

Farmers' Column.



Give fools their gold & knives their power. Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall. Who sows a field or trains a fowling. Or plants a tree, is more than all.

Chickens for Autumn Use.

A writer says that an acquaintance of his practiced what may be called the renewal system of chicken raising. At present he has two young hens which have been laying through the winter, and which, in the ordinary course of affairs, will incline to set before long. As soon as they manifest a disposition to rear a brood, he will procure a sitting of eggs for each from some farmer, and give them a chance. As a result they will bring out from twelve to twenty-four chickens, which if successfully grown, will furnish an abundant supply of chickens for his table in the autumn months. As soon as the hens wear their chicks they (the hens) are made into chicken pie, and two of the best matured pullets are selected to keep through the next winter and mother the next summer's chicks. The advantages of this method are great, especially to the village resident. But two hens are kept through the winter, and these can be fed from the table refuse. Being so young, they will, if kept warm, lay all winter, and their career of usefulness being cut short betimes, they waste no time in molting or in getting a "good ready" for more usefulness. The little chicks can be raised mostly from table refuse, and when a fat broiler is wanted it can be had without question as to its age or state of health.

Generous Feeding Economical.

Dr. H. Reynolds says that in order to feed stock economically it is necessary that the animal should be fed all that they can digest and assimilate. A large part of the food eaten is required to repair the natural waste of the body, while what is eaten in excess of that goes largely to increase the fat and flesh. From the small amount eaten in excess of the necessary requirements of the system; is derived the income, and consequently the profit, in keeping the animal. For instance, in a German experiment the total quantity of digestible nutriment in the daily fodder was increased from 17.86 to 19.45 pounds, while the nutritive ratio remained the same. The result was that thirty-two per cent of the digestible albuminoids taken were deposited as flesh, while before only eighteen per cent had been. In other words the slight increase in the ration nearly doubled the increase in flesh. This shows how important it is, when fattening stock or feeding to secure a large growth, to feed all the animal can digest and assimilate. It is the generous feeding that then secures the profitable result. A few suggestions in regard to economical feeding of all farm stock have thus been thrown out and we hope that increased attention may be attracted to this important subject.

Time for Hen Houses.

Through the summer months the hen houses should have a thorough cleaning out once or twice. Before cold weather sets in, if there are any doubts as to the cleanliness of the house it should be gone over and done. In the first place remove all the droppings from the house and sweep the floor clean. Then sprinkle air-slacked lime and ashes thickly thereon. Wash all the perches (after all patches of manure have been scraped off) with boiling lime whitewash, put on with an old brush, and carefully worked and rubbed into the cracks, being particular to cover every part of the roost thoroughly. Lime is the greatest purifier and cleanser known. Any one at all acquainted with insects would not for a moment think of smoking them out with brimstone. A thorough cleaning must be gone through with each year. After the floor is cleaned, the siding, nest boxes, perches, and every appearance belonging to the inner building must be thoroughly whitewashed before a riddance of the pests can be effected. They dread whitewash; and delight and revel in filth. Use strong unleached wood ashes, if they can be had, and keep the floor dry and covered with them. If not employ quick lime. If the droppings are dried up immediately, their living is gone.

In setting plants make the ground mellow and rich with manure for a considerable space around where the roots are placed, so they may have a chance to reach out. The roots should have ample room, do not clamp them. When the earth is well drawn up around the plant, place your feet carefully upon each side of it, and press the earth down solidly. This will greatly increase the chance of its living, as it prevents the soil from drying down to the roots.

Even if work was the sole aim and end of life, it would be folly to neglect relaxation, for no labor can be efficiently and permanently carried on without it.

Sayings, and Who First Said Them.

Many of our common sayings, so trite and pithy, are used without the least idea from whose mouth or pen they first originated. Probably the works of Shakespeare furnish us with more of these familiar maxims than any other writer. For to him we owe "All is not gold that glitters," "Make a virtue of necessity," "Screw your courage to the sticking place" (not point). "They laugh that win," "That is the short and long of it," "Comparisons are odious," "As merry as the day is long," "A Daniel come to judgement," "Fratily, thy name is woman," and a host of others.

Washington Irving gives "The Almighty Dollar," Thomas Morgan queried long ago: "What will Mrs. Grundy say?" while Goldsmith answers: "Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no fibs."

Charles Pinckney gives "Millions for defence, but not one cent for tribute," "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his fellow-citizens" (not countrymen) appeared in the resolutions presented to the House of Representatives in December, 1790, prepared by General Harry Lee.

Thomas Tasser, a writer of the sixteenth century, gives us "It's an ill wind turns no good," "Better late than never," "Look ere thou leap" and "The stone that is rolling can gather no moss."

"All cry and no wool" is found in Butler's "Hudibras." Dryden says: "None but the brave deserve the fair," "Men are but children of larger growth," and "Through thick and thin."

"When Greeks join Greeks then the leg of war,"—Nathaniel Lee, 1695. "Of two evils I have chosen the least" and "The end must justify the means" are from Matthew Prior.

We are indebted to Colley Cibber for the agreeable intelligence that "Richard is himself again."

Johnson tells us of "A good hater, and Macintosh, in 1761, the phrase often attributed to John Randolph, "Wise and masterly inactivity."

"Variety is the very spice of life" and "Not much the worse for wear," Cowper.

"Man proposes, but God disposes," Thomas Kempis.

Christopher Marlowe gave forth the invitation so often repeated by his brothers in a lesser way, "Love me little, love me long."

Edward Coke was of the opinion that "A man's house is his castle." To Milton we owe "The paradise of fools," "A wilderness of sweets" and "Moping melancholy and moonstruck madness."

Edward Young tells us "Death loves a shining mark" and "A fool at 40 is a fool indeed."

From Bacon comes "Knowledge is power," and Thomas Southerne reminds us that "Pity's akin to love."

Dean Swift thought that "Bread is the staff of life."

Campbell found that "Coming events cast their shadows before," and "This distance lends enchantment to the view."

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever" is from Keats.

Franklin said: "God helps those who help themselves," and Lawrence Sterne comforts us with the thought, "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb."

The Gams Cuck and the Picture.

Mr. Scott Lighton, the artist, tells the story concerning a game cock which he kept in his studio. Having at one time to paint the portrait of a large-sized game bird for a patron, the pet bird suffered a good deal from the domineering spirit of his larger companion, and got so that he could never see him without flying into a rage.

After the picture was completed, and the bird which was its subject had been removed, the canvas remained in the studio, standing on the floor. One day the little game cock happened to be pecking his way about the studio, when he suddenly caught sight of the counterfeit presentation of his former enemy. With a scream of rage he gave a leap, and, flying at the picture, planted his beak into it again and again before he could be restrained.

The next time he was given an opportunity he repeated the attack and for some time it was the almost daily amusement of the artist and his friends to witness these "impromptu cock fights between a live bird and a dummy."

At last, one day, the little fellow, resting a moment from an unusually spirited attack, happened in cocking his head to one side, to get a look behind the picture. He was for an instant dumfounded. Then he looked in front and saw his old enemy as large as life; another glance behind, and he was more than ever puzzled. He then deliberately walked around and behind the picture several times, carefully surveying it, and, finally with a spiteful flit, and with an air of disgust that would have done credit to a human being, marched away and hid himself. Never, after this affair, could he be induced to attack the picture, or indeed, to pay the slightest attention to it, notwithstanding the most strenuous efforts that were made to incite him. He had penetrated the sham, and would have no more of it.

A good deal has been said through the papers about the healthfulness of lemons. The latest advice is how to use them so they will do most good as follows: Most people know the benefit of lemonade before breakfast, but few know it is more than doubled by taking another at night also. The way to get the better of the bilious system without blue pills or quinine is to take the juice of one, two or three lemons as appetite craves, in as much ice water as makes it pleasant to drink without sugar, before going to bed.

In the morning on rising, at least a half hour before breakfast, take the juice of one lemon in a goblet of water. This will clear the system of humor and bile with efficacy, without any of the weakening effects of calomel or congress water. People should not irritate the stomach by eating lemons clear, the powerful acid of the juice, which is almost corrosive, invariably produces inflammation after a while, but, properly diluted, so that it does not burn or draw the throat, it does its medicinal work without harm, and when the stomach is clear of food has abundant opportunity to work over the system thoroughly.

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