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Preparing a Starter.

Oscar Erf, in an address before Indiana dairymen, said:

The preparation of a starter is as follows: Select three or four pint jars of the best milk that comes to the creamery, or, where opportunity affords, select the milk from several good cows; cover these jars and set them away in a warm place until the milk has coagulated. From these select the one that has developed the best sharp, acid taste, free from disagreeable odors and gas bubbles, and that shows a solid curd. A can of skim milk should then be heated to a temperature not exceeding 175 deg. F. for twenty minutes and cooled to 75 or 80 deg. F. The selected jar of milk is then added, and, after thoroughly mixing, the can is set in a place where the temperature can be kept at 75 or 80 deg. F. for twenty-four hours. A wooden tank, large enough to hold seven or eight times the amount of water occupied by the starter can, answers the purpose well for keeping this starter at a uniform temperature for a long time. The entire amount of the starter should be soured at the end of this period, and apparently of the same flavor as that of the original selected jar. The starter is now ready for use, and an amount equal to 7 or 8 per cent of the cream to be ripened is added. By adding one or two quarts daily to fresh pasteurized milk it can be perpetuated to the extent of eight to ten days, depending on the cleanliness and the care taken in pasteurizing the skim milk.

This method of preparing a starter invariably brings good results. Quite often, however, simpler methods are proposed for preparing starters, such as leaving some cream in the vat and running the fresh cream with it, or by adding buttermilk to the cream; but these cannot be recommended, for they too often fail in producing the desired flavor.

BILLVILLE AT HOME.

In order to keep the family at the seashore we've got to stay at home and swim in the millpond.

There's nothing like being in style and following the fashion, but it's pretty hard to keep it up on a dollar a day and faith in to-morrow.

Home is only where the heart is—more frequently where the shirt is hanging around, waiting for a chance to foreclose a mortgage.

While we were bathing in Wells' millpond one day last week, an alligator made as if he would swallow us, but he was probably reminded of the whale's unfortunate experience with Jonah, and gave it up as a bad job.—Atlanta Constitution.

Sensational Exposure of Fraud.

A dog was playing a piano in a circus in Yorkshire, England, the other day, when one of the audience called out "rats." The dog immediately vacated his seat and "went for" the rodents. But as the piano kept right on playing there is some question as to the dog's musical ability.

HAD A WRONG EFFECT.

Impressive Sermon Confirmed Listener in Evil Ways.

The little English vicar of Hexton, whose objection to high church ritualism brought him recently into conflict with Bishop Potter in New York, sat one day drinking a brandy and soda in the cafe of the Fifth Avenue hotel.

A group of reporters surrounded him. One of the reporters said:

"Why don't you try to down ritualism, Mr. Fillingham, with sermons rather than with violence?"

The vicar smiled. "Sermons," he said, "have an effect always, but too often this effect is the opposite one to what the sermonizer intended."

"How do you mean, sir?" the reporter asked.

"I'll illustrate to you what I mean," said the vicar. "I once had a parishioner who was a miser. For this man's benefit I preached one Sunday a strong sermon on the necessity of charity, of philanthropy—a sermon on the duty and the joy of giving. The miser, at whom I gazed often, seemed impressed."

"Next day I met him on the street."

"Well, John," I said, "what did you think of yesterday's sermon?"

"It moved me deeply, sir," he answered. "It has brought home to me so strongly the necessity of giving alms that, honestly, sir, I've a great mind to turn beggar."—New York Tribune.

A Philippine Experiment Station.

The United States government is establishing an experiment station in the Philippine islands. Already a part of the staff has reached the field, and a botanist, an agrostologist, an expert in soils, a superintendent of the farm and helpers are there at work. The experiment farms established by the Spanish government were visited. It was found that many of the buildings had been destroyed or been allowed to go to pieces, while the tools and farm machinery had been stolen or rendered useless through neglect. Already a number of farms have been established, one of which has 9,000 coconut trees on it. American machinery has been introduced, and natives are being taught to use it. About 700 intelligent native farmers have been given an aggregate of 18,000 packages of seeds and set to experimenting. Though naturally a fruit producing region, fruit growing has been entirely neglected in the past, the people being willing to take what nature gave. The experimenters will accomplish great things along this line. Field tillage and stock raising are to be stimulated, in spite of the rinder pest, which has been working havoc among the draft animals. Of the 70 million acres of land in the island, 65 million are owned by the government, which shows how little attention agriculture has so far received. Under wise direction, the Philippine archipelago will become a great agricultural commonwealth.

Smut is a disease of grains in which the kernels assume a dark brown or black appearance, or are converted into masses of blackish powder. It is caused by parasitic fungi, which are propagated by spores. These absorb the juices of the plants to which they are attached.

The "pea comb" is a trait which resembles three small combs in one, the middle being the highest.

"Hullo, Central"
"Give me 33" "Hullo!"

"Hello! That you Charley? This is Bill. I was down to Portlan' this week and that I'd look at some of them Separators."

"Oh! You were? Well, what ones did you see?"

"Oh! three or four kinds; an' sa' can't some them fellers talk, tho', that sell 'em! They all have the best, but gosh! there's a pile o' difference. Sara sed she'd never clean some of 'em, and some of 'em she coldn't lift the bole out, and one was so durned long you coldn't see totner end o'nt when looking inside. Ha! na. But we finally seen the one von spoke on, the Empire. Gosh ain't it a hummer."

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