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The June just past was a record breaker in more senses of the word than one. On the evenings of the 9th and 10th frost was reported from many sections of the country, while on the 15th temperatures several degrees above the 100 mark were reported from many central western cities.

An odd incident is related in a late issue of an eastern agricultural journal of a bantam rooster that apparently became disgusted with the desertion of a clutch of eggs by his mate and accordingly got on the nest and sat on them until the eggs hatched. It is more than likely that his mate was a suffragette and that he was trying to make the best of a bad situation.

Beekkeepers will be interested in a bulletin lately issued by the bureau of entomology of the department of agriculture at Washington, No. 169, treating of sackbrood, which is an infectious disease and causes the death of the larvae in the comb cells. Copies of the publication may be had at 5 cents apiece by applying to the superintendent of documents, Washington.

That ability to resist electrical currents is largely an individual matter or varies greatly with individuals is shown in the recovery of a Nekosoa (Wis.) young man after coming in contact with the high tension wire at the substation of the Chippewa Power company, which carries a current totaling 33,000 volts. This is more than twenty-five times as strong as the electrical current that is used in official electrocutions.

While in no way allied to the bird family, mud turtles also lay eggs. Instead of sitting on the eggs, as do the mother birds, the mother turtle scoops out a hole in the sand in a sunny place and there deposits her eggs, usually from fifteen to twenty-five in number. These are hatched by the heat of the sun. The eggs of the snapping turtle are white, round as a bullet and have a shell that is tough and pliable like parchment.

Too many parents take the Puritan attitude toward their children—that if they do well in whatever task is assigned them it is no more than they ought to do, while if they do ill they should be upbraided for it. This may work well with some boys and girls, but the more sensible plan would seem to be to give a cordial word of appreciation for work well done. It will do the recipient good and in most cases will also serve to develop the sympathies and sensibilities of the one who gives. Older people crave merited appreciation. So do boys and girls.

**Are You a Woman?**

**Take Cardui**

**The Woman's Tonic**

FOR SALE AT ALL DRUGGISTS

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**THREE WONDERFUL MIRRORS.**

Used in Place of a Telescope in Mount Wilson Observatory.

From Los Angeles by trolley car and burro back up through the pine forests one reaches the Wilson observatory. No dome or gigantic telescope greets the visitor when he gains the summit. A huge Noah's ark of canvas destroys all preconceived ideas of what an observatory should look like, and within three wonderful mirrors take the place of the great tubular telescope of other observatories.

The observatory building is constructed of canvas, the sides being set in the form of tiers of steeply overlapping eaves. This arrangement is calculated to allow for perfect ventilation and is re-enforced by a vertical wall of canvas, which can be raised or lowered at will to obtain an even temperature.

The peculiar arrangement of mirrors that replaces the familiar telescope is the center around which all interest in the observatory revolves. These mirrors are constructed at the Yerkes observatory and are the finest products of the optician's manufacturing skill. The enlarging mirror, which is supported by a pier of stone at the farther end of the building, is of concave glass four inches thick, and the scientists tell us it is of twenty-four inch aperture by sixty foot focus.

The glass is polished ever so often with Jewellers' rouge upon pads of chamois skin and is burnished every week or ten days, in order to remove all possible dust. In addition a galvanized cover is kept over it when it is not in use.—Christian Herald.

**Frolics of Ivan the Terrible.**

Ivan the Terrible, among his many insane freaks, would let loose wild bears in the streets of his capital and placidly say his prayers while watching the slaughter of his people, "flinging a few coins to the mutilated survivors as he rose from his knees." He would compel parents to slay their children, and children to kill one another; and if there was a survivor "the amiable monarch would dispatch him with his own hands, shrieking with laughter at so excellent a joke."

In one of his lighter moods of frolic he commanded the citizens of Moscow to "provide for him a measure full of bees for a medicine," and fined them 7,000 roubles when they failed.

**Why Married Men Live Long.**

The reason a married man lives longer than a single man is because the single man leads a selfish existence. A married man can double his pleasures. Any time he has a streak of good luck it tickles him all over, but it makes him feel twice as good when he tells his wife about it. And she is so pleased and proud that he feels like a two-year-old. There isn't a chance in the world of a man's arteries hardening or his heart weakening when he can get a million dollars' worth of pleasure out of making his wife happy.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

**Too Thorough.**

"Why don't you try to make your constituents understand problems of government?"

"That's what I have done," replied Senator Sorghum. "I have been too thorough about it. A lot of them now think that they can give advice instead of taking it."—Washington Star.

**Fearfully Foxy.**

"I work a foxy scheme on my boy. He'd rather wash the dishes than wash his hands, so I let him wash the dishes."

"What's the foxy part?"

"Why, he gets his hands clean."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Very Promising.**

"Jones strikes me as a very promising young man."

"He strikes me that way too. But he never pays it back."—California Pelican.

Talent is that which is in a man's power. Genius is that in whose power a man is.—Lowell.

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**HANDLING THE UNRULY BULL.**

A good way to restrain an unruly bull is described in the Breeder's Gazette:

Have a covering made of good harness leather from a pattern of the animal's head. Fit a piece over the front, having it extend out so as to take a good seam on each side and allow plenty of room about the eyes, then fit pieces to come down on each cheek, four or five inches wide. Have these pieces securely sewed and riveted with the seam upon the outside.

If the animal has horns the hood is easily fastened on. If not make a strong, snug fitting halter with straps to fasten the hood securely under the jaw and around the ears. The whole contrivance needs to be strong and well fitted, as a bull will give it a first class trial.

**UTILIZING ASH SUPPLY.**

**Material From Both Coal and Wood Has Fertilizing Value.**

As the time approaches to clean up ash pits and bins and to distribute ash piles it is well to remind farmers and gardeners of the value of this product.

When conditions are favorable it is most economical to spread the ashes where they are needed through the winter, as then none of the fertilizing properties are lost.

Even coal ashes may be put upon the land if the coarser portions are raked or sifted out, and these clinkers will serve as drainage or foundations for walks about the barnyard and poultry yard. Chickens also find something they want in the ashes.

Fine coal ashes may be worked into a clay soil with the very good effect of rendering it more porous as well as supplying some of the chemicals necessary to the growth of plants.

For fertilizing the lawn nothing is better than fine wood ashes, but if distributed during the winter and early spring the result will be almost too heavy a growth of grass, necessitating very frequent mowing.

The application of two scuttles of hardwood ashes to a tree produced the largest and finest Seckel pears ever harvested from a certain orchard in St. Louis county, Mo., the fruit ripening from day to day during six weeks.

All small fruits and orchard trees are benefited by a treatment of ashes, and borers that work around the base of the trunk of trees are almost entirely prevented from entering the bark.

A moderate amount of ashes and soot worked into the soil around roses greatly increases the richness and brilliance of coloring in the blossoms and makes fine foliage. Care must be taken not to loosen the roots, as roses like a rich, firm soil.

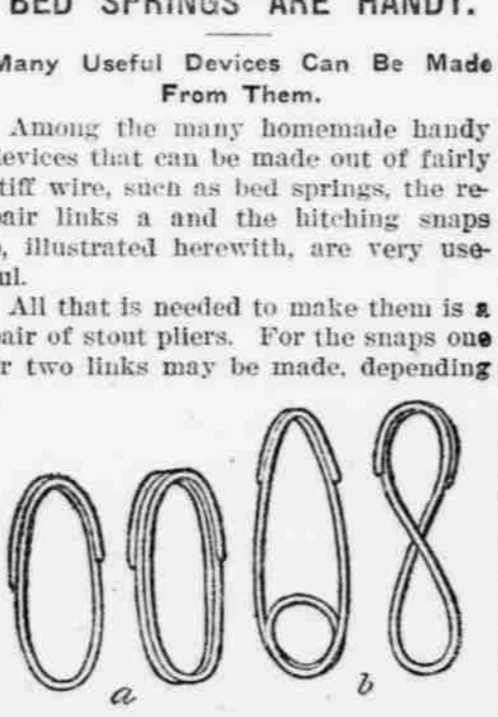
The scrapings from the barnyard if there be a cow, the droppings from the chicken house, with ashes, will supply almost all the enriching for a place of two acres.—Farm Progress.

**BED SPRINGS ARE HANDY.**

Many Useful Devices Can Be Made From Them.

Among the many homemade handy devices that can be made out of fairly stiff wire, such as bed springs, the repair links and the hitching snaps b, illustrated herewith, are very useful.

All that is needed to make them is a pair of stout pliers. For the snaps one or two links may be made, depending upon the service required. For the snaps the wire may be looped in various ways. The snaps open something like key rings do, by pulling the jaws apart. They may then be attached to whatever is to be held—dogs, calves or even larger animals if the wire is stout. For hanging things up they are also very handy.—American Agriculturist.



An idle acre is like an idle man—of no more use than a dead one and takes up more room.—Kansas Farmer.

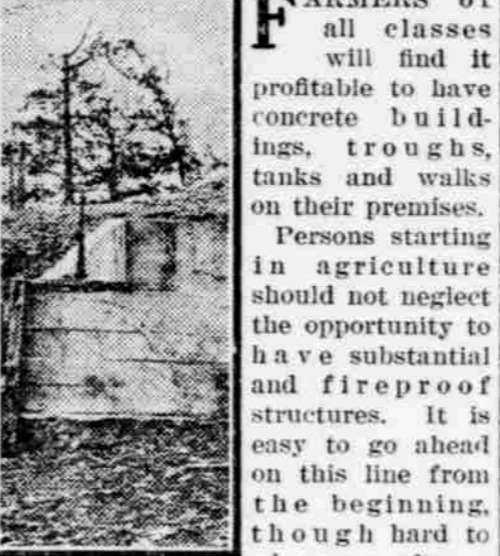
**BEES.**

When the hives are well distributed in a certain space their inmates may be more easily handled. It seems to improve the disposition, especially if there are some trees or shrubs about it. Robbing is not prevalent either, and the absence of that always helps to make bees better natured.

A good fall flow of honey is not an unmixed good, for careful trials have shown that there is a superabundance of pollen grains in this honey which does not make it the most desirable for winter stores, and the presence of the pollen has a tendency to bring on dysentery with the bees, especially if they are wintered in the cellar without an occasional cleansing flight, which the outdoor winter protected bees have. This is a mighty good argument in favor of wintering bees outdoors.

**Making the Little Farm Pay**

By C. C. BOWSFIELD



FARMERS of all classes will find it profitable to have concrete buildings, troughs, tanks and walks on their premises.

Persons starting in agriculture should not neglect the opportunity to have substantial and fireproof structures. It is easy to go ahead on this line from the beginning, though hard to change after a start has been made with frame buildings.

Concrete is as cheap as lumber for building purposes and even cheaper if sand, gravel and labor are largely furnished on the place. An ordinary farm hand will become expert in the use of concrete with a few days' experience.

Silos, barns and other buildings made of this material are much safer than wood against fire and storm.

The largest part of concrete is the gravel or crushed stone. This should be clean—that is, free from loam, clay or vegetable matter. The best results are obtained from a mixture of sizes graded from the smallest, which is retained on a one-fourth inch screen, to the larger ones that will pass a one and one-half inch ring. For heavy foundation and abutment work larger sized pebbles and stones might be used, while for re-enforced concrete work pebbles larger than those passing a one inch ring should not be used.

In the selection of sand the greatest care should be used, and critical attention should be given to its quality, for sand contributes from one-third to one-half of the amount of the materials used in making concrete. Sand may be considered as including all grains and small pebbles that will pass through a wire screen with one-fourth inch meshes, while gravel in general is the pebbles and stones retained upon such a screen. The sand should be clean, coarse and, if possible, free from loam, clay and vegetable matter.

In mixing materials for concrete use two and a half times as much sand as portland cement and twice as much gravel or stone as sand—that is, one part cement, two and a half parts of sand and five parts of gravel or crushed stone. Use just enough water to get the consistency desired. If the sand is very fine the cement should be increased from 10 to 15 per cent. When the mixture does not have a uniform color, but looks streaky, it has not been fully mixed.

If the mixture does not work well and the sand and cement do not fill the voids in the stone, the percentage of stone should be reduced slightly, but the concrete should first be properly mixed. Concrete that is poorly mixed may present features that are entirely eliminated by turning it over once or twice more.

Concrete wet enough to be mushy and run off a shovel when being handled is used for re-enforced work, thin walls or other thin sections. Concrete just wet enough to make it jelly-like is used for some re-enforced work and also for foundations, floors, etc. It requires ramming with a tamper to remove air bubbles and to fill voids. This concrete is of a medium consistency.

Sometimes bank or creek gravel, which will answer the purpose of sand and gravel combined, can be obtained, and it is frequently used on the farm and in small jobs of concrete work just as it comes from the pit or creek. Occasionally this gravel contains nearly the right proportions of sand and gravel, but in the majority of sand pits and gravel banks there is a great variation in the sizes of the grains and pebbles or gravel and in the quantities of each. This is due to the fact that all the deposits are formed in seams or pockets that make it impossible to secure anything like uniformity. Therefore, to get the best and cheapest concrete it is advisable to screen the sand and gravel and to re-mix them in the correct proportions for the work.

**Homemade Drill.**

To make a drill, something which is essential on every farm, take a wheel about eighteen inches in diameter and wide enough to run a belt on and bolt same to the side of your workshop, as shown in sketch. Take two 2 by 4's about eight inches long and bore a five-eighths inch hole in the center of each, so that a half inch gaspipe will work in them freely. Bolt these 2 by 4's to the side of the building about twelve inches from the big wheel. Attach a four inch pulley to the half inch pipe or rod so as to run a belt from the large wheel to this, and fasten an old brace ratchet to the bottom of the gaspipe to hold the drill in place. Put a weight on a lever at the top of the drill rod to force the drill through the iron.—Iowa Homestead.

**Pig Management.**

A dry sleeping accommodation is an absolute necessity. Good ventilation is almost as important. Slates, tiles, boards and corrugated iron are too cold for pigs to make the greatest progress. There is nothing which gives the necessary ventilation and warmth in all seasons as a good foot thick of wheat straw. Exercise, especially between weaning and fattening, is also of very great importance. Coal or ashes and water should be within the reach of pigs of all ages to assist in counteracting the natural acidity of the stomach. A handful of common sulphur given once a week will be helpful. Great regularity in feeding, with absolute cleanliness, is no very small detail.

**Snuffles In Sheep.**

This is the time of year when this disease becomes prevalent. It is similar to a bad cold in persons. Keep the sheep in dry quarters that are well ventilated, but free from drafts.

One of the best remedies is to hold the animal and make it inhale the fumes from tar which has been poured over red hot coals.

Fresh pine tar can also be put in the mouth and on the nose.

Prevention is better than cure. Keep the sheep dry and protected from storms.

**Navel Sores In Calves.**

Keep your barn as clean as possible when calving takes place. Wash the newborn calf with a mild solution of antiseptic as often as twice daily. Tie the navel with aseptic silk thread and snip off below ligature. The trouble is caused by infection from external sources.

**THE ECONOMY OF GOOD DAIRY COWS**

On many farms the dairy cow will be poorly fed this winter, says the Kansas Farmer. When feed is plentiful and of good quality the cow has a chance to pick the best from a great deal more feed than she can consume, and under these conditions she makes a better showing than she can make in a year when feed is scarce and when she is compelled to eat the feed offered, whether that feed be palatable or not. The fact is that the cow must be well fed if she is to produce milk. She must have enough feed to maintain her body and must consume a sufficient surplus to produce milk. This condition prevails always. The animal body cannot adapt itself to seasonal conditions.

This means that the dairy cow, if she be profitable, must at all times have such feed as will enable her to produce milk to her capacity. It costs about as much in feed to maintain a cow of low capacity as it does a cow of large capacity. Figuring on this basis, therefore, one cow consumes about as much feed as another in maintaining herself. The cow which can consume the greatest amount of feed over and above that required by bodily maintenance is the cow which, if she puts that feed to proper use, will fill the milk pail.

In times when feed is plentiful the individual cow, whether of low capacity or of the highest capacity, does



The Jerseys are famous for their beauty, and they have the following important characteristics: (1) They convert a large part of the food consumed into milk and not into flesh and fat; (2) they give the richest milk; (3) they mature at an early age; hence can be bred early, and they come into usefulness quickly. A Jersey has recently made a record of 15,33 pounds of milk in one year. This produced 1,132 pounds nine ounces of butter. A herd of Jerseys is a fine asset.

not suffer from the same comparison as in times when feed is scarce. The scarcer the feed the better the cow should be; the better the cow the greater use she makes of her feed and the greater will be the profit therefrom. The cow, after all, supplies only a market for the feed she consumes. The first toll she exacts is that of supporting herself. After this is done then the value she gives for the feed is measured by the amount of milk produced.

While this is the most trying year, from the feed standpoint, Kansas has experienced in many years, nevertheless it demonstrates the necessity of having a good cow. The good cow is not only a necessity in a year like this, but in years when feed is more plentiful she will give a larger return for the feed consumed than will the poor one. Just as a season like this asserts the benefits resulting from the best of farming, so does it show the necessity for better live stock of all kinds. The best live stock will give the largest return for the feed consumed. The dairy cow of the best type will give a larger return for the feed she consumes than any other farm animal.

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**HOG BRISTLES.**

The greatest foe of the pig is hog cholera, and the greatest enemy of hog cholera is cleanliness.

Never select a heavy, lazy sow for a breeder nor one that has a bad temper.

The best boars have heavy bones. Watch this if you are about to purchase one.

Many hogs are bothered with worms. Examine the droppings.

To make fall pigs do well they must be provided with warm sleeping quarters.

Provide charcoal for the hogs.

**SHEEP MEASLES.**

**Methods of Preventing the Spread of This Parasitical Disease.**

The sheep measles parasite has recently become common in the United States. It attacks the muscles, says the Orange Judd Farmer. In heavy infestations it may cause the animal's death. Fortunately it has been proved to be the intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm, not of the armed tapeworm of man, with which species it has generally been identified in the past. Sheep become infected as a result of swallowing the eggs scattered over the pasture in the excrement of dogs harboring tapeworms. Dogs in turn acquire the tapeworm after eating the carcasses of infested sheep.

Preventive measures are, first, systematic treatment to keep dogs free from tapeworms, thus removing the source from which sheep become infected; second, the proper disposal of the carcasses of dead sheep and the complete prohibition of raw mutton as an article of food for dogs, thus preventing the possibility of the parasite reaching its canine host. The destruction of carcasses will also reduce the chances of the transmission of the parasites to coyotes, which may also to some extent act as hosts, though these animals are probably much less important as carriers than the dogs which constantly accompany sheep on the range.

**THE SHROPSHIRE SHEEP.**

**Characteristics That Indicate Quality In This Popular Breed.**

The Shropshire breed of sheep, having its home on the downs of England, is very symmetrical and stylish in form. The head should show refinement in every feature with moderate length, says the American Cultivator.

A characteristic attribute is for it to be closely covered with wool, the cap between the ears being dense running to the bridge of the nose joining that which covers the cheek and the lower part of the head. The ears should be far apart, pointed and moderate in thickness and preferably covered to the tip with fine curly wool. There should not be the least evidence of horns, as the places where these sometimes appear should be covered with wool. The neck should be nicely attached and full of sufficient length to carry the head with peculiar style. The body to possess this characteristic smoothness and symmetry must be somewhat circular and round ribbed. The back should be straight, strong



I have found that Shropshires are the most profitable sheep among the mutton breeds, says a New York sheep grower. I have handled and fed all the mutton breeds. In the first place, Shropshires do not eat as much as other breeds, and they bear more wool. I sheared 129 breeding ewes last year, all sucking their lambs, and they averaged eleven pounds of wool apiece and one and a half lambs apiece. They make good mothers to their lambs, good milkers and are long lived. We run about 120 in a bunch. They are the only mutton breed that you can run in big bunches. You are never troubled in Shropshires with having goitre in the neck.

and knit so that the handling of this part shows it to be smoothly and evenly covered. The loin must be wide and hips not prominent and the quarters lengthy and deep. The width from the loin and hips should be carried out to the tail head, and the fullness characteristic of this part should be maintained on the outside of the thigh and on the inside as well.

The fleece should be strong and fine in fiber, with all the density possible. From the bridge of the nose to the fetlock as well as along the belly a dense covering of wool is desirable. In opening the fleece the fibers, which are generally about three inches long, should part readily, show clear white in strong contrast to the pink skin. About the ears or top of the head there should be no patches of black fiber, nor should these appear distributed anywhere in the fleece. The characteristic markings for the face and legs are rich dark brown in color. The best type of this breed shows an unusual combination of quality and quantity of both wool and mutton.