

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm—A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

MAKE a building that will hold 50 cows, say 28 feet wide by 108 feet long and 14 feet high. The first story should be 10 feet for the cows, with a 4 foot loft for meal and cut litter. A building of this width and size can be built of light timbers, say 2 by 4 inch studding, balloon frame. As the roof is narrow the rafters can be light and need no purlins. Board it with neat siding and line it or plaster inside. With well arranged windows and air ducts you have light and ventilation as thoroughly under your control as in the living room of your house. Such a building as this can be put up for one-third the cost of a 55 by 60 foot bank barn and be infinitely better as a place to house cows. Two objections will probably be urged against this single purpose barn—first, that you will need a large barn anyhow, for the storage of hay and grain, and, secondly, that it will be inconvenient to get the coarse provender from the storage barn to the cow barn. In answer to the first objection I can say if new buildings are to be put up, build them long and narrow, as in the case of the cow barn before described, for the same saving in the cost of the smaller sized lumber can be made. Lumber of this we call yard sizes costs \$12 to \$15 per thousand. Sawed sizes cost \$18 to \$20, and quite large sticks, which have to be of good pine, may cost \$30. Such a building as above indicated can be built of yard sizes and would not cost over half as much as a square bank barn of the Chester county pattern of the same capacity. If your old barn is good, take your basement stables, drop your bays and so increase the storage capacity.

As to the second objection, every farmer with land enough to put on 40 or 50 cows to 100 acres will surely have a silo and cut his fodder and his hay, and with well arranged hanging tracks can take his cut feed across his barnyard into his cow barn with more satisfaction than in the old way of taking forkfuls of hay and sheaves of fodder through the dark and narrow entries.

An extension of this idea of single purpose barns would suggest a horse barn also, which in many ways would be preferable to stabling them in the basements of bank barns. We used to imagine that great straw sheds were needed for the storage of litter, the shelter of the stock and the protection of the manure. Now we haul our manure directly to the fields, our cows are not let out when they require shelter, and the straw should be cut into inch lengths at the time of thrashing, in which case it can be housed in one-third the usual space, and actually costs less than to store it away uncut.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Western Pastures.

One of the foremost considerations with the dairyman is the matter of cheap and effective food. In the West here, even at this comparatively early day, the cry is for more pasture room. As a matter of fact the absence of good pasturage for the cows at about this time of the year, as a rule, is complained about a good deal more in this section than it is further East where they have learned to depend upon something better. It is now conceded by dairymen who have studied all sides of the question that the corn field will furnish more of the right kind of food for the dairy cow than will the pasture. That is to say, turn the pastures into corn fields and clover and alfalfa meadows, then prepare the food for the cows for every month the year around, and it will be discovered that milk and butter are produced at a lessened cost. This manner of feeding necessarily brings into requisition the silo. By this means several advantages are had. It is possible to feed through a long drouth just the same as though the pastures were green and without any increase of cost. It is also possible to feed through the long winter on a milk producing ration that is grown on the farm and is as cheap as grass itself. With the right kind of ration for winter feeding it encourages more of winter dairying, and consequently greater profits to the butter maker. This branch of conducting the dairy is but one branch of what is known as intensive farming. It is found to be in keeping with the idea of cutting down the acreage of the farm, and of putting more of both brain and brawn labor into those acres. This system is working well in practice further east, and it is but a matter of time when it will be found more thoroughly engrafted into our Western ways.—Nebraska Farmer.

Amateur Tests.—We once knew of a man that bought a good many cows every year for his city dairy. It was before the advent of the Babcock test, and for that reason he was very excusable in using a more primitive mode. He would get the milk of the cow offered for sale and set it over night in a goblet. If it showed a good thick cream in the morning, he bought the cow, provided her milking capacity was fairly good. This might do for cows to be used in a milk dairy, but it would be very unreliable for cows to be used in a creamery or for the private dairy. This, for two reasons: First, some cream is much more compact than others, and a cow whose cream was five-sixteenths of an inch

thick might really contain less butterfat than one four-sixteenths inches thick. Second, the cream in some milks rises very much slower than in others, due largely to the size of the butter globule.

Uncertainty of Scores.
A writer in Ohio Poultry Journal says: There is no doubt but that the A. P. A. can recommend certain persons as judges, and require them, before that is done to be examined as to their qualifications for such position, but in that event will all societies and associations employ them? If they did not, would it not lead to another rebellion, in comparison to which the score card affair would be a pigmy? Would it not furnish a pabulum for poultry writers to ventilate their literary attainments pro and con for a long time? The judge, to suit all, must be especially endowed with certain qualities, among which might be mentioned well versed in the business, which means tact and experience; he must be quick, agreeable, absolutely accurate, unvarying in judgment, have a retentive memory, possessed of patience, and to be able to measure up defeated exhibitors he must be a phrenologist, a physiognomist, and a psychologist or hypnotizer. In fact, such a man cannot be found, and therefore, resort must be had to those possessing fewer virtues. If a judge is required to use a score card he will have between twenty and twenty-five subdivisions of a fowl to examine, each of which may be defective in from one to six or more places, and all such defects will vary in from one-fourth to five or more points in valuation, and in a class of twenty fowls his mind or attention, it is possible, will be or may be brought into direct operation over 7,000 times, and what is expected is that he shall go over and over the same specimens time and time again and have the results exactly alike; or if after a week has elapsed a few of the specimens included in the twenty named meet him elsewhere, he is expected to place them in the same notches again as a test of his expert skill, ability and honesty, no matter what changes may have been made in the circumstances and conditions surrounding them—a thing impossible, and its like or analogy is not found in all nature, a thing which cannot be done whatever system of scoring he uses, or whatever committees or associations recommend him; and it is safe to say that it is impossible for a judge to score fowls in any considerable numbers, or at different times and places, and make the scores exactly alike when done twice or more, but with a few extra or fine fowls he may score sufficiently close to have the results approximately alike.

Greater Poultry Profits.

Years ago, says E. H. Davis in The Poultry Monthly, the poultry business was not as lucrative as it is at the present time. During the winter months, although our poultry was well sheltered and fed and great care used to keep the buildings clean, giving plenty of fresh water, etc., we found at the opening of the spring we had no remuneration for our labor, as cost of grain, scraps, potatoes, etc., far exceeded the income of eggs.

We have now a better way of feeding, and most excellent results have followed. We feed cut green bones in fair quantity every other day, and some of the time every day. They are inexpensive, and with a good bone cut they make when cut fresh every day so nice a food that we can only liken it to a nice rare steak to a hungry man. The fowls love it. They thrive, and the chickens grow rapidly when fed on it. The mineral part of this food gives chickens material for their growing bones, and for the laying hens the shells, while the meat, gristle and juices in these green bones give material for the flesh to the growing chickens and interior of the egg in abundance.

So now our fowls, instead of being overfat in winter, are giving us eggs. Instead of being a sorry looking, dejected, unprofitable lot during the molting period, they are wide awake and strong, and many of them go so far as to give us eggs regularly at this time. The grain bill being largely reduced, the egg yield being increased and no loss from sickness, all aid in making our winter and spring record very encouraging, and no one could induce us to neglect the feeding of green bones freshly cut at all seasons of the year.

Silks.

Many Miles has this to say of the above named breed: This breed, sometimes called Silky, or Negro fowls, have a very peculiar appearance; their plumage being so unlike that of other fowls, as to be scarcely recognized as feathers; while the skin of the fowl is a deep violet color, almost black, the surface bones being of the same hue also, which gives it a rather uninviting look when prepared for the table. The flesh, however, is very delicate and white, and superior to that of many breeds. The plumage has a soft, flossy appearance, the filaments being separate or single, and has been represented by ancient naturalists as resembling wool. In describing this peculiar breed of fowls some say, "They were covered with wool instead of feathers"; others say, they were covered with "hair like cats."

These fowls are supposed to be natives of India, though some say they originated in China. They are bred in England to some extent. The cocks weigh about four pounds, and the hen about two and one-half pounds.

Scavenger Sheep.—The too common opinion in regard to sheep is that they are but scavengers, and fitted only to consume the weeds and other wastes on the farm; but out of nothing comes something. If there is no proper food, care and shelter provided, we must expect our sheep to pine away and perish.—Ex.

ANTARCTIC WONDERS.

WHAT THE EXPLORATIONS OF BORCHGREVINCK REVEAL.

The Vast Storehouse of Wealth—May Be Found Within Those 8,000,000 Miles—Valuable Minerals on Possession Island.



HE vast Atlantic continent, 8,000,000 miles in extent, has been receiving much attention at the geographical congress assembled in London, and a great deal of new information on the subject has been secured.

While it is true that no man has yet penetrated beyond the stupendous ice wall surrounding this unknown and mysterious continent, a daring Norwegian navigator, the Columbus of the Antarctic, has just returned and told of the wonderful things he found there. He is C. Edgeberg Borchgrevink, and he is the first white man to tread the ground of this vast and hitherto unknown land.

From what Borchgrevink says—and all of his statements are corroborated by the log of the ship and the members

From the southwest, he says, vast streams of light shot into the heavens, making an interplay of gorgeous colors that swung the whole gamut of the prismatic keyboard. It was at once awful and magnificent.

Previous navigators have described Antarctica as an irregular mass of land, having somewhat the shape of a deformed foot with a swelled ankle. The bulk of it is in the eastern hemisphere. It is very imperfectly defined on charts and maps. As good a guess as any of its area states the latter at 8,000,000 square miles, making the continent larger than Australia.

Borchgrevink shot one seal of a species hitherto unknown, which seemed to have no external ears. In 1892 whaling vessels from Scotland tried to find the whalebone producing whale in those seas, but without success, though there were plenty of "hump-backs" and "blue" whales. The latter, in great schools, jumped out of the water like salmon, so as to show their whole length.

In that strange land the mountains are actually built to some extent out of snow. Layers of snow occur between strata of lava and ashes. This is explained by the fact that the ashes thrown out by volcanoes fall cold and form a solid cake, which is one of the best non-conductors known.

Volcanoes are built out of the products of their own eruption, being composed of debris piled around a vent.



WONDERS OF THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN.

of the crew—this is a region wholly unlike what had previously been thought. Its conditions are peculiarly adapted to easy exploration, and what has already been found leads to the conviction that animal and even human life may exist there in a degree never before suspected.

On Possession Island vegetation was discovered 30 feet above the sea level, and Borchgrevink found plants which were never before discovered within the Antarctic circle. This island is about 350 acres in size, and it will, says Borchgrevink, make an excellent landing place for all future expeditions to the vast continent stretching away at its back.

The vast ice wall which is the peculiar characteristic of this continent was seen stretching in both directions as far as the eye could see. In places it towered 12,000 feet above the sea level, crowning great perpendicular rocks that rose from the waves.

One of the most surprising results of Borchgrevink's voyage is his report of vast undeveloped mineral wealth, which in countless stores seem to lie waiting the hand of the miner in this unknown continent. This includes not only metals, but precious stones.

He picked up a large number of garnet specimens right near the shore. These precious stones were lying around loose, and he naturally concludes that there are many more of them. Wherever garnets are found other precious stones are not unlikely to be discovered, and people are asking if the Antarctic continent may not be one vast storehouse of mineral wealth which may exist there in undreamed-of quantities.

Possibly connected with this is the astonishing and hitherto unexplained aurora constantly witnessed by the explorer shooting up from behind the ice barrier and illuminating the heavens of this far-off quarter of the earth. Such a display of the aurora, says Borchgrevink, took place on February 17, and in all his experience in the Arctic he says he never saw its equal.

Ashes and lava are deposited around the craters in alternate layers, and between these lie strata of snow. Molten lava may flow over the crust of ashes without melting the snow beneath. Thus glaciers are sometimes sealed up under the layer of lava.

Cape Adair is in 74 degrees south latitude. Borchgrevink thinks that ships could winter there, so that an expedition into the interior might be started thence in summer.

Sarcasm on the Bench.

Some years ago there lived in Alabama a judge who was noted for the sarcasm which he dispensed during his administration of justice. On one occasion a young man was tried for stealing a pocketbook. The next case was for murder. The evidence in the larceny case was slight, but in the other seemed to the judge conclusive. To his amazement and wrath, however, the jury convicted the young man and acquitted the murderer. In passing sentence upon the convicted thief, after the discharge of the other prisoner, the judge said: "Young man, you have not been in this country long?" "No, your honor," replied the prisoner. "I thought not," said the judge; "you don't know these people; you may kill them, but don't touch their pocketbooks."

On another occasion, when the evidence seemed to point conclusively to the prisoner's guilt, but when the judge, from long experience, distrusted the jury's wisdom, the counsel for the defendant said:

"It is better that ninety-nine guilty persons should escape than that one innocent man should suffer." In his charge to the jury the judge admitted the soundness of the proposition, but added impressively and severely: "Gentlemen, I want you to bear in mind that ninety-nine have already escaped."

All of the British and continental steamship lines have advanced their storage rates to Europe.

MISSING WORD SWINDLES.

Will Finding Dupes in England Although Prohibited by Law.

Though "missing word" contests were declared illegal six months or a year ago in England and were supposed to have been definitely stopped, they are still being carried on. Unfortunately it is only the fraudulent ones that are now in existence. The "missing word contest" was so popular for many months after it was introduced that it has been kept up even against the law. It never attained any great popularity in this country. A sentence was printed with one word left blank, and the first person who supplied the missing word by mail got the chief prize, other awards being made up to a considerable sum. Each competitor sent in something like a shilling as entrance fee, and the total amount received in this way, generally an enormous sum, was distributed among the winners. That was the way the competition went when it was managed fairly. But the most of the missing word games, if not all of them, that are now running, are managed on no such principle. The periodicals now conducting them are generally printed somewhere on the continent, and are scattered broadcast on British soil. In many cases they are not periodicals at all, but merely circulars sealed up as letters giving the terms of the competition and the sentence to be completed. An instance of how one

CHICAGO THEATERS.

AMUSEMENT ATTRACTIONS FOR COMING WEEK.

What the Managers of the Various City Play-Houses Offer Their Patrons—Drama, Vaudeville and Operatic Engagements.

McVICKER'S THEATER.—"The Old Homestead" begins the second and last week next Sunday, Oct. 27. "The Twentieth Century Girl," a spectacular farce with many specialties, will begin a brief engagement on Sunday night, Nov. 3d. Miss Molly Fuller, will in the title role, beyond a doubt, excel all her previous triumphs. Bloomers form no part of her costume, and without them, it is claimed, she succeeds in impressing the mannish woman to a degree which has rarely been seen. Mr. John T. Kelly, will be the Michael McNamara, the man with the political pull, of whom it is said, comes a laugh every time he opens his mouth. Gus Williams is also a member of the company and plays the part of a German professor. His German dialect has made him famous and he should contribute a large share of the fun. Other prominent members of the company are: Harry Kelly, Thomas Lewis and Catherine Linyard. The three Hawthorne sisters will introduce a specialty, "The Bloomer Girl," in which they made a pronounced success last summer in the different New York vaudeville houses. The choruses will be numerous and the voices are said to be fresh and the personnel charming. On the whole "The Twentieth Century Girl" is claimed to be the best entertainment of its kind on the road.

CHICAGO OPERA HOUSE.—Donnelly and Girard have seemingly found in their latest vehicle of fun, "The Rainmakers," a sort of theatrical sieve, through which innocent merriment pours in perennial joy and unlimited gusts. They open at the Chicago Opera House on Sunday night with their new big company of specialty artists. All the scenery and costumes are new, and several startling electric effects will be introduced, making the comedy better and brighter than ever. Donnelly and Girard have all the latest songs, now popular in the metropolis. During the presentation of the phenomenally successful musical farce comedy, "The Rainmakers," all the original scenery and electrical effects used in the metropolis will be carried by the company. The cast includes artists whose names are synonymous with success, they are: Ross and Fenton, the Rogers brothers, Imro Fox, Maud Raymond, Jessie Gardner, Grace Langley, Ada Mansfield, May Warren and Donnelly and Girard.

"The Merry World" will follow Donnelly and Girard at the Chicago Opera House. It has been practically rewritten since its production here last spring and is said to bristle with new music and bright travesties. The engagement commences Sunday night, Oct. 27.

Other Attractions for Next Week.
Columbia.....Lillian Russell
Hooley's.....Too Much Johnson
Grand.....
Frank Daniels in "The Wizard of the Nile"
Haymarket.....Darkest Russia
Alhambra.....The White Rai
Academy of Music.....Steve Brodie
Lincoln.....The Three Guardsmen
Masonic Temple.....Vaudeville
Casino.....Continuous performance
Hopkins (West Side).....
Hopkins (South Side).....
.....Continuous performance
Olympic.....Continuous performance
Tennis.....Continuous performance
Havlin's.....Pawn Ticket 218
The Chutes.....Daily, 2 to 11 p. m.
Sam T. Jack's.....Vaudeville
Lyceum.....Burlingame
Schiller.....Queen of Liars

Dramatic Notes.
Daniel Frohman writes that Mr. E. H. Sothorn is surpassing all former receipts at the Lyceum theater, New York, in "The Prisoner of Zenda." Mr. Sothorn will be seen here in December. Thanksgiving day is probably the most popular day in Chicago for the public to visit the theaters. Both the matinee and evening performances at all the theaters are always crowded. The attraction that will be at McVicker's that week is a romantic drama by Sidney R. Ellis, entitled "Bonnie Scotland." Its scenes are located in the most picturesque part of Scotland and the scenery is in keeping with the locations. The action of the play makes it necessary in one of the acts to have a local fair, in which a number of dances, etc., typical of Scotland will be introduced.

The Garrick Theater Burlingame company, which was organized by Richard Mansfield, will come soon to the Chicago Opera House, presenting "Thrillby," Mr. Herbert's satire on Paul Potter's clever play "Thrilly."

Miss Lillian Russell will make her bow at the Columbia a week from Monday in a character entirely new to her Chicago friends and admirers—that of a Russian gypsy fortune teller in Henry B. Smith and Reginald De Koven's latest comic opera, "The Trifling."

After negotiations extending over three months, Manager Powers has succeeded in closing contracts with A. E. Palmer for a return engagement of his company in "Thrilly." The same can be seen during its run last summer, headed by Wilton Lackaye, will present the play.

Gustave Frohman has engaged C. W. Coudbock to support Miss Lillian Russell in the forthcoming production of "The Witch" at the Schiller Theater. "The Land of the Living," Harvey's new melodrama, will have its first Chicago production at the Academy of Music.