

PRACTICAL FARMING.

MORE ABOUT CEMENT FLOORS.

I note what you say in editorial remarks in a recent issue of the paper about cement floors, and that you recommend using a combination of plank with the cement. I had watched carefully the floors in several barns for some years before beginning to put cement in my own stable, says Waldo Brown, in Country Gentleman, and it is now nearly ten years that I have had personal experience with it. I am so well pleased with it that I would not have any other kind of a floor in either cow or horse stable. The popular notion that it is too hard for the horses' feet is a mistake, as we always keep the stalls so thoroughly bedded that their feet rarely touch the cement; while its durability is one of its greatest advantages and makes it, in the long run, the cheapest possible floor that can be laid in the stable. There are other advantages connected with it, such as warmth, as there can be no possible blowing of cold air under it coming up through cracks, as is the case with plank floors, it is easy to keep the stables clean, for the cement does not absorb any liquid, and when freshly cleaned and bedded the stables are entirely free from odor. Other advantages are the furnishing of no place for rats to breed and harbor, as is the case with all plank floors, and the perfect saving of all the liquid, which is by far the most valuable portion of the manure. I note also that you recommend a slope of 1 1-2 inches in the floor of the stable. I can see no possible advantage in this, but more than one disadvantage; I should lay all floors perfectly level in every direction. The disadvantages are, first, a little more danger of horses slipping on the floor, second, a slope causes the urine to run back so that in passing through the stable behind the horses the boots are saturated with it, and if it reaches, as it often will, the walls of the stable, it will cause the boards to rot, and the urine will be lost. The proper way is to bed the stalls so thoroughly that all the liquid will be absorbed by the bedding, as in this way there will be no loss, and it will help to decompose the manure and add to its strength. As there is some little danger of slipping as horses get up in the stalls, even on a level floor, we guard against this by making small grooves in the freshly laid cement by laying a broom handle half its diameter, and the grooves are spaced about four inches apart for the rest of the stalls. If one can obtain gravel, sand and broken stone, convenient cement can be laid at less expense than a good two-inch plank floor, can be put in, and the farmer and his help can do the work at a slack season of the year when other work is not pushing. Some writers recommend using the cheap grades of cement, but aside from the fact that it is doubtful whether the floors would stand the wear if there is little economy in it, as the best Portland cement will admit of using so much larger proportion of sand and little more than it as to make the cost but used. I have used on my farm more than forty barrels of this cement in the last ten years, and have used eight barrels of gravel to one of cement for the concrete foundation, and two bar-topping, and all my floors, both out-of-doors and inside of buildings have given perfect satisfaction. Another advantage in using the Portland cement is that the stable may be used for horses in ten days from the time the cement is laid down; while those who recommend the cheap grades of cement fore it is safe to put the horses on the floor. I especially like cement in the cow stable, as I never enter in the plank floors in which I do not find a rank odor; but when we clean our stalls out and apply a fresh, fine bed-ding, for we always use some kind of chaff or sawdust for bedding in the cow stable, there is no odor, but the air is always pure and fresh, if the stable is properly ventilated. I am particularly pleased with cement for hog houses and feeding floors for hogs, as they are easily kept clean and give no harbor for rats. A neighbor of mine, some years ago, had an old plank feeding floor for hogs, about 12 by 20 feet, and the rats bred under it in such numbers that they were destroying his poultry and over-running all the out-buildings on the farm. He determined all, he set wide boards on edge at a before beginning to tear it up, got some fight, and the result was that 375 rats were killed. I have always found that rats abound on the farm that furnished safe breeding places for them, and are rarely found where there are no safe places for them to harbor.

GROW YOUR OWN CLOVER SEED.

Many farmers from force of habit do not grow their clover seed, but buy it from year to year. Such a course for the average farmer I think is not wise. Clover is practically the great restorer, says National Stockman. We may talk a great deal about manures and rotation, but after all these sink into insignificance when comparison is made with this great renovating crop. Will not the experience of hundreds of farmers corroborate this? No matter how cheap clover seed may be purchased in the local market it has always been a considerable item of expense to the farmer. A bushel of clover seed this spring was equivalent in value to twenty-five bushels of corn, or thirty-five bushels of oats delivered. To produce a bushel of clover seed ordinarily is not nearly so expensive as the cost of growing the quantity of these grains

mentioned. It may be that clover seed will be cheaper this year. However this may be I do not think the seed in this part of the country ever sells under its cost of production.

But there are stronger reasons why farmers should raise their own seed for personal use than for the money it will bring them in the market. They are sure to have an article at cost of production which they know is reliable. They will be sure of what they are sowing. There will be no need of sowing seed five or six years old, nor will they sow the Mammoth or some other variety for the medium or vice versa. The farmer who grows his own seed will more likely have enough for all purposes than the one who buys. This spring we sowed a field March 17. On account of unfavorable weather it proved a poor catch. Most likely had we bought the usual amount of seed we would have been content with the stand. But having plenty of our own seed we sowed the field again about a month later. The second sowing, judging from the prospect, will pay us well. Farmers cannot afford to have a poor "catch" of clover. If it is not advisable to have a crop of seed every year then plan to have it once in two years.

POULTRY HOUSE WHITEWASH.

A capital whitewash is made by mixing common water lime cement with sweet, skimmed milk to the proper consistency. The following is the government whitewash, and a fine whitewash is: Put two pailfuls of boiling water in a barrel; add one-half of a bushel of well burned, fresh quicklime; put in quickly one peck of common salt, dissolved in hot water, and cover the barrel tightly to keep in the steam while the lime is slaking; when the violent ebullition is over stir till well mixed together, and, if necessary, add more like thick cream, strain through a sieve or coarse cloth. Make a thin starch of three pounds of rice flour and one pound of strong glue, having first soaked the glue in cold water, and to the latter mixture add two pounds of white-ash. Add this to the lime wash, and the proper consistency; keep hot while applying. It will require about six quarts of the mixture to 100 square feet of surface, and it will last remarkably well. It goes without saying, that it may be made any color desired.

PLANET MARKS ON THE BODY.

Assertion That Every Person Has One at Birth—Governed by Stars.

"I assure you I have no moles," say some people but this is impossible; every human creature when it is born bears on some part of its body the mark of the sign or planet which governed at the hour of its conception and nativity, and moles are contingent on these, impressed by the influence of the celestial signs, and answering thereto, not only in their formation and position, but varying according to the dominion of the several planets.

Moles are of three colors, red, honey color, and black, flat or raised like a wart, those on the right side of the face or person being usually symbolical of good, while those on the left mostly denote ills and misfortunes.

After a long and exhaustive study of the science a savant says he is convinced that not only the character, tastes and disposition of an individual but the future itself to a great extent may be determined by the local position, relation, and general appearance of these natural marks.

If the sun, at a nativity, be in Aries will be found on the head, probably on the flat violet mark will be found on the forehead.

When born under Gemini the mark is on the arms.

If born under the first part of the sign of Cancer, the mark is above the breast, and has no feeling if pierced by a needle.

Those who are born under Capricorn have the sign on the knees.

When Leo is ascendant the marks are on the left breast.

If Mercury be lord, the marks are on the left side, or upon the legs.

The nativity being under Virgo, there are black or reddish spots on the stomach.

The last of the signs, Pisces, governs the feet, and those born under this do-briave and ingenuous.

A man having a mole on the right side of the forehead will be exceedingly lucky. To a woman it denotes gifts from the dead.

One on the left side of the forehead foretells to a man long imprisonment; to a woman, that she will have two husbands, and probably live out of her own country.

If it be in the middle of the forehead, it denotes, in a man a cruel mind, and in a woman to be foolish, simple and idle.

A mole on the hinder part of the neck predicts a happy life, but threatens untimely death by drowning.

IF YOU SEE IN THE MOON,

No Matter What It Is, You Will Have Some Sort of Luck.

"If you see the new moon over your right shoulder it's good luck all the month"—over the left shoulder being bad luck, of course. "If you meet the new moon face to face with money in your pocket, you will have that kind of money in your pocket for a month"—and so on, this last being taken from an old black-letter treatise on "things worth knowing." Everywhere in the world the idea prevails among those who lack scientific training that anything falling to the lot of man when the moon is waxing will likewise increase, similarly decreasing while the moon wanes. The Hindu troubled with warts looks at the new moon, picks up a pinch of dust from beneath his left foot, rubs the wart with it—and when the moon goes, so does the wart. If you fall ill you can be cured by herbs gathered in the full of the moon.

The Moslems in the Kingdom of Oudh cure insomnia, palpitation of the heart, nervous prostration, and similar evils by stationing the sufferer with a basin of water in his hands in the light of the full moon in such a way that its refrugent image shines directly from the liquid into his eyes. Then, WITHOUT MOVING HIS GAZE, he is required to swallow the water at a draught.

In northern India the people lay out food in the full moon that comes in the month corresponding to our September and October, half of each, and give it to their friends as a means of insuring longevity. That same night the girls pour water in the moonlight, saying they are getting rid of the cold weather.

It was long ago noted that the Yorkshire maids "do worship the new moon upon their bare knees, kneeling upon an earth-fast stone," and Lady Wilde says that the Irish damsels drop on their knees when they first catch sight of the new moon and say: "Oh, moon, India the natives take seven threads from the end of their turbans and give them to the new moon, with a prayer.

The spots on the moon are caused by many persons or things. Sometimes it is a man with a fagot on his back, sent thither for picking up sticks on the Sabbath. Chaucer calls him a thief and puts a thornbush on his shoulder. Dante says it is no less a criminal than Cain. Shakespeare provides a dog to keep him company. Hindus keep, not a man, but a hare in the moon, and the well-known connection in the minds of many account for the statement regarding the March hare, and possibly the thornbush may be the distinctive covering of the hare—at any rate, this myth people have done; while Baring and Hink of the Northern mythology, with Jack and Gell of the nursery rhyme.

The Greenland Eskimo believes that the sun and moon were originally BROTHER AND SISTER.

She, being teased by him past ordinary endurance, seized some lampblack and rubbed it on his face. Then she ran, and her brother after. Finally she went so fast she rose up into the air and became the sun, while her sooty-faced brother turned into the moon. In Samoa when a great famine oppressed the people the moon rose one night, patient mother, unable to quiet the pangs of her little one, looked up and said: "Why don't you come down and let my baby have a bite of you?" This play picked up both mother and child, and they have been there ever since.

All sailors are certain that sleeping in tropical moon rays will either make them cross-eyed or blind. On the American vessel El Capitana a year or two ago a number of the crew, disregarding the advice of their fellows during a spell of hot weather, slept on the deck in the moonlight, and soon after went completely blind at night, though they could see as well in the daytime as ever. The skipper of the ship reported the occurrence, and with it he made a statement to the effect that he believed in the so-called moon blink. This is a disease unknown to the medical profession.

FROM THE COOKING CLASSES.

- For politicians—Gold cake or silver cake and election cake.
For a geologist—Layer cake.
For a sculptor—Marble cake.
For an advertiser—Puffs.
For a tailor—Measure cake.
For a farmer—Hoe cake.
For a milliner—Ribbon cake.
For the devout—Angel cake.
For the jeweller—Gems.
For the irritable—Short cake and ginger bread.
For a baby—Flannel cake.
For a lover—Lady fingers.
For the betrothed—Wedding cake and kisses.
For "bells" and "bears"—Raised cake and drop cake.
For a gossip—Spice cake.
For an idler—Loaf cake.
For a sufferer from "hay-fever"—White Mountain cake.
For pugilists—Pound cake and batter cakes.
For "a doctor of the old school"—Cup cake.
For the man who lives on his father-in-law—Sponge cake.
For a dude—"Jonny" cake.
For a belle—Vanity cake.
For a music teacher—One, two, three, four cake.
For those who partake too freely of the above mentioned—Stoma cake.

Fontainebleau's forest is on fire, over 800 hectares having already burned down. The whole garrison of the town has turned out to fight the fire, but it seems unable to check it.

WOMEN OF THE WORLD.

Miss Edie Ramage, the young Englishwoman whose marriage to a Spaniard, Don Francisco de Paulo Ossorio, was recently celebrated, posed as a child for Millais, and was the original of his famous "Cherry Ripe."

The Queen, it is said, is very much hurt that Sunday is now so much less carefully observed than in early Victorian days, and would gladly issue, were she able, a condemnation of Sunday dinner parties and unsuitable amusements.

Mrs. Clara Fisher Maeder, the once famous actress, has published her memoirs. She is 86 years of age, and first went on the stage when 6 years old. For 72 years she acted continuously, and at the age of 78 retired. She was at one time considered the best Shakespearean actress of her day.

Miss Clemence Royer, who first translated Darwin's books into French, and who has written several metaphysical books, was taken from the Galvani Home for Destitute Authors on her seventieth birthday, and treated to a dinner at the Grand hotel by a number of French and foreign scientific men.

Miss Laura B. Parsons, of Denver, a former art student in Munich, says that on going into a Munich gallery one day she saw a beautiful new Cecilia. It was the ideal face of a saint, calm, serene, and rapt, with the heavenly melody—and Miss Parsons recognized in it the face of a model who had a few days before stolen her purse.

Queen Louisa of Denmark is next after sovereign ladies of Europe. She was born in 1822, Princess Louisa of Hesse-Cassel, and on her father's side is related to the Royal family of England. In 1842 she married Prince Christian of Denmark, who later came to the Danish throne under the title of King Christian IX.

The anniversaries of British victories won in the Crimean war are never forgotten by Florence Nightingale, in spite of her 76 years and her broken health. She always remembers to send a message to the veterans of the Crimea, and at Christmas time she never fails to send some token of remembrance to the workers in the institution for trained nurses which she founded at St. Thomas' hospital, London, not long after the close of the war.

FOUGHT ZULUS.

Lord Chelmsford, British General, Visiting in New York.

Lord Chelmsford, the British General who gained fame fighting the Zulus and Kaffirs, is one of the most conspicuous visitors in New York just now. Although he is more than 70 years old, and long ago retired from the army, he is an unusually vigorous man. This is Lord Chelmsford's first visit to this country, and he says that he intends to inspect the lines of defense between the United States and Canada, not officially, of course, but simply for the purpose of gratifying his soldierly curiosity. He expects to make a trip through the lakes to Duluth, and his inspection of the defenses Chelmsford has been accessible to interviewers who have called upon him, and he has talked freely on a variety of subjects upon which he could speak with knowledge and without in speaking of the Turkish soldiers and said a good word for their fighting, which he had an opportunity of observing during the Crimean war.

THE DUDE'S DEFINITION.

I wonder what they mean by the fivings of society? said Gussie, as he lit his forty-second cigarette.

It must be those fellows that wear teal trousers fwayed at the bottom, said Reginald after a solemn pause.

And the other assembled members of the Simian Club shivered at the bare mention of such a dreadful thing.

Charles Darwin's statue in bronze has been set up in his native town, Shrewsbury.



BABY WAS CURED. DEAR SIRS,—I can highly recommend Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. It cured my baby of diarrhoea after all other means failed, so I give it great praise. It is excellent for all bowel complaints. MRS. CHAS. BOTT, Harlow, Ont.

THE HEAD MASTER. GENTLEMEN,—I have found great satisfaction in the use of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, and consider it invaluable in all cases of diarrhoea and summer complaint. It is a pleasure to me to recommend it to the public. R. B. MASTERTON, Principal, High School, River Charles, N.E.

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