

## FOR THE FARMER.

### Caring for the Colts.

It was formerly claimed by some that feeding oats to young colts ruined their feet, but that idea has exploded. There is much less danger of injury to the feet than the stomach from overfeeding, and as a rule more stomachs suffer for the want of grain than from overeating. The quantity of grain that can be profitably fed to a weanling by farmers in the country where hay is worth only from \$10 to \$12 per ton, and where the colt must depend solely upon pasturage from May till November, and perhaps later, cannot be determined by the quantity fed by those breeders whose colts are entered to trot at two and three years of age, and will have plenty of exercise during winter as well as extra feed during summer months. Possibly from two or three quarts of oats daily, with half that quantity of wheat bran, and all the choice early cut hay it can eat, will prove about as much as country farmers can profitably feed under ordinary circumstances. If the colt gets too much grain or concentrated food during the first winter, its stomach will not be properly distended, and, when turned to grass in the spring, it cannot eat enough to keep it in a thrifty condition, hence its growth is checked at a period when it is important that it should be increased. The feet of colts suffer much more for the lack of care in keeping them properly shaped by the aid of a rasp than from excessive feeding of grain. The feet of every colt should be examined and trimmed at least once a month, so as to keep all the toes properly shortened, thus preventing undue strain to the tendons, which in time is liable to result in serious lameness. The bottoms of the feet should also be rasped, so as to be kept perfectly level. It requires some knowledge of the anatomy of the foot to do this properly, yet every farmer, by examining, can see when one side of the foot is becoming twisted out of shape, and by exercising a little ingenuity, can, with a few properly applied strokes of the rasp, prevent defects, which, if not arrested, are sure to detract from the value of the animal when ready for the market. Most country colts suffer more from the want of a comfortable bed at night than from lack of feed.

### Sowing Red Clover Seed.

Farmers differ as to the best time for sowing red clover seed, as they differ respecting the methods of doing most other kinds of work. This variance of opinion is frequently caused by the peculiarities of location, climate, etc. Many claim to get the best results by sowing clover seed in the spring while a light snow is on the ground, and the reason of this good success appears to be owing to the certainty of the seed germinating at that time, by not being buried too deep, and by sinking into moist earth through the action of the melting snow, where it takes a firm rooting.

The usual amount of seed sown per acre is from four to eight quarts; the exact quantity to be used can only be determined by the condition of the soil. Upon land that has been plowed just before sowing, and not harrowed fine, six or eight quarts should be used, but when the ground is prepared in the fall, and the seed sown upon a light snow in the spring, four quarts per acre is sufficient. Where a permanent meadow is desired it is best to sow four quarts each of clover and timothy seed, for the former will gradually die out, while the latter will ramify and form a sod.

### Practical Suggestions.

As the smokehouse a few feet square and cheaply covered by boards is very convenient around farmhouses. Besides its use for smoking meats, it is a convenient receptacle for wood ashes, or when not required as a smokehouse may be stored with feed for pigs, to whose pen it will naturally be adjacent. On farms where stone is abundant the cost of such a building, aside from roofing, will be only lime, sand, and labor.

One decided objection to the plan of taking corn in the ear to the mill to be shelled and ground is that it wastes the cobs. Another is that many mill-shellers waste as much as the toll. Corn-cobs should not be taken from the farm. They have considerable manurial value, being rich in potash, and on heavy soils they help to make the land light and more easily cultivated. In heaps exposed to the rain they will rot down in a year so that they can be evenly distributed as fine mold.

A young pig should not be fed much corn, and it is from young pigs that the greatest amount of growth is secured for food consumed. But on a farm where cows are kept and butter made the corn may be turned into pork by feeding it to the cows. This will pay in milk and butter, and an abundant supply of milk with a little meal is just what is wanted for growing pigs.

Ground oats two parts, bran one part, and corn meal one part is an excellent mixture for young growing stock of all kinds. It is not necessary to keep young stock very fat, but they should be kept in growing condition at all times.

A shovel-full of manure over a hill of hops will prove a great protection to the roots, and its soluble portions will be incorporated with the soil so as to benefit the crop to the fullest extent next season. The hop root is often injured during severe winters from deep freezing of the soil.

Scene—A railway train. Dialogue between a husband and wife, who have enjoyed several years of wedded bliss: The wife—"My dear, let me see your newspaper a moment." The husband—"Certainly, my dear, as soon as we come to a tunnel."

## FASHION NOTES.

Flowers trim many ball dresses. Lace dresses will again be worn. Lace over satin is the favorite bride's dress.

Velvet and gauzy tissues are combined in ball dresses.

Surahs are restored to popular and fashionable favor.

The organ-fluted muskmelon waist is revived this spring.

Marabout trimmings are very fashionable for ball dresses.

Velvets come with spring dress goods as well as with fall fabrics.

Sleeves of evening dresses are as short and gloves as long as ever.

Hats will be worn almost to the exclusion of bonnets in the spring.

Etamine striped and broche with velvet comes among spring novelties.

Among other fanciful bodices are some with length-wise organ pleats.

Tulle makes a much more becoming bridal veil than lace, real or imitation.

Gold and silver braid will be used to excess in trimming spring cashmeres.

Soft Surah sashes are worn around the waist under zouave and Eton jackets.

Watered silk is again in vogue as a combination with cashmeres and camel's hair fabrics.

'Tis pity, but 'tis true; the hair is worn higher and higher on the head from week to week.

The cashmere broches brought out this spring are among the prettiest goods of the season.

Fencing is again spoken of as a fashionable amusement and gymnastic exercise for ladies.

The evening colors of the passing moment are heliotrope, ecru, and rose in many different shades.

For morning and daylight wear the favorite colors are browns, dark blues, Bordeaux wines, greens, and fawns.

It is said that when the real spring bonnets appear they will be in bolder and higher shapes than ever.

Figures and plain tricotine satins that simulate jersey webbing come among dress novelties.

Gold and silver braid and all sorts of gold decorative objects trim many hats and bonnets intended for early spring wear.

The Eton is a new cutaway jacket, pointed in the back and very short on the sides, where it barely reaches the waist line.

Even elderly ladies will wear hats in the spring, for all the bonnet shapes are very small, eccentric, and suitable only for evening wear or for very young faces.

Many black cashmere suits for spring wear have plain stuff skirts, made in plain, simple style, kilts preferred, over which is worn a tastefully looped polonaise of cashmere broche.

The newest finish for zouave and Eton jackets is to edge them all around with very fine fancy gold, silver, or other metal buttons, set on so close as to touch, but not overlay, one the other.

America furnishes enormous quantities of dress and other garment linings and tailor's trimmings to Europe in the form of Gilbert twills, three-leaf cotton fabrics in twenty-eight varieties of weaving, and unnumbered shades of color and fast black.

A very handsome costume made by Worth is formed of dark Neapolitan blue Ottoman silk trimmed with wide bands of golden brown plush. A Louis XIV. coat of the silk opens over a very deep waist-coat of the plush, and a narrow ruffle of the same shows beneath the panels and kilt pleatings on the skirt fronts.

An exceedingly beautiful fabric of shot satin, shaded in the sunlight from deep crimson to palest gold, was recently made into a superb toilet for a lady in Washington. This costly material was combined with a very deep shade of wine-colored velvet, the latter fabric forming the petticoat, which was richly embroidered in silk in shades of red from palest rose to deepest crimson.

### Underwear.

Cotton petticoats, or underskirts, are now finished with a narrow flounce and much tucking upon the front and sides, and many ruffles upon the back, where they ascend and form all the fullness necessary to thin toilets. Wool dresses now have a small hair padding attached inside at the back, above an arched spring, which is called a "saddle," and which relieves the back of its weight. Greater care is taken in the making of the new styles of underwear. The tucking is fine, the workmanship often exquisite. Tucking is executed to a great depth, with rows of needle-work between, or with clusters of fine tucks, alternating with one tuck half the width of the whole.

Embroidery is used on more than lace as ornamentation, on all cotton and linen underwear, and very properly; for it is much more suitable and durable. The low price at which very good Hamburg embroideries can now be obtained, accounts for freer use, besides which the improvement in the designs, and the reproduction of good patterns at ordinary prices appeal to a cultivated taste. The "all-over" needle-work fabrics are in greater demand than ever for sacks, jackets, apron-overskirts, draperies, panels, frocks for children, and yokes of dresses. The straight tucking and plaiting favor the use of needle-work in bands and borders, and white dresses, as well as white underwear, is almost wholly composed of tucking and needle-work. Under-skirts are little wider than formerly, and what fullness there is is massed at the back.

For wear with gray woolen dresses, a useful skirt is made of gray drilling, which is plain in front but ruffled up the back to the top; some have springs a part of the distance. Pretty and useful skirts for wear with black silk are made of black sateen, arranged with one narrow knife-pleating round the bottom, and five up the back to the waist. They are cool, and can be worn in summer under greendines as well as in spring under black silk or cashmere. Gray sateen may be utilized in the same way.



3162 Ladies' Russian Jacket. 7 Sizes. 30 to 42 inches, Bust Measure. Price, 25 cents. 3174 Ladies' Trimmed Skirt. 6 Sizes. 20 to 30 in. Waist Measure. Price, 30 cents.



3170 Girls' Dress. 6 Sizes. 2 to 10 years. Price, 20 cents. 3186 Boys' Dress. 6 Sizes. 2 to 7 years. Price, 20 cents.

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### Children's Dress.

It would, undoubtedly, be well if mothers spent less time in copying and decorating the ordinary styles of dress for children, and more in thinking out and perfecting the details necessary to their health and comfort. There is a vast amount of energy spent on dress that might be avoided, or put to better use. The child insensibly acquires the habits and tastes which are cultivated in its childhood, and if good sense and judgment guide its clothing, if it is taught that health, sanitary necessity, modesty, and permanently good qualities of material and color are preferable to capricious changes and flimsy ornamentation, it will retain such ideas throughout its whole life. Much more consideration than has been devoted to it requires to be given to the subject of comfortable underwear. Many mothers will not allow, or rather will not provide, warm knitted or flannel undergarments for their children, because it will prevent them from wearing thin, low-necked dresses to balls and parties. This is surely the height, or depth, of folly. Some profess a principle in regard to it, and declare a belief that children are better for a "hardening" process; this is only a form of cruelty to them. Children have been the subject of theories to parents and those who have had control of them since the world began, and could never have survived them had not Nature fortunately been stronger than theory, and theory sometimes given way to common-sense. Doubtless there is something to be said, some concession made to social necessities and the elegancies of polite life. But these need not and should not be allowed to interfere with any principle or any law in regard to health.

A square finish to the neck of a dress is one of the simplest ways of imparting a dressy appearance, and is particularly becoming to girls. It may be filled in with lace, or tucked muslin, or insertion and tucking, or a gathered front, or it may be left open and trimmed with lace;

but whichever way is adopted, it need not interfere with a well-cut under-vest. If suitable garments cannot be bought, a better way is to make them, than to buy those that are not suitable. Very pretty "combinations" can be made of pure wool cashmere flannel, cut square or pear-shaped, rather short in the sleeves and legs, but sufficiently roomy; buttonholed upon the edge with purse silk, and they will be found delightful wear. Combination chimeuses are not necessary with these.

Hose, too, require careful consideration. The price of soft, well-shaped durable woolen hose sometimes appears extravagant, and is more than the average mother can expend in stockings for her entire brood. She is therefore often obliged to resort to ill-dyed, coarse, mixed articles, that it is simply wicked to be obliged to put children's feet into, for they are very often the cause of disease, and always of discomfort. The economical way is to wait till one season is nearly over, and then buy, and keep them for another, "job lots" being sold at such times at reduced prices. But experience is required to select from the miscellaneous assortment offered, and which consists of the remnants of the cheap and unsalable stock, as well as of a better kind and quality. And there is the risk also of color and the children outgrowing them.

### A New War Ship.

The London Times pronounces the new Brazilian vessel, the Riachuelo, the most perfectly constructed ship of war afloat, possessing, in respect to speed, coal, endurance, and arrangement and fire of her guns, special advantages—such, in fact, as are not contained in any other ship. She is a twin screw turret vessel of six thousand tons and six thousand horse power, built of steel, three hundred and fifty feet long, fifty feet wide, and thirty feet deep. She can make fifteen knots an hour, and run at that speed some four thousand five hundred miles without re-coaling. Her armor plates are ten and eleven inches thick, and the armament consists of five nine-inch twenty-ton breech loading rifled guns in two revolving turrets, and six six inch breech-loaders, besides fifteen Nordenfolt machine guns. In addition to this superb and effective appointment, the vessel is also provided with a number of Whitehead torpedoes.

When a man is in love he fancies every wrinkle a dimple.

## THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

Over Half of Those who Speak it Inhabitants of the United States.

The language in which Shakespeare and Milton wrote was the language of but five or six millions of people in their day, and as late as 100 years ago English was spoken by not more than 15,000,000 or 16,000,000 people. At the same period French was the mother tongue of at least 30,000,000; and German, in one or other of its forms, was the language of from 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 people. This state of affairs is now completely reversed. Between forty and fifty years ago the English language equalled the German in the number of those who spoke it, and now the latter is left far behind in the race. German is spoken by 10,000,000 persons in the Austria-Hungarian empire, 46,000,000 in the German empire, 40,000 in Belgium, 2,000,000 in Switzerland, and is the native tongue of some 2,000,000 in the United States and Canada. This gives a total of about 60,000,000 persons who may speak German.

With French the case is much the same, but the gain during the past century has been smaller than that of German. French is now spoken by the 38,000,000 people of France, by 2,250,000 in Belgium, 200,000 in Alsace-Lorraine, 600,000 in Switzerland, 1,500,000 in Canada and the United States, 600,000 in Hayti, and by 1,500,000 in Algiers, India, the West Indies, and Africa; in all about 45,000,000.

English is now spoken by all but some 500,000 of the 37,000,000 persons in the British Islands, by 53,000,000 out of 56,000,000 inhabitants of the United States, by 4,000,000 persons in Canada, 3,000,000 in Australia, 1,700,000 persons in the West Indies, and perhaps by 1,000,000 in India and the other British colonies. This brings up the total to 100,000,000, which cannot be very far from the truth.

### His Wife's Hoardings.

Damon P. Clark, formerly a prosperous photographer in Salamanca, became so reduced in circumstances that a few days ago he was compelled to ask the aid of the poor authorities for his family. His children were found to be suffering for want of shoes and clothing and food. Mrs. Clark, who had been somewhat deranged for years, it was found necessary to remove to the county asylum at De Wittville. For years she had kept a closet in the house closely watched and guarded, allowing no one to enter it. The key to this closet was taken from her when she was placed in the asylum.

In trunks, boxes, and odd corners of the closet packages of money, in amounts from 10 cents to \$20, were stored away. Nearly \$200 in coin and bank notes was thus found. Besides the money there was flour, coffee, sugar, and provisions in large quantities, some spoiled and some in good condition. Twenty pairs of new shoes, worth at least \$3 a pair, were packed in a box. Three dozen expensive silk handkerchiefs, several sets of fine table linen, a drawer full of elaborately-embroidered undergarments, sixty yards of fine flannel, a number of new dresses, dozens of towels and stockings, and a miscellaneous assortment of valuable goods were found stored away in the closet.

These articles, it is supposed, had been collected by Mrs. Clark in her husband's thriving days, and her mania took the form of hiding them. Probably \$500 worth of goods had thus been laid away. The unexpected find has not only relieved the pressing needs of Clark and his family, but has furnished him with means once more to engage in business.

### Indian Woods.

Immense quantities of wood are annually sent from India to England, to be manufactured into furniture. One of the most highly valued of these, and universally used, is the ton wood which is light, soft and red, having no heartwood; is not eaten by ants, and is adapted not only for furniture but for door panels and carvings. Chickeraot or chiknassa wood is another sort of great industrial value. It is a large tree, with bark of reddish brown and deeply cracked, the heartwood hard, varying from yellowish to reddish brown, with a beautiful satin lustre, seasons and works well, and is employed for furniture and carving. Nagasaur wood has dark red heartwood, extremely hard; it is used for building, for bridges, gun stocks and tool handles, but its most general use is prevented by its great hardness, weight, and the consequent difficulty of working it. Kandebwood is light red, shining, cross-grained and moderately hard.

### A Remarkable Act.

While Mr. Alexander Shaw, of Kintra, was in the fields the other day he heard cries of a bird apparently in distress. Looking up he saw a lark hotly pursued by a hawk, which, by a series of fierce dashes, tried to secure his prey; but the lark was successful in evading the attacks. The hawk, however, was gaining the mastery, and the lark, terror-struck, seeing a man below, came down like an arrow and fluttered actually into his hand, where it cowered trembling. The pursuer followed until within six yards, but seeing what had occurred, he flew off in disgust. After a time the lark was liberated, when it soared upward singing, doubtless a song of gratitude to its deliverer. The circumstance is remarkable as showing how the greater terror conquered the less—the instinct of preservation in the bird triumphing over its natural timidity.—[Elgin (Scotland) Courier.]

"The Mite's Dollar"—That made up of church-collection pennies.