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HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

ROUGH HANDLING.

Careless and rough handling of laying hens cause many breaks in egg yields. Occasions are constantly arising in the poultry yard when one needs to exercise all his powers of self-restraint to keep from doing things of which he will afterwards be ashamed. Hens can be very aggravating, and cannot be coerced with gentle force or mildly corrected as most domestic animals are. A threatening movement, though carried no further, will often put every hen in a pen in a bad state of fright; in a long continuous house the panic runs like wildfire from pen to pen. A disturbance of any kind measurably affects the egg yield.

The poultry keeper who is most a novice knows that a dog or other unfamiliar animal, or a bevy of visitors, is very objectionable near the quarters of laying hens. Not all poultry keepers know that they themselves often unknowingly cause laid disturbances. They see the disturbance, but are unable to account for it. To abruptly enter a pen, to run past it, to go into it wearing clothes different from those usually worn, or carrying an unfamiliar object, will often send panic through a whole flock.

Changing the quarters of laying hens is a thing to be avoided, if possible, unless it can be done without making a disturbance. The best way to move hens short distances is by driving. If this is done carefully, egg production may not be affected at all. If the hens must be carried, they should be very carefully handled, moved only at night; not caught or carried by the feet. Making short distances, they can be carried in the hands, one at a time; or under the arms, two at a time. When this mode of handling is too tedious, the transfer should be made in coops. With gentle handling the bad effects of moving are diminished. During the natural laying season laying hens are less influenced by disturbances than at other times.

GROWING ORCHARDS.

The practice of planting quick or early bearing varieties of apple trees among those which are later in coming into bearing, has something to commend it. For this purpose it is well to use for "fillers" such varieties as bear young and heavily, like the Ben Davis, Missouri Pippin, Wealthy and Yellow Transparent. These "fillers" can be removed when they begin to crowd the other trees.

This practice, however, has not so much to commend it as many believe, for the reason that the ground between the trees can be used for other purposes in growing crops which will pay nearly if not quite so well as apples. Besides, when such crops as corn and potatoes are grown between the trees there is not so much injury done to the apple trees as when other apple trees, or peach trees, are grown.

It may seem a long time to wait for returns from an apple orchard when trees are planted 33 to 40 feet apart, but if cheap land is used and such crops grown as will succeed on the soil, the expense of growing an apple orchard is not so great as may seem; on the whole, it is generally most satisfactory to start with the intention of making the apples the main crop and grow corn and potatoes between the trees as long as they can be successfully grown, and then give the entire land up to trees. Then when the proper time comes the orchard may be seeded to grass and pastured with sheep or hogs, or the grass cut between the rows and thrown around trees as a mulch. The grass may be cut and thrown around the trees in June or July and the orchard pastured during the latter part of the season.

MANURE WASTED IN THE BARN-YARD.

I have estimated that there is manure enough wasted in the average barnyard every year to keep from one to three acres of ground in fine fertility several years, and farmers with whom I have talked agree with me, writes John Chamberlain. This is not a matter of saving labor, either, but is a great waste of labor. The manure should go to the field as fast as it is made. By this system it saves at least one handling and does not waste by evaporation or heating. The work is by this method mostly done when there is no rush of other work.

When the time comes that we can muster courage to rebuild our stables, they will be put all in a single line, with a feeding floor adjacent and the stable floor will be of cement, having a gentle slope to a water-tight dirt that can be backed under the floor. This is the only way to save all the manure and do it at minimum cost. The difficulty with us at present is that it is a hardship to tear down and rebuild stables that are as good as the old style calls for. It would pay to do it, though, right away. Let him who builds anew look into the case and he will discard the old stable without

hesitation. "As dirty as a barnyard" the phrase is a very old one, but it has never brought about any reforms. The barnyard is as dirty as ever. Let us make a new phrase, "As wasteful as a barnyard," and then maybe something will be done.

A TROUGH FOR WINTER.

To make a convenient trough in which to keep the water for the poultry nice and clean, use the following plan: Select end pieces of two-inch plank six inches wide and eighteen inches long; the side pieces should be of one-inch boards six inches wide and three feet long; the bottom of two-inch plank. Be particular to have good tight joints, and smear them with pitch on the inside. Take a piece of two-inch plank ten inches wide and two feet four inches long. Drive ten penny nails thickly into one side of it, so that the chickens will not walk over it, and in holes bored at the corners insert pins eight and one-half inches long. Set this table in the center of the trough, and you will have an arrangement that will hold quite an amount of water, and have a place four inches wide all around the ledge from which fowls may drink without having a chance to get into the trough. It is better than fountains which become cracked in winter when the water freezes.

DON'T HURRY HEAVY HORSES.

It is bad policy to move a team out of its natural gait, especially with a load. It is far better to put on a full load, and even a little more, and give the horses their own time for moving it, than to make two loads of it and hurry them. There is a certain degree of rapidity of action peculiar to each horse, and if he be pressed beyond the limit, fatigue follows quickly, while within this limit great endurance is possible. To illustrate the point, let a man attempt to move his arms as rapidly as a bird does its wings, or his legs in walking as rapidly as a little boy, and see how quickly he will become exhausted. This will convince him of the folly of attempting to make his heavy draft horses step with the rapidity of the pony or fast trotter. The law of nature is that heavy bodies move slowly.

KILLING WEEDS.

It does not pay to make any false motions in hoeing, especially if killing weeds is the object. Above all do not either cut off the leaves of a weed or allow others to do so before rooting it if you want to kill it. We had a hired man once who persisted in spite of all we could tell him in striking twice with his hoe to destroy a weed, just at the surface of the ground, cutting off all the top. Then he struck deeper and turned up the root. Invariably if a rain or cloudy weather came, that weed grew. It was simply transplanted under the best conditions for growing, much root and little top. We let the man go after a few days' trial to reform him, but without effect. He was too stupid to know how to handle a hoe, says an exchange.

GREAT MAN'S TENDER HEART.

An Incident of Lord Lawrence's Sea Voyage to India.

Lord Lawrence, viceroy of India, was a blunt man of action, impatient of contradiction, and thoroughly self-reliant. Yet, like many of the truly great, he had a heart as tender as a woman's. The night on which he started from London to govern India he gathered all his family in the drawing room and made each child repeat a favorite hymn to him. His youngest son, 10 years old, nestled in his father's arms. Suddenly the strong man burst into tears.

"I shall never," he cried, "see Bertie a child again!" It was not of the hardships before him, or of his own death he thought, but of the fact that Bertie would not be a child to him on his return.

On board the steamer with the governor-general of India, was a lady with her infant child. She neglected the baby, which revenged itself by crying day and night. The passengers complained in language more forcible than polite.

"Steward, throw that baby overboard!" was petulantly shouted from sleepless berths.

At last Lord Lawrence, seeing that the child was left motherless, by its own mother, took it on his knee. For hours he would hold it, showing it his watch and anything that would amuse it. The child took to the great, strong man and was always quiet when he held it.

"Why do you, my lord," asked one of the relieved passengers, surprised to see the governor-general of India playing nurse to a crying baby, "why do you take such notice of that child?"

"Because, to tell you the truth," answered Lord Lawrence, with a merry twinkle in his eye, "that child is the only being in the ship who I can feel quite sure does not want to get anything out of me."

IGNORANCE IS BLISS.

New Wife—I wish to get some butter, please.
Dealer—Roll butter, ma'am?
New Wife—No! We wish to eat it on biscuits.

The Home

Apple Pudding—Pare and core half doz good-sized tart apples, or slice them if preferred. Take 2 cups good sour milk, two spoons butter or lard, or cream may be used if desired, one level teaspoon soda, one teaspoon salt. Stir in sifted flour enough to make a good stiff batter; and lastly, stir in the apples if sliced. If quartered, put in a well-buttered basin, first a portion of batter, then a layer of apples, and repeat until both are used, putting a layer of batter last. Steam three hours.

A Good Sauce for Pudding: Take 4 tablespoons sugar and one tablespoon flour, stirred well together, into which pour one pint boiling water; stir until entirely free from lumps. Let boil two minutes, remove from the stove and add a generous lump of butter and any flavoring which is liked best; salt to taste. Molasses may be used if wanted, but a larger quantity must be used.

Oatmeal Bread—An excellent recipe for oatmeal bread is as follows: Scald one cup sweet milk, add one cup boiling water, and pour over one cup of oatmeal, stir for a moment, then allow it, to become lukewarm. Add half teaspoon salt, and half a yeast cake dissolved in two tablespoons warm water, stir in sufficient flour, whole wheat flour is best, to make a batter. Beat thoroughly and set in a warm place for two and a half hours, then add sufficient flour to make a dough and knead until it loses its stickiness, then put into pans, and when it has doubled its bulk, and is light, bake about 45 minutes. This amount makes two small loaves or one very large loaf.

Beef Loaf or Cheap Roast.—Take two lbs lean beef, the tougher parts will do. Put in a chopping bowl and chop fine, or run through a sausage mill. An eighth of a pound of fat pork also chopped fine, one quart rolled cracker, work all together in a bowl, season with salt, pepper, sage and onion. Bind together with two eggs, make into loaves and bake, basting often. This will be found an excellent substitute for roasts and is much cheaper, and there is no waste. It is very good cold.

Jam Cake.—Cream together one cup sugar and one cup butter, add three beaten eggs, three tablespoons sour milk in each one teaspoon soda has been dissolved, half teaspoon each of ground cloves, ground cinnamon, ground allspice and grated nutmeg, one cup any kind jam, and two cups flour, to be baked in a loaf. Raisins chopped may be substituted for the jam if desired.

Grahams.—Two cups buttermilk, one teaspoon soda, level full, salt, equal parts flour, sifted, and graham to make a very stiff dough. Drop into oiled tins. If less flour is used, making them of thinner batter, shorten with two tablespoon lard, and bake in patty pans in hot oven.

Dewey Candy.—White one egg, one spoon water, stir in confectioner's sugar till thick enough to handle, flavor to suit the taste with lemon or vanilla. I take a small spoonful roll into flattened ball and put half an English walnut meat each side.

Salmon Croquettes.—One can of salmon, as much cold mashed potato, as you have salmon, season with onion, salt, pepper, mix with a little cream or raw egg, form into little cakes and fry a nice brown. Nice for lunch.

SUGGESTIONS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

A good outfit for the young housekeeper's linen closet, is six pairs of sheets, as many pairs of pillow slips, two dozen bedroom-towels, four bath towels, Turkish, three tablecloths and napkins to match, and a dozen fruit napkins. This is a good beginning, but of such things one can never have too many.

The man ordering his day's supplies of groceries by telephone, inquired, "Got any eggs?" The answer must of course be inferred from the reply which followed: "Oh, well, they're good enough for cooking, ain't they?" and then, "Send up a dozen." Now, as a matter of fact, there should be no such thing as "cooking eggs" any more than "cooking butter." An egg that isn't good enough to eat, isn't good enough to cook with. Custards, cakes, puddings, etc., often taste unpleasantly because of the stale eggs used in making them, and the housekeeper wonders vaguely why they "don't taste right," or as they do in the summer. In nine cases out of ten the fault resides in the stale eggs, so that unless one can command reasonably fresh eggs it is well to avoid this class of desserts in winter.

A well known grower of garden and flower seeds says: "The richest part of all really good squashes being close to the shell or skin, cut the squash before cooking into the right size for helping. People usually serve squash mashed, but this destroys the grain and makes a pasty mass of what might have been a fine, granular floury squash. By all means steam instead of boiling. When a squash has been properly ripened on the vine the fact may be known by the condition which will harden and shrink close to the squash."

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES.

An English surgeon calls attention to the great discomfort, or actual injury, caused by ill-fitting garments worn by a growing child. Clothing for young children is usually made in large quantities at a time. All the garments of the lot are cut after a fixed pattern, the different parts being pieced together rapidly and stitched by machine, all at the least possible cost.

The clothes are usually graded according to age instead of by size, and so a child who is large or smaller than the average for his years gets a misfit. But even those whose size and age agree are often no better off.

The parent may notice that the child stoops and cannot be made to carry itself erect. Some one, perhaps the family physician, may suggest that the frock is not loose enough, but the mother demonstrates to her own satisfaction that it is, by gathering up folds of the garment in her hand or by running her hand under it.

But if the frock is removed and measured front and back, it will be noticed that the measurements over the chest and the back are the same; in other words, the armbones are directly in the centre. If the child's arms were also directly in the centre, the shirt or blouse would be an excellent fit; but the child's anatomy is not so ordered, nature having intended that its chest should bulge out to make room for the lungs, while the back should be flat and more or less rigid. The effect of this wrongly made garment is that the shoulders are constantly drawn forward, and so the expansion of the chest and the play of the lungs are restricted, and then in-sult is added to injury, the poor mid-gut being scolded for not sitting up straight.

If the fault is not remedied early, especially in the case of a girl who is not inclined to be a romp and a "tomboy" and we may wish for their own physical good that all growing girls were tomboys, the deformed position becomes permanent.

One result of this forced stoop is that proper breathing becomes impossible, and consequently the health is not so good as it should be.

A body garment should always be much fuller in front than in the back. In the case of a young child this will prevent the slightest traction on the tender and easily molded shoulders; in the case of an older child, who begins to care how he or she looks, it will force the wearer to stand and sit erect, with shoulders back, or else to suffer the mortification of wearing wretchedly fitting clothes.

ILLUMINATING GAS

Some of Its Dangers and How They Are to Be Avoided.

Numerous accidents occur annually in the use of gas for lighting, cooking or heating, through either carelessness or ignorance. The largest number of accidents, probably, occur from ignorant persons either blowing out the gas or turning it off and subsequently turning the cock on sufficiently for the gas to escape unnoticed, says Cassler's Magazine.

Many other accidents are the result of the bad practices of turning down a gas flame, particularly in a bedroom. This is always ill-advised, for such a turned down flame may be either blown out by a draught of air from an open window, or else it may be extinguished by a sudden variation or reduction in the pressure. When this happens in a small bed room without ventilation, there is great danger of asphyxiation, particularly so if water gas is used. Much can be done to avert this danger by a proper arrangement of the gas piping in houses.

Another dangerous custom is to shut off the gas at the main service or at the gas meter during the night, and numerous accidents, some of them fatal, have resulted from it. It is almost equally bad to turn off the gas at the meter during the day. Notwithstanding the universal introduction of gas lighting, there are still many persons who would be benefited by receiving plain instructions on the use of gas in the household; Gas companies would benefit themselves and the public by paying more attention to this matter. Among available statistics may be found numerous incidents of death or accidents due to faulty management of gas. Among the more remote causes the writer finds the following mentioned: In one of two adjoining rooms, supplied with gas from one so-called prepayment gas meter, a man retired for the night when the gas supply from the meter was exhausted, but forgot to close his gas burner. The occupant of the adjoining room came home late at night, dropped a coin in the slot of the gas meter and got a fresh supply of gas, which meanwhile also escaped in the adjoining room, killing the occupant.

Escape of gas and explosions have also happened in the use of gas-cooking stoves, where boiling water, running over the vessel, extinguished the flame. It has already been mentioned that the so-called independent gas connections with two keys may lead to accidents by the wrong one being turned in mistake. Where the gas in the cellar freezes in winter time, it is dangerous to attempt to thaw out the gas meter or service with a flame. A gas meter should never be examined with a burning light, nor should any tools be used near a gas meter known to be leaky, on account of the danger of flying sparks.

BRITISH ARMY UNIFORMS

A FAMILIAR SIGHT IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD.

But the Dust Coloured Khaki is Used in South Africa—Uniforms of the Famous Highlanders—The Crack Coldstream Guards—Dress of the Smart Lancers.

The military uniform of Great Britain, like the martial music of England encircles the globe. It is a familiar sight in almost every part of the world.

But tradition has outlasted the re-coat, at least as a service uniform, it being found that it offers too good a target to Boer riflemen. "Tommy Atkins" wears one style of uniform, gaudy and effeminate in its display of color and fancy trappings, in his home quarters, and quite a different garb when he faces the Afrikander sharpshooters. In South Africa he gets into dust colored khaki, and even daubs a dull red paint over his leather belt so as to look as much as possible like a bit of dust of the valdt.

But "Tommy" exults in his gaudy trappings, and almost each unit of the variegated army of Great Britain has its distinctive dress. Some of these uniforms have been made so famous by the exploits of former wearers on European and Asiatic battlefields, that they will not be discarded, no matter how ridiculous they may appear in contrast with the somberness of modern costumes.

This is true of the rather finicky uniform of the various Highlanders—Argyll and Sutherland and the famous Gordons and the Seaforth. The kilt may look ridiculous, in this age, but

IT IS HISTORIC.

It comes from the days of Rome, and Wordsworth satirized its use in his day in his familiar line:

The Roman kilt degraded to a toy. So popular is this peculiar military dress that it is imitated by troops in England in Australia, and in Canada. The Boers call the Highlanders "women-men," and laughed when they got their "petticoats," tangled in the barbed wires at Magersfontein.

One of the most famous bodies of soldiers in the British army is the Coldstream Guards. It is an old Cromwellian organization, and is remembered as the regiment that was received into the King's service at the restoration of the Stuarts in 1660. Only two regiments were thus honored; the other being the Earl of Oxford's regiment, now the Royal Horse Guards. The Coldstream Guards is one of the crack corps of the imperial arms, and has been distinguished by gallant service on the Continent and recently in Egypt. Its usual uniform is sufficient to show, with a red or white jacket that is conspicuous from afar.

The Scotch Lowlanders wear gaudy tartan trousers, or "tews," but the five regiments of Highlanders wear a still more conspicuous uniform, consisting of kilts of the regimental or clan tartan, with horsehair "sporran" in the trapping that dangles from the belt, stockings and white garters. In full dress they wear no breeches, following the national custom.

The Northumberland Fusiliers have been heard from in the Boer war, where many of them have been captured and many killed. They wear a red coat and bearskin shako.

It has been demonstrated that the English are deficient in cavalry and artillery. The cavalry still make large use of the lance, and many regiments are known as lancers. The uniform of the lancers consists of a blue tunic, with plastrons and facings and shoulder straps of various colors, red and yellow waist sashes, with blue trousers and feather plumed helmets. The Fifth Lancers have red facings and green plumes.

There are two kinds of artillery—horse and field. The uniform of the Royal Horse Artillery consists of a dark blue jacket, with red collar and rich yellow braiding on the breast, fur "husbies" shakoes, and horsehair plumes.

The uniform of the Royal Field Artillery is similar, except that the men wear cork helmets, covered with dark blue cloth, and surmounted by a yellow metal ball.

THEN SILENCE REIGNED.

I see beef is firm, remarked the landlady, looking up from the morning paper. Very firm, indeed, groaned the thin boarder, continuing his efforts to dismember the steak.

RETAINED WITH DIFFICULTY.

Bigby started for Europe full of a big business scheme. "Did it succeed?" "Well, yes; but he says that for one spell going over he thought he should have to throw the whole thing up."

TWO MUCH TIME WANTED.

If you will get my new suit done by Saturday, said a customer to a tailor. "I'll be forever indebted to you." "If that's your game, replied the tailor, the clothes will not be done at all."

SAVED BY DISCRETION.

Visitor—Harry, have you tried all the remedies kind friends prescribed for your malady?
Invalid—Good gracious, no! If I had I'd have been dead and buried five years ago.