

Social Forms and Entertainments



An Outdoor Birthday Party.

How children do love parties, birthday parties especially, and every child is entitled to one day out of the year for his or her very own, and of course this is the natal day. I wonder if mothers realize they are making history and how very short the time will be when these wet tots will be saying: "When I was little we did so and so." I am reminded of an elderly woman who always counts back to her sixth birthday and the sake which she chose for the occasion was "roll jelly." The young mother was not an expert cook but she had promised the child she would choose the kind of cake she wanted, and, let me add, she made it, and it was glorious in the child's eyes and has gone down into the annals of a happy life with many a birthday cake and a party.

Remember, children are the most satisfactory of all guests, the very fact of dressing and going to a party and bringing home the spoils is bliss. Provide little baskets of dainty tissue paper bags in which to put the favors and candies, and even the cake, for some kiddies love to take samples home.

Now for the party. We will need a lawn, some trees and a big porch and then with these accessories there must be a big bowl of lemonade on hand under a Japanese umbrella, the stake or handle being driven into the ground. Children are always thirsty and this will prevent them from running into the house for a drink every five minutes. Hide animal crackers over the grounds and tell the guests there is a whole menagerie hidden under the bushes, in the grass and even in the benches of the trees; give each one a paper bag in which to put the game and give a little prize to the one who finds the most. A small flag may be hidden and that will make another hunt, the gay little "stars and stripes" being pinned on the lucky finder.

The "eats" will be the climax of the party and the cake should be lighted with due ceremony and the children allowed to blow out the candles. Canning favors are made by sticking animal crackers together with icing, and thus made they will stand upright at each plate. Delicious small cookies may be ornamented with daisies made from blanched almonds, the stem and leaves of angelica fasten them on with frosting.

Snapping motto caps always give pleasure and sometimes the Christmas tree sparkles are obtainable at this season and they are lovely set to going outdoors and are not harmful.

Ice cream may be served in orange halves, thus making baskets with smilax for handles. Orange ice is very good served this way and is not so rich as ice cream. The party stationery that comes for parties, is a joy to use for the invitations and the "Sunbonnet" baby cards are attractive also. The "five and ten" cent

store will furnish any number of trifles for a fish pond if one cares for this, or for a grab bag, or better still, for a "fairy tree." Tie the parcels onto the low branches and let each child clip off one with a pair of scissors. Anything that makes for mystery is an adjunct to a child's party.

Candle Tricks.

Children and even grownups enjoy after-dinner tricks and I give these just as they came to me. They are all to be performed with candles. I have not had time to try them. Perhaps some of you will be kind enough to write me if they are any good. You could use them as an adjunct to a bazaar, performing them in a separate booth with curtains hung at the door to give an air of mystery, and charge a penny to get in. Of course, this is all to be done by young people, as it is within their possibilities.

Put a nail in the end of a candle and set it all in a glass filled with water. The nail will steady the candle, which will burn until nothing remains, always rising above the surface of the water by reason of the decrease in weight.

Take a small picture cut from a paper or book, and wrap it tightly around a candle. Light a match or another candle and hold the flame near until the paper becomes transparent. Unwrap the paper, and every one will be astonished to find the picture printed on the candle.

Put a candle unlighted in a basin of water. Let several try to take it out with their mouths, not touching the candle with their hands. Every one will fail. Then you put your face in the water, and, when your mouth is near the end of the candle, draw in a deep breath, and the suction of the water will draw the candle into your mouth.

Allow some drops from a lighted candle to fall into a basin of cold water. This grease will form flowers. String these on a wire with green leaves made from paper, and an interesting plant will be the result.

Heat a piece of wire and stick it crosswise through the middle of a candle. Make a wick at both ends. Balance the candle on two tumblers. Light the wicks, and the dropping of the candle grease will make the candle see-saw, faster and faster as the flame grows hotter. This is a pretty experiment.

Pastimes For Outdoor Parties.

Did you every try "Blowing the Cone?" The youngsters will love it. Make a large cone of stiff paper and slip it on a string stretched between two trees about three feet from the ground.

Give each child a try to see if by blowing into the large end of the cone they can send it across the string. The art is to see who can send it over with the fewest "blows."

Another very good amusement is to tie a knot in a clothes line and stretch it conveniently high between two trees or posts, blindfold each child in turn and give him three clothes pins. Then see who can come the nearest to the knot. Each pin is marked with the player's number; for instance, three will be marked "1," three "2," etc. This gives each one three trials. If the party is a large one it will be best to let each child have just one pin and instead of numbering the clothespins could have colored ribbons tied to them, each child to remember his or her color.

MADAME MERRI.

When Darning Stockings.

Use a white china egg as a mending ball for black stockings and a black one for white stockings. This will prevent eye strain.

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM



Cows must have salt.

Don't keep irritating dogs.

Use care in the cow's ration.

Sheep help rid farms of weeds.

Brooder lamps should be cleaned every day.

Chicks should not be fed until they are 36 hours old.

Every home should have an abundance of strawberries.

Powder the chicks occasionally during the first eight weeks.

Experience is of more value than capital in poultry raising.

The specialist succeeds in any line of business, while others are failing.

Plowing is at best the hardest work; our farm horses have to perform.

An orchard, if you have one, is the very best place in which you can raise chicks.

Cornstalks are valuable as a fertilizer and should be left on the field after cutting.

A field of corn after it is a few feet high makes an ideal place to raise chicks in.

A few strips of tile will often turn a mud hole into the most productive spot on the farm.

An egg may be fertile and hatch and still the chick will not live because of lack of vitality.

In cold weather place from ten to thirteen eggs under the hen; in warm weather from thirteen to fifteen.

The coop for hen and chicks should be well ventilated, easy to clean, and of sufficient proportions to insure comfort.

Eggs from hens that have made a fair showing in laying this winter will be more fertile than those that did heavy laying.

It may not pay to keep any very great surplus of corn in the cribs, yet it is sometimes mighty comforting to know that it is there.

Scarcity of stock cattle of all kinds and high prices asked and offered is a common local condition reported from the corn belt states.

When moss creeps into the meadows and pastures they need to be broken up and the soil exposed to the sun and air before reseeded.

Raspberries produce good crops in the same soil for year, while strawberries produce their best crops the first year they come into full bearing.

As a rule, the cause of a flock being unprofitable lies largely with the keeper and the care they receive rather than a superiority of one breed over another.

By raising standard-bred poultry one will be able to sell stock and eggs for breeding purposes, and get much better prices than when selling eggs and fowls for food only.

Busy hens are not only the best egg producers, but their eggs show the best fertility. In order to keep them engaged at work strew the floor of the pen with hay or straw and scatter the grain in this.

One of the safe things to tie to on the farm is a good brood sow—pure-bred. In a few years she and her offspring, if properly cared for, will put many dollars into the pockets of the farmers of the country.

Hens prefer the morning sun to the afternoon sun when they cannot have both. Therefore, arrange to open a window in the east end of the hen house when bad weather does not permit of the entire south side being thrown open.

The last United States census shows that there are 397,765 women farmers in this country. The numbers has gained since the census was taken and promises to increase. Many women have homesteaded claims in all of the western states and have made successes of farming.

If your supply of manure is limited and it is fine in texture better make application after plowing rather than before. It may pay to use part of the manure in the hills, especially for such plants as eggplants, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, muskmelons and lima beans. Manure used in hills should always be fairly well decayed.

Test all hatching eggs.

Keep the calves' pails clean.

Some sows are kept too long.

Inattention produces bad results.

Use insect powder freely to exterminate lice.

Green bone is very rich in phosphate of lime.

Not enough care is given to teaching colts to work.

A well-ventilated collar is the best place to operate the incubator.

The modern farm buildings should be so arranged that they will be rat proof.

Boost the acre yield, cut down on the acres, and so solve the hired help question.

Well-drained yards and pens will help to keep the hogs more thrifty and profitable.

The peach tree responds more quickly to good treatment than any other fruit tree.

Shallow cultivation following deep plowing precedes clean fields and profitable crops.

Norway spruce trees make a good windbreak, and right now is a good time to plant them.

Whole corn is a good feed for sitting hens. Water, grit, and dust baths should also be provided.

Beans are very susceptible to frost and should never be planted until all danger from that source is past.

New planting of blackberries, raspberries, currants or gooseberries may now be made. Cut back the plants.

In Europe cows serve a triple purpose. They are used for the production of milk and meat and for draft purposes.

Trees and small fruits generally like application of ashes and bone dust. By fertilizing liberally good crops may be assured.

Pure-breds should be culled as well as the grades. Many poor producers result from the idea that a pure-bred is without flaws.

Be careful of the ration of a dry cow. Every pound lost in flesh before calving time will be taken out of the next milking period.

The early bird catches the worm, and the first hen out for feed and last on the roost with a full crop is the one to depend on for eggs.

The native wild highbush cranberry, dogwood, Juneberry, black haw, and wild grape all make good plants for the home yard if properly set.

Improved implements will do much to increase the efficiency of the men on the farm and will at the same time increase the productive capacity of the land.

For average yields it has been estimated that it takes 400 tons of water to grow a clover crop; for corn it takes 350 tons; oats, 375 tons, and potatoes, 450 tons.

There is little doubt that the incubator has not always been given the credit it deserves for having brought the poultry industry up to its present enviable position.

Where alfalfa hay is fed as the roughage part of a ration for farm horses at hard work, less grain is necessary to prevent them from losing weight than where timothy hay is fed.

In the case where cowpea hay and silage are fed together, there is no question but that better results would ensue were alfalfa hay used instead of the cowpea roughage for this purpose.

The cows that gives fifteen quarts every milking, and kicks over the pail as she is being stripped, is like a good many people whose good intentions and virtues are spoiled by one mean trait.

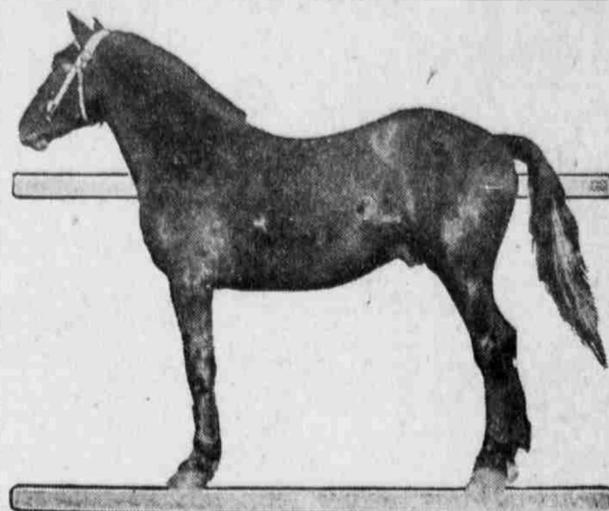
A breeding sow should have plenty of nourishing food, such food as will cause a healthy growth and development without inducing the laying on of surplus fat, as a fat sow often has difficulty in farrowing.

Top-working apple trees may be done now. Try setting a few grafts. It is not a very difficult operation and it is always interesting to watch the results. Many worthless seedling that are hardy may be changed to be good fruit.

Tomatoes are best grown upon single stalks. All suckers should be kept off, allowing only the original stem to grow, and this should be tied to a stake. This prevents rot, and makes better fruit. Dwarf, medium-sized varieties give the best results.

The mowing machine that chugs under ordinary conditions is sadly in need of attention. In nine cases out of ten the fault will be found in one or the other of both of the cutting edges. The sickle may be dull or the edges worn off the ledger plates. It is only a half remedy to sharpen the sickle and leave the dull ledger plates in.

INCREASING DEMAND FOR HEAVY HORSES



Two-Year-Old Percheron Stallion.

The breeding of heavy draft horses is one of the most profitable branches of live stock farming. Few farmers realize the importance of size in a draft horse when put on the market, either in public or private sale. A horse that weighs less than 1,500 pounds is not considered a draft horse in any of the horse markets of the country, yet the mares kept on the ordinary farms are usually lighter than that. This accounts for the small, scrubby lot of horses that are constantly being put on the market at a loss to the breeder.

This was well illustrated at a sale of grade horses recently held in the Lamer sale barns at Salina, says the Kansas Industrialist. Here the horses of good size were readily bought at good prices, while some of the lighter ones could scarcely be sold at any price. There is an increasing demand for heavy draft horses in the cities in spite of the fact that many firms are using the motor truck in their delivery work. The motor truck can be used profitably only on long, heavy hauls where the roads are good and speed is essential. The motor requires good roads for its best operation and can be used to advantage only in the paved streets of the city or on good country roads. These remarks were made recently by the manager of a large express company at Chicago. The delivery manager of a big packing company at Kansas City, says that the motor truck cannot be used on short delivery on account of the heavy

expense of operation. The motor truck has its place on the farm. It can be used for plowing and heavy hauling, but can never replace the draft horse. If the draft horse is a permanent part of agriculture, more attention should be given to its production.

There is an increasing demand for heavier horses on the farms. Deeper and better tillage must be practiced in the future, and this requires heavier machinery and more motive power. There are two ways of increasing this power. One is by increasing the number of light horses. But the most economical way is to increase the weight of the horses. This will reduce the farm labor force; will decrease the amount of equipment necessary in requiring less stable room and less harness, and the cost of feed will be lessened.

All farmers and breeders who are breeding horses for commercial purposes should replace their small mares with heavier ones. This must be done gradually by adding a few good draft mares to the herd every year and selling the poorer ones. Sometimes good colts may be reared from inferior mares by mating them to a good stallion, but better ones always will be the result of the mating of better mares to the same stallion. There are plenty of good stallions throughout the state, but the mares are lacking, and until the farmers come to realize the value of the right kind of mares the profit in breeding will be low.

POTATOES GROWN IN STRAW STACKS

Unless Ground Is Reasonably Fertile One Should Not Expect Satisfactory Results.

Years and years ago potatoes were grown in old straw stacks, and this suggested hauling out straw to cover the ground no matter where the potatoes were planted. I have heard a great many praise this plan, while others give it as a flat failure. I have tried it with success, and in some cases have failed, but in that failure learned the cause thereof.

One cannot control the season, and for this reason, early potatoes in straw have been an indifferent success, while those planted later are almost always better than when given cultivation and the straw not used. If we have a cold, wet spring, potatoes planted in a deep furrow under straw, are not likely to do well, while if they are planted a little later, when the sun is warm, they will not lack for moisture, and the potato must have sufficient moisture.

I prepare the ground and lay off rows with a single shovel just as if I were going to plant in the regular way except that the rows may be some closer together. The potatoes are then dropped in the row, and barely covered, so that in some cases one side of the piece shows. It is often as well not to cover with dirt at all, but it is safer in case of dry weather to cover a little.

Then with a wogan haul out oat or wheat straw and cover the ground solidly to a depth of six inches or a foot. Never fear, for the potatoes, they will come through the straw, and so will nettles which are akin to the potato vine in this respect, but other weeds will be smothered, and the patch will be perfectly clean except for the rows of green potato vines. It will not be necessary to cultivate with either plow or hoe, and if a few bull nettles should be found they may be cut off with a blade. The potatoes will form right at the top of the ground and in the lower layer of straw. There will be some elements of fertility in the rotting straw, but unless the ground is reasonably fertile one should not expect any better results from this plan than by cultivating.

At digging time begin on one side, fork the straw over and pick up the potatoes, then take the next row forking the straw from it over on the row that has just been dug or rather picked. The potatoes will be white and clean, and you will get all of them, whereas by the old method of cultivation and digging among the weeds as high your head you get maybe not more than half.

Where this plan has been a failure it was on account of wet, cold weather early in the season which caused the potatoes to rot before coming up. We usually use clean straw, but half rotten would answer the purpose probably as well. This coat of straw which may be turned under the next year, enriches the ground for subsequent crops whether of potatoes or grain.

SOME PLANTS ARE BIG LABOR SAVERS

Require No Greenhouse, Hotbed or Window Garden—They Are Hardy.

(By JOSEPHINE DE MARR)

It is not too late in the season to urge busy housemothers who love flowers, but who have little time to give them, to grow herbaceous plants.

These plants are labor-savers; for, once established in good, deep soil, they require little care or attention; they bloom profusely, and if a good selection is made, abundant blooms may be had from early in spring when the moss-pink (plox subulata) covers itself with flowers, to late fall, when the hardy chrysanthemums withstand the early frosts.

These plants require no greenhouse, hotbed, or window garden, for they are really hardy. However, it is well to protect the young plants their first winter.

Herbaceous plants are propagated in several ways—by seeds, division, cuttings of tops or roots. Cutting of the roots, although not usually practiced, is easy and successful, and should be better understood.

If you will carefully dig up a plant, say, a one-year-old golden glow, you will find on the main roots little shoots close together. These are future plants. All one has to do is to cut the root in small pieces, being sure to allow one shoot or eye to the piece, and plant them in the ground.

If one has too many plants, it is easy to exchange with one's neighbor, and thus acquire a new plant.

White Geranium.

A good white geranium is a jewel which, when found, should be kept. Select one or two zonales for ornamental foliage, and keep them bright by giving the plant as much sunshine as possible and a dose of ammonia once a week—a teaspoonful in a quart of water.

Intolerable Nuisance.

Moles in a garden prove an intolerable nuisance. While they may be trapped, the only sure way is to inject bisulphate of carbon into their runs.

One Material Is Used in These Dresses From Vienna



Models show the use of one material for the entire dress. All three dresses are of old rose cotton crepe with lingerie collars.