

TOPICS FOR FARMERS

A DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Annual Death of Hogs from Pneumonia Is Becoming Distressingly Large—Uses of Hot Water—Good Points of the Farm—Odds and Ends.

Leaves for Bedding. There are probably localities where little grain is raised, and forest trees that can be had for the trouble of gathering them are the only available bedding for animals.

Ice Without an Ice House. Within a few years neighboring farmers have learned that they can put up ice to keep well through the summer without a covered house.

Machine for Catching Apples. Many contrivances have been devised for facilitating and cheapening the work of picking apples, but none has come into universal use.

Millet. A sixty-four page bulletin, just issued from the Michigan Agricultural College Experiment Station, is devoted to millet.

Hogs and Pneumonia. The annual death of hogs from pneumonia is becoming almost as great as that of human beings, and it is a distressing sight to see the fine, healthy looking, fattening hogs suddenly die.

Smoke of Burning Tobacco. The smoke of burning tobacco contains nicotine, nicotinic acid, salts of ammonia, hydrocyanic acid, sulphuretted hydrogen, three or four volatile acids, puecol, creosote, and several other substances.

Raisinet for Kings. The sea otter is the most valuable of all furs; \$1,100 has been paid for a single skin.

ROMANCE OF THE MOUNTAINS. The story of a Fugitive Pirate and Disappearance of His Daughter. The death of Mrs. Jennie Hoar at her mountain cottage back of Juncosville removes one of the most romantic characters that ever dwelt in the mountains of Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

Cold Weather for Feeding. So much is said about the danger and loss from exposing stock to cold weather that it might be inferred that those whose business it is to fatten animals will be best pleased by mild and balmy weather during the process.

Effect of a Poem. After the battle of Balacava, when the wounded were in the hospital, a chaplain read to them Tennyson's stirring lines: "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

Odds and Ends. No receptacle for soiled clothing, even if handsomely decorated, should be kept in a sleeping apartment. In baking bread or rolls put a saucer of boiling water into the oven.

Doctor Holmes' Thoroughness. Young people must not be deceived by the apparent ease and freshness, and if you please, slap-dash, of Dr. Holmes' lighter papers, or by the absolute fluency with which his verses run, writes Edward Everett Hale, in Review of Reviews.

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When the Gulf stream passes out of the Gulf of Mexico its temperature is about 70 degrees.

THE PHONOGRAPH.

As an Instrument for Suppressing Copy It Was Not a Brilliant Success. The office boy, John, opened the door of the editorial room, and said: "Mr. Peck, the manager wants to see you."

"What does—atchoo—he want again?" said he, with the accent of a man who is afflicted with a terrible cold. Anyway he dropped a large piece of paper on which he was writing an article on the Korean war.

"This mysterious box," explained Peck, "contains simply a phonograph. Instead of writing his article the editor voices it in the machine, after which it is sent to the typewriter, who sets it up under its dictation.

At 2 a. m., just before the make-up, the proofs of Peck's article were given to the proof reader. At the first words he jumped up, and, like a madman, ran to the editor in chief.

LETTER FROM JAPAN. Ever since my arrival on the field of battle—"Well how does it run?" "I have only commenced, Mr. Editor."

The chief stopped. "I understand," said he, "it is the phonograph. Impossible to publish. You, no doubt, have something else," turning to the city editor.

The edition contained this item: "At a late hour this morning our letter from Japan had not yet arrived. Will the postmaster general tell us how to account for this inexplicable delay?"

The Last of the Edgeplocks. Philadelphia Public Ledger: The last survivor of the Delaware Indians—who formerly owned all of the lands in this section of New Jersey—died a day or two ago in her humble cottage in Southampton Township.

Mr. Kipling Weir ed Her. A capital story is being told of Rudyard Kipling and little Miss Dorothy Drew, Mr. Gladstone's granddaughter.

Recent experiments in Canada on feeding frozen wheat to live stock show that, although this is not the most economical way of feeding grain, chop-fed frozen wheat mixed with straw alone gave a return of 56 cents per bushel.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

Column Stories Condensed to a Paragraph for Busy Persons to Read. A company is being promoted in Bradford, England, for the manufacture of artificial silk.

A Japanese bride's playthings are burned on her wedding day, typifying the end of her childhood.

Labrador has 900 species of flowering plants, fifty-nine ferns, and over 250 species of mosses and lichens.

It has been estimated on recent official authority that the population of Maine is now 722,000, a gain of 71,000 in four years.

The Russian Government is contemplating the erection of grain elevators along the Government railroads in the grain districts.

A company has been formed to utilize the power of the Susquehanna River for electrical works, something like those at Niagara.

The new Siberian railway traverses regions where game is so abundant that the project of establishing canneries is being considered.

The income for the McAll mission for the last year was \$80,820, of which \$26,730 came from Great Britain and \$31,780 from the United States.

In Turkestan, if a wedding engagement is broken, the girl's parents must either return the lover's gifts or substitute another daughter, if they have one.

The first shipment of oysters in crates to England left Newport News by steamship. Sixty-five crates were consigned to a Liverpool firm as an experiment.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church has issued over 5,000,000 pages of missionary literature during the last year.

Canadians are beginning to buy yellow pine from the Southern States in large quantities, finding it especially desirable for flooring, joists and inside finishing.

In the last year 21,000 people died in India from snake bites, nearly 1,000 were killed by tigers, and 1,800 by other wild animals. About 90,000 head of cattle were destroyed.

At Helsinki, in Finland, a newspaper has been started, edited and managed entirely by women. The chief editor is Miss Minna Kant, who is well known among the Finns as a novelist.

In 1788 Dr. Rieckel, at Wurzburg, lighted his house with a gas made from the dry distillation of bones. He discontinued his experiments because he was suspected of sorcery and feared trouble.

After Victor Hugo's death more than 10,000 isolated verses were found scattered about his room written on small slips of paper. He used to write incessantly, even while dressing himself in the morning.

In Switzerland there is a law by which railway and steamboat companies, factory establishments, etc., are liable to indemnify their employees in case of accidents, or their widows and children in case of their death.

The chief seats for the production of edible snails in France at present are the department of Jura, Cote d'Or, and Bourses Alps. At one time the snails of Burgundy were celebrated, but the industry there has died out.

CARE OF THE EYES.

The Whites Indicate Habits and State of Health. Physiologists write learned volumes about the delicate structure of the eye, and plums people write pious articles about the pleasures of sight.

The first step in caring for the eyes is to use them but sparingly. The strain of steady and continuous work cannot fail to be injurious.

Very hot water is very beneficial to the sight if it is rightly applied. It counteracts any tendency to inflammation, and rests and relaxes the muscles about the eyes.

When a person is in a state of health and vigor, the whites of the eyes are bluish in color and very clear. When the system is run down, in a poor condition, the whites of the eyes are yellowish.

It is an Unostentatious Charity. A belated stranger in New York, passing down Broadway in the "wee sha' hours," was surprised the other night at seeing a long line of gaunt and tattered men standing shivering in the cold at 10th street.

They're waiting for bread," was the reply. "That's one of New York's least known but most servicable charities." The bakers across the way there give a loaf of fresh bread free to every one who asks for it at this hour.

It is as the policeman said. The Fleischmann gift of bread is little known to the general public, which is in bed when the loaves are distributed to the almost starving vagrants in Broadway. It is not an ostentatious charity, but it frequently supplies food to 150 to 200 unfortunate.

A Broken Idol. A couple from Accomac County, Va., had seats in the Senate gallery at Washington, and were enjoying their novel surroundings. Presently the man nudged the woman.

He was silent for a minute. "Well, well," he said at last, in a tone of disappointment, "would a think it? I've heard so much about what big men United States Senators wuz, that I'd a swore that a whole panel had to be tuck outen the wall for 'em to git in at."

Must Attend Strictly to Preaching. In Hungary the prince primate has warned his clergy to confine themselves to their calling and leave politics alone. He considers it essential to re-establish a good understanding between church and state, and declares that in ecclesiastical matters he has not taken a single step without the previous sanction of the Pope.

Fashionable Ornaments. Diamond combs are now the most fashionable ornament worn. It is quite unnecessary to own a tiara, a pendant, even a ring. But the comb is de rigueur.

To Guard the Thames. As part of the defense of the lower Thames, a boom is soon to be stretched across the Medway at Sheerness. Four obsolete gunboats will be used in the construction, which will cost many thousand pounds, the shore anchorage alone requiring \$30,000.

Always Wear a Felt Hat. It is not generally known that when a person falls into the water a common felt hat can be made use of as a life preserver. By placing the hat upon the water, rim down, with the arm around it, pressing it slightly to the breast, it will bear a man up for hours.

increase the feeding value of the other ingredients.

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