figs, when in need of a laxative and if the father or mother be costive or bilious the most gratifying results follow its use, so that it is the best family remedy known and every family should have a bottle.

They have at last found a way to prevent seasickness. Any passenger who is sick will be charged double fare.

Many of the worm medicines and vermifuges sold by druggists irritate the stomach of a little child. Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyer is gentle as candy, yet they never fail. Try them.

No matter how plain-looking a soda-water clerk may be, in warm weather his fizz is always attractive to the girls.

S. K. Coburn, Mgr., Clarie Scott, writes: "I find Hall's Catarrh Cure a valuable remedy." Druggists sell it, 75c.

A man never realizes what perfect idiots women are until he hears his best girl laughing at some other fellow's jokes.

My wife had chills and fever for nearly a year and tried everything. At last Smith's Tonic Syrup broke them. I now prescribe it in my practice. A. W. Travis, M. D., Silver Lake, Wis.

An argumentative barrister once objected to reasons on the ground, as he put it, that there was no right of reply.

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McCrackle—"What caused the fire at your boarding-house yesterday?" McCrackle—"A heated argument at the dinner-table."

Among the passengers on the La Bretagne, which recently sailed for Europe, was Mr. Alfred B. Scott, of Scott & Brown, proprietors of Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil. This is one of his periodical trips to attend to the affairs of the firm, which has branch houses in London, Paris, Barcelona, Milan and Oporto.

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