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POULTRY HOUSES.

W. S. Jacobs in a bulletin from the Arkansas station, gives the following directions for the building of poultry houses:

Every hen should be allowed six square feet of floor space. Each bird of the Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte and other general purpose breeds requires about nine inches of perch room. Leghorns, Minorcas, Spanish, etc., about eight inches. Brahma and Langshans, ten inches.

Roosts should be made low or near the ground—not higher than two feet. There are several reasons for this. Poultry of the heavier breed cannot fly high, and those of the lighter breeds frequently injure the soles of their feet in jumping from high perches. Roosts should be made all of the same height. For, if they are made some higher than the others, the birds will all flock to the highest ones and crowd, which is undesirable.

When drooping boards are used, they should be low down, to permit of easy cleaning. They should be made of matched lumber and should be twenty inches wide for one perch, and three feet wide for two perches. The first perch placed at least ten inches from the wall. A good roost may be made from material 2x3 inches, then slightly rounded on the edges.

Many use old boxes for nests, but if near the ground are liable to induce egg-eating. To prevent this use dark nests. Nests are usually made from twelve to fifteen inches square. Dirt floors are, as a rule, more satisfactory and much cheaper than board floors, and have the additional advantage of not providing a hiding place for rats, weasels, etc. The floor should be at least six inches above the surrounding ground. This can be accomplished by filling in with sand and gravel. From time to time this filling should be taken out and renewed, otherwise it is liable to become foul.

Cement foundations are best and cheapest in the end, but posts or stones at the corners serve well. The building should always be constructed in the spring or early summer, in order that it may dry out before the fowls have to be housed in it.

FARM NOTES.

The skim milk and manure are both substantial dairy assets of no mean proportion. Every state and section that has increased the dairy industry has increased its soil fertility in a substantial way.

Keeping a record of each cow's production is the way to see which are profitable and which unprofitable herds.

It usually does not pay to doctor sick fowls unless they are valuable breeders or show birds. Always remove a sick fowl from the main flock as soon as the earliest symptom of illness is noticed.

Secretary Hall, of the New York State Dairymen's Association, says he believes that the sanitary milk question has been carried too far. He thinks that milk reasonably clean is good enough for anybody.

In alfalfa regions brood sows are fed exclusively on alfalfa hay in winter and alfalfa pasture in summer time. Very little grain, or none whatever, is fed. As a result the sows are always strong, vigorous and healthy.

Clover hay cut fine, cooked and steeped in boiling water, makes an excellent change of food for brood sows, or for cows that have recently calved. It is also excellent for young stock of all kinds; if slightly seasoned with salt and a small quantity of bran and cornmeal added to it, it will provide nearly a complete food.

Southern farmers know the value of cottonseed meal for cows. Fed in the right proportion it keeps them in fine condition and produces hard better fat. It is a healthful and an economical feed.

When herringing roosts, get on the under side as well as the upper. Be thorough. The day is not far distant when hens will be sold on their egg laying record instead of their outward adornment.

SHEEP AND BAD DOGS.

The Shepherd's Journal says: Bad dogs like bad men are one of the world's unfortunate burdens which seem to thrive in spite of all the world being against them. A sheep-killing dog is a very bad dog, a greater curse than a sheep-stealing man, because the latter takes only what he can conveniently utilize for present wants, while the former, wolf-like, kills and maims for gore. Dogs, like their owners come under two categories—the useful and the useless. It is, however, not so often the fault of the dog that he is not useful as it is that of his master's training. The owner of a useless dog is generally a man of indifferent character and standing. A dog trained for useful pursuits is usually a good dog so long as he is kept at work and under restraint. The average dog is of a very active mind and temperament and if he is not studying good his mind turns to evil with the result that he becomes a bad dog. But the dog question, like any other question, should not be debated as a one-sided issue. Because the useless cur maims one's flock, that is no just reason why the whole canine family should be condemned any more than condemnation of the entire human family should follow the iniquities of an individual. The well-trained shepherd dog that is kept in steady employment and out of bad company is the shepherd's best helpmate and friend. Under certain conditions the dog can be "tamed" in a sense. He can be made to understand, such as the training of the small dog.

of the East, his services may be dispensed with.

HYDROCYANIC ACID IN PLANTS.

One of the most remarkable developments of modern agricultural science is the bringing to light of the fact that hydrocyanic acid is common in many of our economic plants. Hydrocyanic acid is one of the deadliest poisons.

It used to be supposed that certain plants were always poisonous and other plants always safe to use. But agricultural investigators have shown that this is not the case. Some of the safest of them, no-regarded may become very deadly at times.

This is because the poison is more abundant at times than at others. Thus sorghum is a very beautiful plant to feed to cattle at most times, but there are times when the amount of poison in it is very great. This is when it is growing rapidly and while it is young and tender. Hundreds of farm animals were killed by the acid before the Nebraska station finally worked out the processes by which the poison became a menace.

It is now believed that hydrocyanic acid is in most plants and has something to do with the growth processes, disappearing when the growth processes have been completed. In these plants it may be brought out again by fermentation, as in the case of fermented lima beans, tapioca and other food products that contain at some stages large quantities of Prussic acid. Sorghum silage may possibly contain this acid sometimes in dangerous amounts.—Epitomist.

COOKING FEED FOR STOCK.

A few years ago many stockmen were induced to cook more or less feed for their cattle and hogs. Cooking feed was especially popular with some hog feeders. The practice is still in vogue but to a very limited extent. Some have reported profitable results from cooking feed, but the method has never become popular and probably never will, says Farmers' Tribune.

Cooking feed adds nothing to its nutritive value, in fact it detracts from it. A large number of tests conducted at 8 or 10 of our experiment stations have conclusively shown that there is an actual loss in the nutritive value of cooked as compared with raw grain. The loss is estimated at about nine per cent. This is especially true of feeds rich in protein. When they are cooked the proteins coagulate and lose part of their digestibility. Such products as potatoes, which are very rich in starch and contain practically no proteins are benefitted by cooking because cooking breaks up the starch granules.

FERTILIZING VALUE OF CLOVER.

A speaker in a Western agricultural assembly, referring to the exhaustion of the prairie soil by continuous grain cropping, said he knew of a field that had borne corn and wheat seventeen years without manure, and had become so poor that the crop did not pay for harvesting. The owner seeded it to clover, which grew well. He cut three crops of clover hay, then reversed the soil, planted corn—without manure—and got a crop as good, or better, than the land had ever produced in the years of its greatest natural fertility. This experiment shows that clover does have the power to draw fertilizing material from the air, or the sub-soil, or probably from both. It is in accord with our own experience for many years.—Weekly Witness.

POSITION OF THE FEED BOX.

A horse can eat out of a higher manger or feed box than a cow, but neither horse nor cow, nor any other domestic animal of the barn, should be compelled to reach up for hay and other feed. When their heads are up the saliva tends to run down their throats before it has a chance to be mixed with the foods in mastication. Also when the head of an animal is up dust falls into the eyes and nostrils.—Farmers' Home Journal.

MILK PRODUCTION.

It has been found that the cow fresh in the fall gives the largest returns. Your cows may not be fresh now, but you can arrange to have them freshen at the most profitable season. The good dairymen will study breeding as well as that of milk production.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Good to Remember.

A church somewhere, no matter where, prints on the back of little slips—programs denoting the order of service—these words:
I will not worry.
I will not be afraid.
I will not give way to anger.
I will not yield to envy, jealousy or hatred.
I will be kind to every man, woman and child with whom I come in contact.
I will be cheerful and hopeful.
I will trust in God and bravely face the future.

Read them again. They are worth while. You might cut them out and paste them in your hat, indeed. If you will resolve to live by them—even for one week—you will be a great deal better for it. This is not a Monday morning sermon—not at all. It is just a Monday morning suggestion. "Blue Monday," you know, is a good time to begin a new order of things.
If you will put these words into your mind—good and strong—you will find that living up to them supplies you with all the religion, all the philosophy you need. You can not go wrong if you follow these precepts.—Washington Herald.

BULLERS EXCHANGED ART GIFTS.

French Vases in Silver and a Swedish Goblet of Gold.

The gift of the president of the French republic to the queen of Sweden was a pair of silver vases of pure Louis XV. cutlery, says a Paris letter to the American Register, London. They bore the monogram of the queen and that of the republic. Each was just twenty inches in height and was filled, respectively, with carnations and Parma violets, the queen's favorite flowers. To the king President Fallieres presented a portrait of his majesty's ancestor, Charles XIV. of Sweden, the famous Marshal Bernadotte, founder of the reigning house of Sweden. The portrait is on enamel and is incised in a frame of velvet and gold. The vase presented to the king by the city of Paris was one of the exhibit at Shepherd's Bush. It is of silver gilt and nearly four feet in height and is decorated with French flowers.

King Gustav's gift to President Fallieres was an exquisite goblet, covered, about eighteen inches in height, in gold, relieved with colored enamel. The Swedish pine is freely introduced into the design. Below the pine work gnomes encircle the goblet, symbolical of the mineral riches of Sweden. Between the pines and the gnomes there is a ribbon bearing in Roman letters: "Presented to M. Fallieres, president of the French republic, by Gustav V., king of Sweden." Running round the base of the goblet are escutcheons bearing the three crowns of the Swedish arms. The goblet stands on feet composed of pine cones. In the cover, which is surmounted by the Swedish crown, the pine branches are again predominant. The goblet is said to be an exquisite work of art by Ferdinand Roberz of Stockholm, assisted by his wife, who is an artist not unknown in Paris.



The Landlady—What part of the chicken will you have, Mr. Newcomer? Mr. Newcomer—A little of the outside, please.—Puck.

"Aren't you afraid of catching cold? This room is like a barn." "That's all right. I'm working like a horse."—Harvard Lampoon.

Ethel—And did you go to Home? Grace—I really don't know, my dear; you see, my husband always took the tickets.—Harper's Weekly.

Church—What are the favorite grounds for divorce?

Gotham—I believe they are somewhere in South Dakota.—Exchange.

"What is a press censor, pop?" "Why, a press censor, my son, is a man who knows more than he thinks other people should."—Yonkers Statesman.

"Do you find any trouble writing stories, Dawdly?" "None whatever. But I'd pay a man well that could sell them for me."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Mrs. Muggins—I don't like the expression of her mouth.

Mrs. Buggins—And I don't like the expressions of her tongue.—Philadelphia Record.

"Sometimes," said Uncle Eben, "a man gives hisse' credit for bein' resigned to fate when he has simply settled down to bein' good an' lazy."—Washington Star.

Keep us dodging: "Let us at least give trolley cars and automobiles the credit for making us a very active race," remarked the thoughtful theorist.—Chicago Post.

Lady—I think you are the worst looking tramp I have ever seen.

Tramp—Ma'am, it's only in the presence of such uncommon beauty that I look so bad!—Scraps.

Teacher—If a vehicle with two wheels is a bicycle, and one with three wheels a tricycle, what is one with only one wheel?

Pupil—A wheelbarrow.

Sunday School Teacher—Now, Tommy, can you tell me whose day this is?

Tommy—Yes'm; it's Bridget's. Della had last Sunday out!—Philadelphia Press.

Lady Maud—Do you think it's unlucky to be married on Friday, Sir John?

Sir John (confirmed bachelor)—Certainly. But why make Friday an exception?—Punch.

Barber—Hair getting thin, sir. Ever tried our hair preparation, sir? Customer—No, I can't blame it on that.

"Your husband met an accidental death, did he not?" remarked the new boarder. "Yes," replied the landlady; "poor John tried to cross the street one day and was autouted."—Chicago Daily News.

Parents' Hairs and Hets.

It is possible to predict from the hair of parents the form of their children's hair. Two blue eyed, straight haired parents will have only blue eyed, straight haired children. Two wavy haired parents may have straight, wavy or curly haired children, but the chances of curly hair are slight. Two curly haired parents may have children with either straight, wavy or curly hair, but the proportion of curly haired offspring will probably be large.—American Naturalist.

A Vegetarian.

First Deacon—Our new pastor must be a vegetarian.

Second Deacon—Why do you think so?

First Deacon—There doesn't seem to be any meat in his sermons.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Pair Gutter.

She had quite a passion for what, and few were the tricks that she missed. If you chanced to get heated and claimed that she cheated, she smiled so you couldn't insist. —Judge.

After a woman has talked about so long her husband is anxious to turn off the gas.

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Face to Face.

A cheerful word, a sunny smile, As we meet face to face; An act of love, a helping hand, Given in kindly grace. These are the stars whose fadeless light Shines down as daylight dies, And points to blessings farther on, Beneath the Homeland skies.

To-day we'll leave them, then, and pray That while the sunbeams shine, We each may give the passing hours And touch which is divine. And write the record of the years— In characters of grace— In that we've served God's children well As we met face to face. —By I. Menck Chambers.

Not many of the brightest crowns in heaven will be worn by those who were big guns here.

God has godlike ways of helping his people out of trouble.

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