

# FOR THE FARMER.

## FARM NOTES.

**BOHEMIAN OATS.**—A correspondent of the *Indiana Farmer* states that the few lots of these oats that were grown in his neighborhood last year yielded at the rate of 25 to 35 bushels to the acre, for which the millers were willing to pay fifty cents per bushel. He advises his brothers to go slow on the \$5 and \$10 plan, as any quantity of the seed can be purchased from reliable dealers at \$1.50 to \$2 per bushel.

**REMEDY FOR BORERS.**—A correspondent of the *Rural World* states that a mixture of two-thirds soft soap and one-third pine tar, put in water enough to make a thick paint, one pound of flour of sulphur added to each gallon, and the whole boiled together, will make an effective preventive of this pest if applied during the first warm days of spring. Apply with a brush. It is also said to be a preventative of the gnawing of mice and rabbits.

**DRAINAGE FOR GRAPES.**—I have three rows of grape-vines one hundred feet long and ten feet apart. Under each outside row there is a 5-inch tile drain, two and one-half feet deep with good outlet. My grapes ripen two weeks earlier and are more highly flavored than the same varieties in the same neighborhood not drained. They rot much less and the vines do not suffer from excessive cold, as do others near by not drained. The favorable effect of under-draining the canes of raspberries, blackberries and strawberry plants is quite marked, but not to the extent noticeable on grapes. All the benefits derived from underdraining are very much greater in a wet than in a dry season, yet, in my opinion, it pays largely in the latter, especially in stiff clay soil.

### Forcing Potatoes Early.

Every owner of farm or garden should endeavor to start a few hills of potatoes very early use. Old potatoes often do not do so well as the new crop. We have forced the crop by planting in a hot bed in April, and then transplanting as soon as the weather becomes warm enough to open air culture. The sets can be set in quite thickly, say two or three inches apart in the bed. This will give four to six square inches of surface to each plant. The transplanting should be done before the root growth gets so far as to require much breaking of the soil when separating the sets as they are taken from the hot-bed.

A very much simpler way of hastening the growth is to set a few quarts of all sized potatoes in a warm, light place, a couple of weeks before planting. Read them out singly, so the light will fall upon the whole of the potatoes, and they are all set up so the seed end will be uppermost, there will usually be one growing centre bud that will develop in place of all the other buds. If the potatoes are planted with care, so as to set this centre bud uninjured, the other buds or eyes will often remain dormant. Buds exposed to the full light, or short and stout, and when planted show out feeding roots immediately. A two feet square, will hold potatoes enough in a single layer for raising all a family would use in two or three weeks, and such a box can be set in any window in kitchen or living room.

### Raising Pigs by Hand.

A farmer who has had the usual disagreeable experience in trying to raise helpless young pigs on ordinary cow's milk, gives the following plan by which he has been successful:—"The milk to be from a moderately young milch cow of good quality—a milk rich in cream rather than casein is to be preferred. It must always be boiled or well strained, and to it must be added some brown sugar so as to make it sweet, also a few spots of lincseed oil—say, a teaspoonful of oil to the quart. In this the youngsters will thrive singly, and hardly miss the care of a mother. Of course they must be clean and warm, and be attended to as often as they require, which, to tell, is rather frequently; about two hours, or even oftener for the first week, night and day, they are ready to eat, and require it. The greatest care must be taken not to let any of the milk, etc., get sour; and only the real amount of food should be prepared, as if it becomes at all sour, and the systems are once upset, it is a most difficult matter to get them right again, and it is for a long time lost. The milk or two a teaspoon is the handiest to feed with, but in a few lessons they will learn to help themselves out of a cup; and when two or three will all feed together, either off a plate or a saucer, which is a sign of their being much selfish eagerness as their betters."

### Not Grow more Grapes on Farm?

Scarcely a year has passed since I have read the practice of training grape vines on the peach, apple and evergreen that there has not been an ample supply of choice grapes for home use. In the seasons the surplus has been sold by the neighbors at from three to five cents a pound, the demand often exceeding the supply. By allowing the vines to run at will on the peach, the red and the Austrian and Scotch pines, and trees having wide spreading canopies, grapes can be had if healthy vines of the hardy sort are planted and well cultivated and properly manured the first two or three years after being

The grape crop is by no means an uncertain one. There is no supplementary fruit crop that can take the place of the hardy varieties of grapes. Fifty vines can be planted in vacant spots about the house, garden and out-buildings without occupying any coveted space, but at the same time adding very much to the rural beauty of the country home. A strong young vine planted close to the trunk of an old apple tree will, if the soil about the roots is supplied with finely pounded bones and fresh wood ashes, and the surface covered with well-rotted manure after planting of the vine is completed, soon take possession of that old tree, and if the limbs are sawn off at a point about ten feet from the ground, and the young canes are fastened to the limbs that remain, an unsightly object will at once become both ornamental and useful. No wine need be or should be made where children form a portion of the household. There are plenty of ways of utilizing this excellent fruit without converting an ounce of juice into wine.

## CHOICE RECEIPTS.

**FEATHER CAKE.**—One and one-third cups of flour, one cup of sugar, two eggs, two thirds cup of cream, a little salt and nutmeg.

**SQUASH BISCUIT.**—Two cupfuls of light bread sponge, one pint of sifted squash, one cupful of shortening, nearly one cupful of sugar. Mix as bread and roll out smooth. Cut into biscuits and raise as bread.

**PICKLED APPLES.**—Pare, halve, and quarter the fruit. For seven pounds of apples take three pounds of sugar, one quart of vinegar, one ounce of cinnamon, and one ounce of cloves. If ground cinnamon and cloves are used tie in cloth and boil with the vinegar; but if whole cloves and cinnamon bark are used put two cloves in each piece of apple and break the cinnamon in pieces and boil with the apples.

**TEA BISCUIT.**—One quart of flour, one teaspoonful of salt, one half teaspoonful of sugar, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, one teaspoonful of lard, and one pint of milk. Sift together flour, salt, sugar, and powder, rub in the lard cold, add milk to form into as soft a dough as can be handled, flour the board and roll out, cut with a small tin cutter, and bake in a good hot oven about twenty minutes.

**CUSTARD CAKE.**—Two small cups of flour, one cup of sugar, three eggs, two tablespoonfuls of water, and butter the size of an egg. Beat the whites and yolks separately, and bake the cake in layers. For the filling, place one-half pint of milk upon the stove, and when it boils add to it one egg, one tablespoonful of butter, one-half teaspoon of sugar, and a dessertspoonful of flour, well beaten together. Flavor with lemon or rose.

**PLUM PUDDING.**—One tablespoonful of soda, one cupful of molasses, one half cupful of sugar, two-thirds cupful of butter, three cupfuls of chopped suet, two cupfuls of raisins, flour enough to make a stiff batter. Tie up in a floured cloth and boil three hours. For gravy, one quart of water thickened with flour or cornstarch and seasoned with nutmeg or lemon, butter and sugar. We had this for Christmas and think it splendid.

**BLANC MANGE.**—Soak one ounce of gelatine in a quart of milk for two hours, add a small cup of sugar, and place over the fire. When the sugar and gelatine are mixed with the milk, and the mixture is very hot, remove from the fire and add a wineglass of sherry and half a teaspoonful of lemon extract. Stir while cooling to prevent the cream rising to the top. When cool pour into a mold and set on the ice.

**HONEY PUDDING.**—Three pints thinly sliced apples, one pint honey, one pint flour, one pint cornmeal, small piece of butter, one teaspoonful soda, the juice of two lemons, and three grated lemon rinds. Stir the dry soda into the honey, then add the apples, melted butter and a little salt. Now add the other ingredients and stir in the flour. Bake one hour and serve with sauce.

### A Woman's Ingenuity.

A Boston paper tells how an ingenious woman discovered a leak in a waste-pipe in her house. Noticing an offensive odor, she suspected a defect in the waste-pipe, and asked the agent of the house to send a plumber to make an examination. Upon the agent's refusal to comply with her request, she borrowed two cats from a neighbor, purchased some oil of valerian, and stationing the animals in the parlor, went upstairs and poured the valerian into the basin, and then descended to watch the result. Cats are extremely fond of the odor of valerian, and in a short time both of the borrowed animals began to sniff the air and move toward the door of a closet through which the waste-pipe ran. The door was opened for them, when they immediately sprang upon a certain shelf, where they remained purring with satisfaction. The woman again went to the agent, who, though still unbelieving in the leak, consented to send a plumber. On cutting away the plaster so as to expose the pipe, a joint was found completely separated at the place where the cats had indicated.

Because a man happens to be possessed of "a constitution of a horse," it by no means follows that his physician is justified in treating him like an ass.

"Where's Jones?" "Dead." "Dead? Well, I declare! Paid the debt of nature, eh?" "No; compressed at less than fifty per cent." "How so?" "He left his better half behind him."

## FUNNYGRAMS.

**Belongs of the son—A baby daughter.** It is the hardware man who always calls a spade a spade.

**Bakers are generous.** They never keep all the bread they knead.

**Spring lamb reached market ahead of the Spring this year, as usual.**

**Adam was a roller skater.** The fall he got is still well remembered.

**The next thing to a funeral procession is to walk behind a love-sick couple going home from a party.**

**It is said there is a soft side to every man.** That's the reason a dude is afraid to stand on his head.

**"Girls will be girls,"** says a contemporary. Oh, no! That's a mistake. If girls' wishes are consulted they will be married women some day.

**Yes, everything is faster in this country.** In England they say that a man stands for Parliament. In this country they say he runs for Parliament.

**A Lesson in Physics to Teacher.**—"What is velocity?" Pupil—"Velocity is what a man puts a hotplate down with."

**"Yes, dear, you see, mamma don't think it's right for me to read French novels in Lent, so I only read translations."**

**Young lady (innocently to gentleman):** "I wish I could get one of those freshmen to plant in my garden. I do want something green."

**Lafayette had a great mind, and he knew what he was doing when he assisted the United States.** France is now getting large supplies of canned frogs from this country.

**"Wal,"** said Mrs Spriggins, in response to a remonstrance from her husband, "I got tired sittin' up there all alone in solitude, so I went down and percolated through the crowd."

**"If I ain't particular about seein' a show, I'd just as soon go to an opera as a funeral; but when I want to lay right down and enjoy myself, I go to a circus. Ah, there's nothing like a brass horn and a boss."**

**"Here's a musical salesman advertised for. Why don't you apply, Ned?"** "Why, I'm not musical." "Perhaps not, but I notice you can blow your own horn, you're familiar with bars, your remarks are full of slurs, you're always giving notes, and all the rest."

**A vender of imitation spiders was dangling one of the bogus insects on Broadway, when an antique female, after uttering a little scream, appealed to a policeman, saying: "Mr. Policeman, can't you make that man quit scaring young girls to death with them spiders."**

**A California girl has been discovered with two muth, one in each cheek. It is kind may go in the far West where girls are scarce, and it is convenient to have those who can kiss two fellows at once, but they would never be popular in the East, where there are not enough fellows to go around.**

**"Mr. Smith, do you know the character of Mr. Jones?"** "I rather guess I do, judge." "Well, what do you say about it?" "He ain't so bad a man, after all." "But, Mr. Smith, what we want to know is, is Mr. Jones of a quarrelsome and dangerous disposition?" "Wall, judge, I should say that Tom Jones is very vivid in verbal exercise, but when it comes to personal adjustment, he ain't eager for the contest."

### They Knew a Dodge.

The Yaqui Indians of Sonora long since used tactics of war that were unknown to civilized troops. In a former uprising, says the *San Francisco Call*, they were attacked by General Perquerias, who was much amused to see the savages use blankets as a shield against the soldiers' bullets. Holding up a blanket at both ends, so that the edge just touched the ground, the Indian riflemen marched boldly toward him behind this apparently dimmy protection. The Mexican General was soon alarmed, however, to find that his bullets did not stop the strange advance, and the moving fort of blankets soon came so close to him and poured in such a deadly fire that he was fain to fly the field in confusion and with great loss. The Yaquis had become acquainted with the simple fact that while a bullet will pass through twenty blankets strained over a frame or laid against a firm surface, it will not penetrate a single one if moistened and hung up so as to swing clear of the ground. The bullets which Gen. Perquerias imagined were passing through the Indian blankets and thinning the ranks of the savages were all falling harmlessly on the outside of the woolen bulwarks.

### Contraction.

"Save me, doctor, and I'll give you a thousand dollars."

The doctor gave him a remedy that cured him, and he called out:

"Keep at it, doctor, and I will give you a check for five hundred dollars."

In half an hour more he was able to sit up, and he calmly remarked:

"Doctor, I feel like giving you a fifty-dollar bill."

When the doctor was ready to go, the sick man was up and dressed, he followed the doctor to the door, and said:

"Say, doctor, send in your bill the first of the month."

When six months had been gathered to time's bosom, the doctor sent in a bill amounting to five dollars. He was pressed to cut it down to three, and after so doing he said to get it, got judgment, and the patient put in a stay of execution.

## AN ENGINEER'S STORY.

**Mr. Hammett's Triumphs and Wonderful Experiences of an Old-Engine Driver.**

"The first time I ever ran an engine" said Engineer Wm. J. Hammett to a reporter who had called upon him, "was in January, 1867, on the Memphis division of the Louisville & Nashville road. Mr. James Guthrie was president at that time. My first accident was in 1877. I was then running on the main stem, and was coming from Nashville to Louisville with a large number of passenger cars attached. Among others there were 150 schoolgirls on board. We were approaching Dudley's switch, twenty-five miles this side of Nashville, when I noticed that the cross-ties just ahead of us had been removed. I did not have time to stop the engine. In an instant I recognized that there was just one thing to do, and that was to jump the track. I told my firemen to leap out, as there was only room for one of us in the cab at such a moment, and it meant certain death to me or him if he remained. He had barely reached the ground when the engine left the track and a stream of boiling water came gushing upon me from the boiler. After that I remembered nothing for several days. When I recovered I was told that the boiler had exploded, and that I had been hit on the head by a piece of flying cylinder; also a spike had pierced my hand."

As proof of this Mr. Hammett exhibited a terrible scar on his right hand. The thoughtful engineer afterward received \$384 from the passengers for saving the train.

"The time I made my fastest run," continued Mr. Hammett, his blue eyes lighting up, "and the fastest in the record of the road, was in 1870, when I brought Victor Newcomb, Dr. E. D. Standiford, and Col. De Funiak from Nashville to Louisville. I was oiling the engine when Col. De Funiak told me that the party was due in Louisville at a certain hour, and asked me if I didn't think I could get there. He added that the way was clear, and that if my engine was any account to turn her loose."

"This was as good as I wanted. I ran sixty miles the first hour, and after that they made me go slower until we reached the city."

This was a memorable ride. Afterward Mr. Newcomb said of Dr. Standiford that the latter became so badly frightened while the train was speeding along at lightning motion that he got down on his knees and prayed. The violent motion of the train, as it rounded a sharp curve, threw Mr. De Funiak from his seat and inflicted a deep scar, which he will carry with him through life.

"My last run," resumed Mr. Hammett "was on the night of Nov. 15, 1883. The night was dark as pitch. We had reached Brook's station, and were running at the rate of forty miles an hour, when I saw a train of freight cars on the track just ahead. It was too late to stop the train, and the dashed on; then a deafening smash, and I was thrown through my window and killed for the time. The next day when I recovered I was told that my fireman had been killed with others in the wreck."

### A Fly-Haunted Town.

The wall of King-Choo-Foo is crenelated forty feet high on the outside in certain places, but on the inside sloping and covered with a jungle growth of bamboo, banyan, and other shrubs to the very top. At intervals of every few hundred yards along it is a small smooth-bore cannon of remarkably peaceful aspect. No doves were discovered building their nests therein, but in my mile walk along the parapet numerous litters of Pacific pigeons were seen dosing in the very openings of the crenelles. Not a soldier was observed making the circuit of this ancient and formidable fortification, the dragon-guarded yamin of the Taoist had a fly-haunted, somnolent air, in the streets business proceeded lazily, and over all the grovelike openings of the capital city the very spirit of summer peace and quiet seemed to hold its beneficent reign. Our cortege, with which we made the circuit, was composed of scarcely more than a dozen aimless hoodlums and inquisitive urchins, and we left the place impressed with the idea that if the inhabitants thought of danger from the French it was still as an intangible effort of imagination—as something so far off as scarcely to be considered, or if considered, amply provided against.

### Beauty Hints.

Every woman who regards beauty understands that she must bestow much care upon her complexion. To remove tan and sunburn, cold cream, mutton tallow and lemon juice may be used; for freckles apply the latter, with a tiny camel's hair brush. The country girl, deprived of many things which her city cousin finds indispensable, discovers that she can remove tan from her face with a wash made of green cucumbers sliced in milk, or failing in this, she makes a decoction of buttermilk and tansy. A well known writer on feminine beauty, recommends the use of finely-ground French charcoal for the complexion. A teaspoonful of this, well mixed with water or honey, should be taken for three successive nights, followed by a simple purgative, to remove it from the system. The aperient must not be omitted or the charcoal will remain in the system, a mass of festering poison, with all the impurities it absorbs. None of these things will bring about the desired result unless the foundation is first laid by proper food, exercise, and bathing; above all things do not neglect the bath. Cleanliness is one of the cardinal virtues, and a woman fresh from the bath feels a good deal like an angel.

## QUAKING WITH DEATH.

**An Italian Village Terrorized by the Deity of Ghostly Apparitions.**

The people living in the neighborhood of Oatleton, a small village thirteen miles from Indianapolis, are greatly excited over a most extraordinary ghost agitation. Several hundred persons from the surrounding country have been crowded about the haunted spot since last Friday. There is an old log house on the farm of a man named Mart Garrison, which was built half a century ago, and has been uninhabited for several years. Last week Mr. Garrison began tearing the old structure down and hauling away the timber. Between sundown and dark on the evening of his first day's work, while loading his wagon, he says he became conscious of a peculiar feeling, which made his hair stand erect with horror, and as he turned he claims he saw three figures, two of them quite large, fitting around the ruins. He did not stop to investigate, but abandoned his work and fled for home, where he related his experiences to his wife, and was advised to let the old structure alone. He talked about the strange apparition, and then it leaked out that an old citizen living near had often seen the unearthly figures, and so had his family, and he had heard cries and groans, like those of a woman in distress, but he feared to speak of it for fear the people would call him childish and superstitious. Another neighbor testified in much the same strain, and several persons investigated, but were unable to explain the character of the phenomena. They say shadowy figures, indistinctly resembling two adults and a child, and so did perhaps a half score of others able to muster courage enough to visit the old ruins. Recently the farm was literally overrun with people, and reports say that they found a grave in the cellar, which they proceeded to open, but were stopped in their work by a lady interested in the property. Hundreds of people have visited the haunted house, and there is great excitement over it in the neighborhood.

### American Economy.

Americans are not regarded as an economical people, and too many of them are satisfied if at the year's end, income balances expense. But the savings-bank deposits show that they are really a saving people after all. Food is so abundant and cheap that they throw away much which a French or German family would save. They are economical when it seems to be necessary. The sharp eyes of that helper of the helpless, Miss Emily Faithfull, discovered, while making a tour of the States, one form which American economy takes.

She noticed that nearly all the ladies she met in hotels and railroad cars wore black lace around their wrists, instead of white linen.

She thought it rather a singular fashion, and said she could not account for the taste that preferred black to white as a becoming finish to a sleeve, until she received her washing-bills, and then the mystery was explained.

She admired the ingenuity of American women in substituting black lace for white in order to economize while traveling, for never before had she encountered such enormous bills for washing as in this country.

All English travellers are annoyed at this American peculiarity, as the laundry work in England is done thoroughly and well at almost incredibly small prices compared to our exorbitant rates.

Twenty-five cents an English shilling, pays over there for what we should call quite a large "washing." Why American prices in this respect are so much higher, nobody seems to understand. Yet the poor washerwoman should be well-paid.

### English Dinners.

The only fault to be found with the English home-dinner is its unvarying sameness. And in the season one dinner is just like every other dinner, with only the difference of contraction or elongation. One company dinner may have only six courses, and another may have twelve, but in six cases out of twelve the dinner will be essentially the same. The exact fact is that given the same class in society and six times in twelve you can predict what you are going to have for dinner about as well as you can recount what you have had for dinner. The English company dinner is a regulation affair, and no house-wife is so adventuresome as to go far afield from this stereotyped repast. The menu consists of soup, fish, entree, joint and fowl, game, sweets, and dessert. This may be elongated by a number of entrees, or contracted by the elimination of game. At very small dinner companies perhaps the entree would be missing. But this dinner, this same dinner, the same yesterday, to-day, and forever is a good and a wholesome dinner. All in all, and for a steady diet this dinner is better than the dinner of any continental people. The English beef is the best beef I have ever eaten, and as for mutton, there is none to be found outside the united Kingdom. What we call mutton is a wholly different meat. Their beef and mutton are the flesh of animals that have been carefully fed for the butcher, and their meats are never cooked till they have hung in the larder for a week or fortnight, as the case may warrant. Everything that goes upon an English table is good. The vegetables, which are limited variety, are fresh and good but being cooked in plain water, they are usually tasteless, or, if they have a flavor, it is of a raw or earthy quality. —[L. Collier.]