

Social Forms and Entertainments



May Day Possibilities.

Very soon the children will be saying, "Tomorrow is May day; can't we have a party?" and if you are a dutiful, obliging mother you will say, "yes, indeed, but, begin your preparations this minute." So they will get tissue paper and braid it into neat baskets; if they can get the rope crepe paper so much the better. Then they will scurry off to hunt wild flowers, place them in water over night, all ready for the early May day morning filling, then they'll hang them on the door bells and run away. Tucked inside there may be love notes and even tiny gifts.

Perhaps you will plan for a costume pageant with a May queen, recalling Tennyson's favorite:

You must wake and call me early,
call me early, mother dear;
Tomorrow'll be the happiest time of
all the glad New Year—
Of all the glad New Year, mother, the
maddest, merriest day;
For I'm to be Queen o' the May, mother,
I'm to be Queen of the May.

Most children know how to dance, so you can have a group of milk maids, Scotch highlanders, English shepherdesses, Roman maids with pipes and garlands, dainty Japanese, and Robin Hood with his merry men. Crepe paper and cambric will make the costumes, and girls of twelve and over can do much towards making their own, as I know from experience that they love to do it. Dressing up and "make believe," come perfectly natural to children, and they thoroughly love plays with action. It is great fun to wind a May pole and not difficult, either, to braid the gay strips around the pole and then undo them. There may be any number of strips to wind. I want to tell you of a book called "Maypole Possibilities," by Mrs. Jennette E. Carpenter Lincoln. It will tell you much that you all want to know and I cannot take space to go into details here.

An "S" Supper.

Some years ago this "S" supper was given to vary the monotony of the ordinary church supper. It was a success and I copy the menu for others who may like to try it. The card at the top said "Supper Schedule." Sumptuous! Superb! Satisfying!

- Substantials
- Slimly Sliced Sandwiches, Stylishly Shaped
- Selected Sea-Fruit, Somewhat Seasoned
- Scalloped Sea-Fruit
- Savory Salmon Salad
- Scrumptious Salad; Small, Sleek, Sardines
- Square Saltines
- Sundries
- Sharply Spiced, Slender Sweet Pickles
- Sour, Stinging, Stimulative Sauce
- Seraphic Sweet-Cakes
- Silver Sliced Sponge Snow Sweetmeats
- Small, Succulent Saccharine Slices
- Sweetened, Solidified Strawberry Syllabub
- Soft, Smooth, Snowy, Slippery Sherbet Sips
- Sisters' Special Steeped Sip
- Steaming, Soul-Stirring Stimulant
- Sentimental Souvenirs, Suitably Selected
- Supper, Six—Seven Sixty
- Several Sweet Sisters Sedulously Serving

Ideas for Luncheon Tables.

At an early summer luncheon, or rather a "spring" affair, as the season is so late, have the centerpiece of the most abundant flower available. In the case I am describing apple blossoms were used. A small but very sweetly tuned music box was the centerpiece, literally covered with a mound of apple blossoms. When luncheon was announced there was "music in the air" and the guests found their places by cards decorated with apple blossoms done in water-colors and a bar or two of Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" done in gilt

Models of Hats Accepted as Best of Season's Styles



across the top. The favors were candy boxes in the shape of musical instruments and the hostess said she hoped all her guests were "sweetly attuned." The home at which this pretty luncheon was given was in the country, and after the repast all repaired to the orchard and gathered blossoms, which they took home.

At another spring party the table was laid out like a formal garden with stiff little trees taken from "Noah's arks" and purchased at the favor department, as were the gilded garden tools. Wild flowers were used in toy wheelbarrows. As a pastime the hostess used some of the flower guessing contests that have appeared in our department from time to time. She had made the cards on which the questions were written in the shape of flower pots, the outside being painted to represent a potted plant. The prizes were brown baskets of spring flowers. The ice cream was served in flower pots and the salad in turnip cases. As it was made of vegetables, this was most appropriate.

Ship Party.

Did you ever hear of one? Well, neither did I until recently, and I am telling you all about it just as soon as I can. This affair was given for a boy's eighth birthday and he just loved boats better than anything else, so his mother had the tinsmith make an oval pan four inches deep, which she filled with water and put in the center of the dining-room table. Around the edge she arranged ferns and vines with moss, and in the water she placed the gold fish from the aquarium. At the toy store she bought ducks, miniature row boats, sail boats, a little steamer, swans, frogs and play fish. There was a five-cent sail boat at each place with the name of child on the side. The cake had a sail boat done in pink icing for decoration, with the boy's name and date of birth and present date underneath. All this had been kept a profound secret and all the kiddies were wild with delight. This mother is noted for her successful children's parties and she says it's because she has just the same things for each child to take home, and she usually serves refreshments first, as ice cream and cake are after all what makes a real party to the average child, and, served early, the supper hour is not interfered with. Then, too, she says children are much happier and easier to manage when their stomachs are full.

Moon and Morning Stars.

Here is a Spanish game that I am sure the children will enjoy these warm spring days. One thing is necessary, and that is bright sunshine for this pastime. The girl who represents the moon stands in the shadow of a large tree or building and she cannot go out into the sunshine. All the other players are the morning stars, and belong in the daylight, so they stay out in the sun; occasionally they venture into the shadow calling alluringly:

Oh, the moon and morning stars,
Oh, the moon and morning stars,
Who dares to tread, oh!
Within the shadow?

The watchful moon keeps her eyes open and pounces upon some too venturesome star, catches her and takes her place among the stars and the victim becomes the moon.

MADAME MERRI.

Frills and Furbelows.

In Pierrot frills there is a charming novelty, the frill being of very fine white kilted net veiled by a still finer transparency of black net. Unless you see this you will hardly realize how sweet it is and how lightly the black rests mistily on its under kitting.

Debutantes, of course, have always worn tulle, and equally of course they do so still, tulle with pretty groups of roses and flowing girdles of broche ribbon. At the same time older women are making net the favorite material for blouses, and the choice is not altogether unwise, for a well-made net often wears better than chiffon, and white net is not difficult to wash and do up.

Novel Neck Frill.

A charming Parisian actress has adopted very becoming neck frills, which she wears on all her gowns. She has the gown cut in a small V and round this she wears a two-inch plisse net frill put in double and in front allowed to fall full. This dainty fashion leaves the throat bare to show a row of pearls, and yet there is no hard outline such as a severely turned-down lawn collar may show.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



Segregate ailing fowls.

Systematize the farm work.

A poor halter, a spoiled colt.

Keep plenty of pure water before the chicks.

Start cucumber seeds in the house or a cold frame.

Old hens make the best mothers, but pullets are the best layers.

In fitting horses for hard work, increase the grain ration, but not the hay.

If there were fewer whips in the world there would be fewer ugly horses.

As the lambs grow and require more milk, increase the grain with judgment.

Good seed corn is one of the most important factors in producing a good yield.

No man can tell whether corn will grow or not without making a germination test.

Eleven dozen eggs per year is a fair average for hens and pullets kept in large flocks.

To kill Canada thistles in a field, put the field in some cultivated crop and keep the weeds down.

When lambs are grown rapidly the quality of the meat is far and away ahead of that grown slowly.

Lighting, ventilation and cleanliness must be practiced before best results can be secured in the dairy.

To insure vigorous lambs, careful attention must be given the ewes while they are carrying the lambs.

Stop and think about the water supply. It should be secured from a source uncontaminated by impurities.

Hogs should not as a rule be turned into more corn at one time than they can eat up clean in two or three weeks.

Pasturing grass too soon or too hard is an expensive way of saving feed; it costs several times the amount of feed saved.

It's all right for chickens to scratch, but they need a little extra encouragement to make five-pound pullets by Thanksgiving time.

Here's a chance to show your ingenuity: See if you cannot build the new chicken coops so they will be a little easier to clean.

You can rightfully expect more fertile eggs from hens that get plenty of green food than from those that lived on dry grains all winter.

Did you ever think how much ground a good ear of corn will plant? It is just that much ground wasted if you plant a poor ear.

Give the cow an opportunity to do her best, then submit her to the Babcock test and milk scales before condemning her performance.

If the butter does not "come" at the expiration of half an hour something is wrong. Look first at the temperature and then for other causes.

The horse that is all the time being tapped with the whip never knows what his master means of it, and comes to think he means just nothing.

With hogs it is not best to crowd the breeding stock to their full capacity. A thrifty growth without too much fat is best for the stock intended for breeders.

If the stable should be a little too cold, or a "cold snap" comes when the lambs are young, sew soft woolen blankets on the little fellows. Such attention pays, and pays well.

Prof. F. B. Mumford says the silo will add from 20 to 25 per cent. to the profits of the corn crop. Some give even higher estimates. In 1909 the state of Kansas had only sixty-two silos, while now there are more than two thousand and more in sight.

Peonies are beginning to rival the rose. The amateurs should by no means neglect them; for they are free from pests, need little attention, and bloom year after year with the greatest freedom. But beware of planting them too deeply which mistake is often the explanation of lack of flowers. The crown should have but two inches of soil over it.

Pigs fatten on skim milk.

Avoid keeping too many horses.

The demand for horses increases.

The average calf is a badly neglected animal.

Unless a sow is too thin in flesh, do not feed corn.

The yolk of the egg spoils much quicker than the white.

An exclusive corn ration seldom brings the best results.

A pig gives the best returns from dairy products while young.

Sifted coal ashes are not fertilizers, but they are good soil lighteners.

Duck raisers claim that a hawk will never attempt to steal a duckling.

If you positively must hurry your horses, hurry them up hill, not down.

Clean all home-grown seed, and grade, so only the largest seed can be used.

Prepare to keep the young pigs growing from the hour they enter the world.

A little carelessness may result in the loss of a part of or a whole litter of pigs.

For early lettuce, the common curly kind does the best. Head lettuce comes on later.

Have those fruit trees and plants been ordered and the land made ready to set them out?

Little things in poultry keeping are like pieces of lead; they weigh more than you think they will.

Fine rotted manure from the stables may be applied with great benefit to the grass if spread early.

A chill brought on by the udder coming in contact with frosty ground is apt to ruin your best cow.

The time to get a thing is when it is there. The time to get the apple worm is before he gets inside.

Better keep the hens in the house on cold, rainy days, or they will get soaked and take rheumatism.

The eggs plant is one of the least known garden vegetables, and one that deserves better being known.

Be sure the sows have plenty of pure water to drink, aside from the slop they have. Slop is not drink.

When pigs should be weaned should be determined as much as how they are eating and growing as upon their age.

If from a well-nourished dam and a healthy strain of animals the pigs rarely need attention at farrowing time.

Do give the later summer hatched chicks a chance to eat their meals without being run over by the other birds.

As a general proposition it may be said that the sow that has pigs before she is a year old will disappoint her owner.

Although there is little data on the subject, alfalfa silage of good quality would certainly make an excellent hog feed.

It costs a good deal of money to buy a satisfactory team. In most cases this can be avoided by the farmer raising his own.

Protein that is grown upon the farm is often more valuable than that which is purchased in concentrated form, and it is also cheaper.

As soon as the ewes have dropped their lambs, and all danger of fever and caked udder is past, most liberal feeding should be practiced.

The tillage, the crops and the income from the farm are all more or less dependent upon the economical management of the work teams.

Eighty-five per cent. of a pound of lds other than fat, that were in the ture, said and a small amount of solids other than fat, that were in the cream.

Old berry boxes, tin cans and paper pots are excellent for transplanting cabbage, tomato and other early vegetables into until they can be set in the field.

Do not let the colts run down in condition on frost-bitten grass. They may fill up, but the nourishment isn't there. A loss in the condition of a growing colt is a most serious one.

The report of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shows that as a result of its efforts to dispose of unoccupied farm lands about 100 farms have been sold at an average price of \$3,000.

Liquid manure offers one of the best means to keep up the flagging spirits of the garden in a dry season and whenever growth seems to lag. It is easily made by filling a cheesecloth bag with fresh manure and suspending it in a tub or cask filled with water.

MUCH IMPORTANCE OF PROPER FEED AND TREATMENT OF THE SOW AFTER FARROWING

Mother Should Be Given Liberal Supply of Water on First Day and a Start Made on Second With Light Slop—Pigs Begin to Eat When Three Weeks Old.



Cheap and Suitable Hog House.

(By D. T. GRAY.)

The mother should receive no feed at all for about twenty-four hours after giving birth to the pigs. She is feverish, though, and should be liberally supplied with fresh water. The second day after farrowing she should be given a small feed. It is well to start her on a light slop made up of shorts and skim milk. If there is no skim milk on hand, mix about four parts of corn with one part of shorts, cowpeas, or soy-bean meal and give a small quantity. She should be gradually brought up to a full feed; this should require about three weeks. If she is overfed at first the pigs are apt to take scours and thumps. When she is on full feed she will be eating daily an amount equivalent to about 4 per cent. of her live weight, provided she is not on pasture. If she has the run of a good leguminous pasture, at least one-half of the grain will be saved. If she has no pasture, she should be fed just about as she was fed before farrowing except that she should receive more feed.

When the pasture is composed mainly of blue grass or Bermuda grass she should receive a grain feed



Berkshire Sow in Excellent Condition.

equivalent to about 3 per cent. of her live weight. And the grain part of the ration should be partly composed of shorts, tankage, cowpeas, or soybeans. When the pasture is made up of a leguminous crop, a grain ration equivalent to not more than 2 per cent. of her body weight will keep her in excellent flesh, and in this case corn can be used for the grain portion of the feed.

It is very important, as far as economy of grains is concerned, to have a pasture for the pigs to run upon as

GOOD CONDITION OF GARDEN SOILS

Chemical Fertilizers Are Very Strong and Injure Plants if Used to Excess.

If the soil of your garden is in good mechanical condition—that is, if it contains the proper amount of decayed vegetable matter—excellent results in the way of fertilizing may be obtained without the inconvenience of handling ordinary manure. Sheep manure may be bought in sacks and is excellent. It gives immediate results. Strewed over and dug into the vegetable garden or placed directly in drills or hills, it promotes a rapid, steady growth until maturity. It makes rich and safe liquid manure, one pound in five gallons of water producing a mixture which can be used safely daily if necessary.

Bonemeal is good, but is not a complete fertilizer. Wood ashes should be used with caution, as the large amount of lye they contain may do mischief.

The best chemical fertilizer is what is known as a complete fertilizer, which is supplied under various names. Ask when you buy it, how to use it and be sure to use no more than the directions permit. A very light sprinkling over the soil after spading or plowing, then rake in, is best. Chemical fertilizers are very strong and will kill or injure plants if used to excess.

If the soil of your garden is not in good mechanical condition it must be properly manured before you can hope to have success. Dig in fresh horse manure and leave the ground rough and let the manure rot. When it is rotted spade up the ground again and perhaps planting may be done.

soon as they begin to eat. When a good pasture is available and the mother is fed liberally of the proper feeds, the little pigs will need little in addition to what they obtain from the pasture and the mother. But the pigs will make use of some additional feed, especially if the litter is a large one.

The pigs will begin to eat when they are about three weeks old if they are given the opportunity. For these young animals nothing is superior to skim milk mixed with shorts. Many farmers have no skim milk, though, so something else must be used. In such case probably the best thing to feed is a thin slop of shorts up to the time that the pigs are from four to six weeks old, after which the ration should be made up of equal parts of corn meal and shorts.

These young animals should never be fed corn alone. The feed for the pigs must be fed in separate troughs, around which a fence has been built to keep the sows away.

There is no advantage to be gained by pushing the pigs too rapidly with supplementary feeds. They should not be fed much fattening feeds, as corn; they should rather be given feeds which tend to make bone and muscle, as skim milk, shorts, pasture, cowpeas, soy bean meal, etc., so that when the time arrives to finish them for the market they will have a well-developed body upon which to put the fat. They should, while young, be given just enough feed to keep them in a good healthy growing condition.

Often times when the litter is small and the mother is a good milker the little pigs will need no feed at all in addition to the pasture and the mother's milk.

Extensive experiments have been made in which it has been demonstrated that gains on young pigs can be made as economically by feeding a given amount of feed to the mother as by feeding directly to the pigs. To be able to keep up an average-sized litter in this way, the mother must be fed liberally. The mother and the pasture should be depended upon to furnish the greater part of the feed for the small pig.

IMPORTANCE OF BREED OF SHEEP

Feeder Cannot Afford to Overlook Importance of Breeding in His Business.

The man who raises sheep for the wool and mutton market is generally looked upon more as a feeder than as a breeder, especially in comparison with the man who raises registered sheep for the breeding market. However, the feeder cannot afford to overlook the importance of attention to breeding in his business. If he raises his own feeding stock he knows that the quality of his ewes and the kind of sire he uses are important factors in determining final profits. In fact, the production of highly profitable ewe stock calls for almost as much breeding skill as the production of sheep true to the final point of type. The ewe flock which makes returns in mutton and wool alone will show characteristics as difficult to produce and hold as those of any breed. Such sheep must be vigorous and thrifty, they must be good milkers, able to resist common diseases, and must produce all the wool possible and still retain good mutton form. Grade sheep carefully selected and bred have value over common sheep just as pure-bred sheep do.

Value to Health.
Wood ashes and salt well mixed and sifted through the edges of the feed troughs and self feeders are of great value to the health and thrift of the lambs.

Valuable Addition.
Chopped roots fed along with the grain will make a valuable addition to the ration, especially if good grazing or silage is not at hand.