

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FRUIT CULTURE.

Drainage, Fertility, Cultivation—Breeding for Beef—Frozen Butter—Stock Notes and Household Hints.

Principles of Fruit Culture.

Fruit culture is afflicted with many evils, and for those evils numerous cures are prescribed, usually with little or no effect, and so the two-fold evil of harm to the fruit and the infliction of nostrums goes on to the detriment and no small discouragement of fruit-growing. And the evil will continue, if not increased, till a more rational course is pursued, namely carrying out the principles that apply, suiting the treatment to the condition as circumstances may require; in other words, giving thorough, intelligent culture. This is not a panacea, says Coleman's Rural World, but it strikes at the root of most of the evils, and sets fruit culture on a successful basis. A knowledge of the principles that apply as circumstances may require, suiting the culture to the varied demands of climate, sorts of fruit and soil, and other circumstances of our widely diversified country, never losing sight of general principles that necessarily apply to all, which must be respected or harm will as certainly result. Experience has demonstrated that under all circumstances, a dry, deep soil is the best, stagnant water not then being able to harm the roots, or the extreme heat and cold reach them. This is the first thing to be considered, yet few avail themselves of it. There is considerable trouble and expense for most soils must first be drained and otherwise treated to be fit for an orchard. This is imperative, no high success can be obtained without it. Equally important is fertility, but with great qualification. It is well known that fruit trees, like other crops, are usually in need of manure; but what is less considered, it is equally important to avoid excess. There must be enough enrichment for a full growth, both of wood and fruit—no more less—and this be kept up, changes being always more or less hurtful. More growth will result in immature wood, too tender to withstand the cold of winter, or if barely escaping, not coming out in that sound condition required for the best growing fruit. As to the amount of fertility, it is not all dependent upon the quality of the manure applied. There is the thinning out of the fruit and wood remaining, supplying this far the place of manure. Cultivating and mulching the soil will also aid. The true orchardist will avail himself of those means, and of the manure, if any, which is required to secure the desired vigor, which favors the soundest and healthiest growth, both of wood and fruit, keeping the balance established between them to their mutual benefit, particularly as to the wood, as good wood is necessary to produce good fruit. Such a growth will be abundantly so, with hardy sorts, to withstand our severest winters and our hottest and driest summers, the size, soundness and quality of the fruit increased with more perfect maturity, and with our observation has impressed us with as more important still, is less blasting of the blossoms and the premature dropping of the fruit.—The Horticultural Times.

Breeding for Beef.

The two great hindrances to the improvement of beef in this country are the neglect to obtain better results from the herds by selection, feeding and breeding, and the general idea that any kind of scrub stock can be sold. The scrub bulls are a menace to our stock business, and they should be killed off from the pastures of the East and the West, and replaced by fine, well-bred ones of some recognized worth. The dairy cows of similar stock, half-fed and lean, must give way to those of superior merit, whose keep will be well paid for by their extra products. Cattle-raising in every part of the country can be improved by the introduction of some of the well-known breeds of cattle, such as the Devons and Galloways in Colorado and Wyoming, where bone growth is so rapid; the Herefords, Polled Aberdeen-Angus cattle in regions where the soil and pasture are poorer than in the rich bluegrass sections where the Shorthorns and Jerseys do so well.

To inspect the herds of the Central, Western and Southern states one must be impressed with the great amount of poor stock that is kept from year to year, and from which successive fleeces are bred regularly. In portions of these states there are some high-grade cattle grown, which, when fattened on corn, can compete successfully with any of the beeves of England or Scotland. But the rule is, the stock is poor. The dairy cows are worn out specimens of their class, even among the fair herds of New York state. This loss is more directly to the farmer than to any one else. The beef-loving public can get what they want, even if they have to import it. The poor grade of beef, then, must be sold to the poor at reduced rates, and the farmer receives only a small remuneration.

In the West there have been improvements in this line which shows that some of the cattle owners realize what superior beef is worth. Fine Western dressed meats are coming into the Atlantic seaboard in quantities, and those who would command the best prices for their meat must produce as good beef as this coming from fertile plains of the West. Farmers in the East who only raise their old stock are being forced out of market by this improvement, and

even though close to the markets they cannot find good sales along with the superior Western beef.

It pays to raise a good thing. It pays to start the herd on a good foundation, and then to breed closely for good qualities, and to feed on a scientific basis. Those who do this make money in the dairy business and in cattle-raising. But those who from ignorance or perversity cling to the old slipshod methods are daily complaining that the Eastern cattle and dairy business is being made unprofitable by Western growers. They ship meat and dairy products East, and crowd out those nearer home. This is true wherever better articles are obtained from the West, but there are Eastern dealers to-day who are making money in the business. Their beeves are as fine as, if not superior to, those from any other part of the country, and their dairy products have the name for the same qualities.—American Cultivator.

Frozen Butter.

Without having made experiments to prove whether our theory were correct, we have been of the opinion that it hurt the keeping quality of butter to freeze it. The Creamery Journal, after stating that we can now freeze butter at as low a cost as we used to hold it in cold storage, says: "After experiments covering a range of the past five years, it has been demonstrated that this (freezing) is the only proper way to hold butter. Butter made last June and held on till May, came out in tip top condition. Not a tub oily, and all of a very fine flavor." * * * Repeated experiments have shown us that butter frozen will stand up longer after being taken out of the freezer than that held in the ordinary cold storage."

The Orange Judd Farmer comments as follows upon this, and expresses the views of many: "Creamery Journal should be good authority on dairy matters, and it may be; but we must differ from one of its statements unless it is backed up with a clear showing by accurate details of the 'five years' experiments.' No doubt butter will keep in good condition when thoroughly frozen. But our experiments and information obtained from large shippers, like John Newman, of Elgin, etc., indicate that butter will not stand up in its quality, beyond a brief time, when thawed out after being frozen. On the contrary, as soon as it thaws deterioration begins very soon, and unless kept very cold it will be poor stuff in a short time. A tub of extra Elgin butter got frozen by delay on a freight train. Part taken out and thawed was very good at first. It was kept in a cool cellar pantry, but kept deteriorating, and in ten days was unfit to eat. The part kept frozen was still excellent, but any portion of it thawed out diminished its value the same as at first. A second similar experience resulted in the same way. The expansion by frost is about one-tenth the bulk any period. What say intelligent butter-makers and shippers?"—Journal of Agriculture.

Stock Notes.

Cattle require a routine, as do all other stock.

The essential principle in successful cattle breeding is care.

Cattle never should suffer from the inclemency of the weather.

The man who knows how to keep on the right side of the market is merciful to stock.

Horns on cattle have long since been determined a nuisance, and the sooner they are rid of the better.

Cattle fattened when two or a little past are generally profitable; after that it generally decreases.

It will do to talk about a best beef cow and a best dairy cow all in one, but it is largely wind wasted.

By starting the calf right and carrying through the first winter thrifty it will make a better beef animal.

When the milk or butter cannot be sold at a profit a good plan of management is to feed to good, healthy calves.

There is no advantage in breeding the heifers too early, as the whole systems of the young mothers will be weakened and deranged.

Household Hints.

Emery powder will remove ordinary stains from ivory knife handles.

A towel wet at one end and pinned around the neck will cure sore throat.

Lay a piece of charcoal upon a burn, leave it there one hour, and the burn will be healed.

Scratches and bruises may be taken from furniture by using the kernel of a walnut or butternut.

To make the eyebrows grow better rub common salt into them every night before going to bed.

Clean white sheepskin rugs by scrubbing with castile soap and water, drying thoroughly in the sun.

Black currant wine is an excellent medicine for fevers, ulcers, sore throats and putrid dysentery.

Crude oil is excellent to wipe wood-work and furniture with, according to a painter. Wipe off with a clean towel.

Meat can be kept very nicely for a week or two by covering it with sour milk or butter-milk and placing it in a cool cellar. The bone or fat need not be removed. Rinse well before using.

A little care to straighten out the stems and leaves in a bouquet, and to take out the withered and straggling parts, will improve it so much that one realizes that even flowers are daintier for dainty handling.

When the face is usually pale, bathe it in tepid water, rubbing briskly with a Turkish towel. Then apply every day the following preparation: Four ounces of rose water, two ounces of glycerine and one ounce of diluted liquid ammonia. Rub it well into the skin for about three minutes, and then wipe off with a soft towel.

IOWA FARMS AND HOMES.

Two-thirds of the Farmers are either Renters, or have their Farms Mortgaged.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—A bulletin issued yesterday by the census bureau gives statistics of farm and home ownership and debt thereon in Iowa. There was in the census year 1890, 388,517 families in the state, of which 205,435 are on farms.

Of these 144,698 own the farms; 60,737 rent.

Of the owning families 77,111 have incumbrances, 67,587 have none.

Of the 183,082 families, other than those on farms, 160,763 are owners, 22,319 renters.

Owners free from incumbrance number 73,802; incumbered, 26,461.

City homes are hired and incumbered in a greater degree than is found outside of cities.

Liens on the 77,111 farms aggregate \$101,745,334; on the 26,861 homes \$17,706,870.

Value of incumbered farms is \$305,658,669; the incumbrance on homes in twelve of the largest cities in the state is 23.7 per cent of their value; the debt on incumbered homes out side these cities is 32.75 of their value.

The average value of owned and incumbered farms is \$3,864; average debt \$1,319; average rate of interest, 7.36 per cent; average annual interest charge \$97 to each family; average value owned and incumbered homes, \$1,887; average debt, \$699; average annual interest charge to each family, \$51. In the cities the average value is \$2,710; the average debt 6913; average annual interest charge \$38.

Gems of Thought from Ingersoll's Lectures.

Man has advanced just in proportion as he has mingled his thoughts with his labor.

Religion is simply the science of human duty, the duty of man to man. It is the highest science of all.

Abraham Lincoln, was in my judgment, in many respects, the greatest man ever president of the United States. Upon his monument these words should be written: "Here sleeps the only man in the history of the world, who, having been clothed with almost absolute power, never abused it, except on the side of mercy."

Our fathers worshiped the golden calf. The worst we can say of an American now is, he worships the gold of the calf.

The time will come when no matter how much money a man has, he will not be respected unless he is using it for the benefit of his fellow-men.

I would rather be a beggar and spend my last dollar like a king, than to be a king and spend money like a beggar.

Let us teach our children that the happy man is the successful man, and that the happy man is the one that always tries to make some one else happy.

Make your home happy. Be honest with your children. Give them a little liberty, and you can not drive them out of the house. They will want to stay there.

The man who does his own thinking is a slave, and does not do his duty to his fellow-men.

You can never be so poor that whatever you do, you can't do it in a grand and manly way.

The Corner Stone of Bi-Metallism.

A general fall in prices has occurred during the last twenty years and still continues. The average fall per year has not been far from two per cent. This means a stupendous disaster to the debtor class. Applied to farm mortgages alone written in four western states between 1880 and 1890 it represents an arbitrary transfer from debtors to creditors of twenty-three millions per year. A monetary system, then, which permits such a fall in prices is self-condemned, and cannot maintain itself in the face of the public conscience. It is dishonest and iniquitous. The great law of justice demands that the circulation be enlarged until the fall in prices ceases. Such is the great cornerstone of the bi-metallist theory.

Suppose a man lend a sum representing the product of a hundred day's labor. At the end of twenty years the general improvement in production has been such that the same goods can be produced by sixty day's labor. The bi-metallist contends that sixty day's labor, or its equivalent in commodities, should satisfy the debt. The value of the forty days' labor, representing the benefit of industrial progress, remains with the debtor. The monometallist contends that one hundred day's labor, or its equivalent in commodities, should be required to satisfy the debt. The value of forty days' labor being the premium due to the advance of industry, should, therefore, be made over to the creditor.—Prof. Edward A. Ross in Annals of Academy of Social and Political Science.

A Lightning Change Artist.

Helen Ryler—But I don't see how you could say in love with a man long enough to marry him. Didn't you ever change your mind after you accepted Charley?

Mrs. Lovey—Mercy, yes! I changed it four times while we were walking up the church aisle.

Hotel Life.

Jackson—What time do you wake up in the morning usually?

Jimson—Four o'clock.

"Great snakes! Why so early?"

"I boarded at a hotel, and that's the hour the man in the next room goes to bed."

Invention Not Needed.

Lady—Why don't the railroads have mechanical appliances for loading and unloading trunks?

Depot Master—Well, you see, madam, lifting the trunks into the cars doesn't hurt anything but the men, and throwing them out doesn't hurt anything but the trunks.

The first article in the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, for November, 1892, is by Prof. Wm. Smart, the eminent English economist, and treats of the "Effects of Consumption of Wealth on Distribution." The second article is a scientific defence of bi-metallism, by Prof. E. A. Ross, of Cornell University. The title of the paper is the "Standard of Deferred Payments." The other two principal articles are contributed by Prof. Jesse Macy, of Iowa College, and Mr. S. M. Lindsay, of the University of Halle. Prof. Macy's article is on "Parliamentary Procedure, and Mr. Lindsay's on "Social Work at the Krupp Foundries." Besides these main articles, there is an excellent account of the recent meeting of the American Economic Association meeting. There are also the usual personal notes, book reviews and notes.

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