

# Social Forms and Entertainments



## Idea for Cotton Wedding.

The first year of wedded life brings the "cotton" celebration and the occasion may be made a regular frolic if only a congenial few are bidden to make merry. Make the invitation spool shape, a good sized one. Then decorate with cotton batting sifted over with diamond dust; mass it on the window sills, mantel, on the piano and everywhere that it will be effective. The host may wear a cotton suit for this occasion and it will be easy for the hostess to wear a cotton gown. If a suit cannot be managed for the bridegroom, he can wear a cotton shirt and necktie. Perhaps it will be possible to get real cotton plants with the bursting cotton pods which may be used in lieu of flowers. Here is a laughable stunt with which to start the evening's fun. Have narrow white cotton tape arranged as for an old-fashioned spider web, wind it in and out, over and under furniture, but instead of having all the guests play at once ask one person at a time and allow three minutes to see how much tape he can entangle and roll up in that time. When the umpire calls, "Time's up," the piece of tape is cut off, and after all have had a chance, each piece of tape is measured and the one having the longest piece is awarded a prize, which should be of cotton fabric. In the instance where this was done the reward was a cotton batting doll candy box filled with candy. We have all seen the cotton Santa Claus figures and the little doll Christmas tree ornaments? Well, these would be just the thing for favors at an affair of this kind.

Another pastime would be to pass a basket filled with different colors and lengths of cotton tape with knots tied in them and the trick is to see who can untie the greatest number of knots in the time set. A prize may be offered for this. In the south little bales of cotton may be obtained, which would be appropriate souvenirs for this celebration.

## Novel Hard Times Party.

Here is a new version of a "hard times" or "poverty" party. The invitations were written on brown paper such as butchers use for wrapping meat, and the lettering was done with a heavy lead pencil. At the top of the sheet was this nursery rhyme:  
Hark hark; the dogs do bark;  
The beggars are coming to town—  
Some in rags, and some in tags,  
And some in a silken gown,  
followed by the request to dress "in gladdest rags" and come to the address on the day, date and hour given. Masks to be removed at 10:30. The hostess handed each "beggar" a dance program number as high as the number of her guests, and as each entered the large living-room, which had been cleared for dancing, a number was pinned upon the back so votes could be registered as to "who was who," for the best (or worst) costume. One may imagine the fun such a party would make. Prizes were awarded and card tables were provided for those who did not care to dance. Refresh-

ments were served after the unmasking. Some of the beggars represented were the typical tramp with his entire worldly goods done up in a bandanna handkerchief, which he carried on a stick over his shoulder; the wandering band of gypsies in gaudy colors and many beads and gew-gaws; an old organ grinder with a life-sized toy monkey, which was a mechanical toy and performed most natural stunts, and the little flower girl with her twin sister, the "match" girl.

## Alphabet Contest.

Perhaps some of you can devise a better name for this pastime, but I am sure every one who knows their "A, B, C's" can play it.

The answers to all the queries are made by simply using letters, and it will be well for the hostess to give several examples before beginning the contest:

1. Containing nothing. M T (empty).
2. Statement of indebtedness. I O U (I owe you).
3. Part of a house. L (ell).
4. An insect. B (bee).
5. To behold. C (see).
6. A famous poem. L E G (elegy).
7. A tent. T P (teepee).
8. A number. A T (eighty).
9. Unit of measure used in printing. M (em).
10. All right. O K.
11. Slang expressions. G or O G or O U (see—oh gee—oh you).
12. A foe. N M E (enemy).
13. Indefinite quantity. N E (any).
14. A vegetable. P (pea).
15. Intemperance. X S (excess).
16. An image. F E G (effigy).
17. Poorly dressed. C D. A (seedy).
18. Two of a kind. W (double u).
19. To covet. N V (envy).
20. A bird. J (jay).
21. A verb. R (are) or B (be) or C (see).
22. A common beverage. T (tea).
23. A girl's name. L C (Elsie).
24. Another one. L N (Ellen).
25. Yet another. F E. (Elle).
26. Still another. K T (Katie).
27. A literary effort. S A (essay).

## Bible Contest.

Some days ago a correspondent requested a Bible guessing contest to use when she entertained her Sunday school class. Here are a few questions and may be helpful, and I have no doubt others may be added to make it longer. The answers are not given, for it will be much more instructive if they are looked up, with the aid of a concordance:

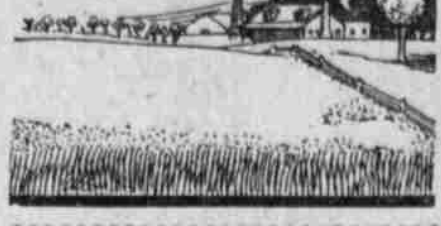
1. Give the first and last words of the Bible.
2. Whose three daughters were the fairest in all the land?
3. How old was Methuselah when he died?
4. Who was called "a ready scribe in the law of Moses?"
5. Give the names of the three persons who were put in the fiery furnace.
6. Who was the author of the expression, "What hath God wrought?"
7. Who was Moses' brother?
8. Who went down into a pit on a snowy day and slew a lion?
9. Who said: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved?"
10. Who was the mother of Samuel?

## MADAME MERRI.

## Vaporous Blouses.

Summer blouses of chiffon or net, as delicate as the stuff that dreams are made of, had an irresistible appeal even when they were first shown in the chilly days of spring. Their own intrinsic charm won immediate popularity for them then. But now, with the days of mounting mercury at hand this diaphanous quality is to be the supreme touch of elegance of the season. It characterizes entire toilettes composed of layers of net, chiffon and filmy materials.

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



The fly is a nuisance.

Work for a reputation.

Look out for the curculio.

Gather eggs at least once daily.

The Keiffer pear is the standby of the masses.

The farmer is known by the amount of clover seed he sows.

A bran mash and a day in the pasture—for the horse off his feed.

Outdoor subjects animals to sunshine and compels them to exercise.

Be sure the mares and colts in pasture have shelter from the hot sun!

Charred corn fed to the fowls occasionally will prove an aid to digestion.

Egg growing nests not solely with the hen, much depends on the man in charge.

We cannot grow pigs profitably without feed enough to keep them gaining steadily.

After the crop expert has prescribed for your sick soil, introduce him to the boarder cows.

In setting out strawberries, pinch off most of the leaves and the plants will take hold better.

Cornmeal and skim milk make the best of feed to hurry chicks along to the fry and broiler stage.

The calf should be cleaned immediately after birth by carefully rubbing it with a dry cloth or straw.

Give the hens a chopped onion occasionally in the mash. It is excellent as a disease preventative.

Red cedar, Colorado blue spruce and Black Hill spruce are excellent evergreens for the yard or windbreak.

Since the first reaper was invented and put on the market the silo is the greatest boon that has come to the farmer.

If your asparagus turns yellow it is a sign of rust. Every affected plant should be at once cut out and burned or well sprayed.

When setting any of the bush fruits the top should be pruned to correspond to the root pruning the plant gets in transplanting.

A good many farm gardens are too large. A small patch well cared for will prove more satisfactory all around than a field of weeds.

After the third day a mixture of broken grains is good for the chicks. Before that they are better off for having nothing but grit and water.

There is no danger of having an oversupply of good country butter. In the metropolitan centers it has become almost an unknown quantity.

A wide range in summer feeding may be used at the start of the feeding period with profit, but it must get narrow as the feeding period advances.

If everybody would begin feeding new cats carefully, horses would not have so much trouble with colic. Begin very light, gradually increasing the amount.

Bee-keepers who do not keep queens for more than two years clip the right wing of queen in even years and the left in the odd years. The age of queen can thus be told.

Do not use poison on any of the trees or plants while in bloom, as doing so may result in the death of many trees, which are of great necessity in the garden and the orchard.

Hens forced for egg production by high feeding and stimulants may give the desired number of eggs, but the future generations will show the effect in weak constitutions.

Forcing a cow for a short period cannot always be accepted as the legitimate measure of the capacity of any breed, no matter how well authenticated any great performance may be.

When pigs are once afflicted with "bull-nose" there is no cure. The disease may be arrested by smoking with camphor gum. This is done by confining the animals in a tightly covered box and placing a little camphor gum on a red hot stove lid. They will inhale the fumes. The trouble is no doubt infectious.

Market the cockerels.

There's meat in an egg.

Young trees need fertilizer.

Cows and men both appreciate paved lots.

Never set a thin, lousy hen. She won't stay her time out.

Alfalfa pasture and hogs make a combination that is hard to beat.

Save muscle and time when cutting bands by having a keen-edged knife.

When the silo is thoroughly dry it is well to treat the inside of it with coal tar.

Many a poor and unprofitable dairy herd can be traced to a nondescript sire.

Bad luck in the garden is usually the result of some sort of bad management.

Boiling the oats or wheat makes a good ration and a desirable change occasionally.

Almost always the cow that gives the most butter fat does it the most economically.

The secret of successful stack building is to keep the middle full and well tramped.

Warming the cream to about 56 degrees for winter churning will make less work of it.

Keep the wheel-hoe going all through the month, particularly if the ground is dry.

It is a good plan to occasionally scald the dropping boards and roosts with boiling water.

No two fruits should touch each other. The largest and most perfect fruit should be left.

Holstein breeders can spend their time more profitably than in arguing over the color question.

Success in the sheep business depends as much or more upon the care taken as upon the sheep.

A hopperful of bran is always seasonable feed and the whole flock should have access to it.

Be sure you are up with the times before you say there is no longer any money in the dairy business.

Repeated croppings of corn have a tendency to wear the land. Better rotate and use some grass crop.

Belgium has 164 head of cattle to the square mile, Denmark 144, Netherlands, 135 and the United States 23.

Changing locations of the different crops in the garden will make them less liable to disease and insect damage.

The foresighted dairyman is not the kind who is caught these days selling heifer calves for veal, because prices are good.

If one has a large flock of sheep much time will be saved and better results obtained by the use of the machine clippers.

A horse that is exhausted and reeking with sweat should never be allowed to stand in a draft no matter what the weather may be.

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

Do not plant many varieties of trees in the new apple orchard. The apple buyers like to find as many of one variety as they can together.

It is possible to change cows from dry feed to pasture without the creamery man's nose detecting the difference, but not many farmers do it.

Palms and other foliage plants can be kept clean of scale and other insects by washing the leaves with soapy water and rinsing immediately thereafter.

For the best pork we must have the healthiest system, consequently the system of feeding that is the most conducive to perfect health makes the best pork.

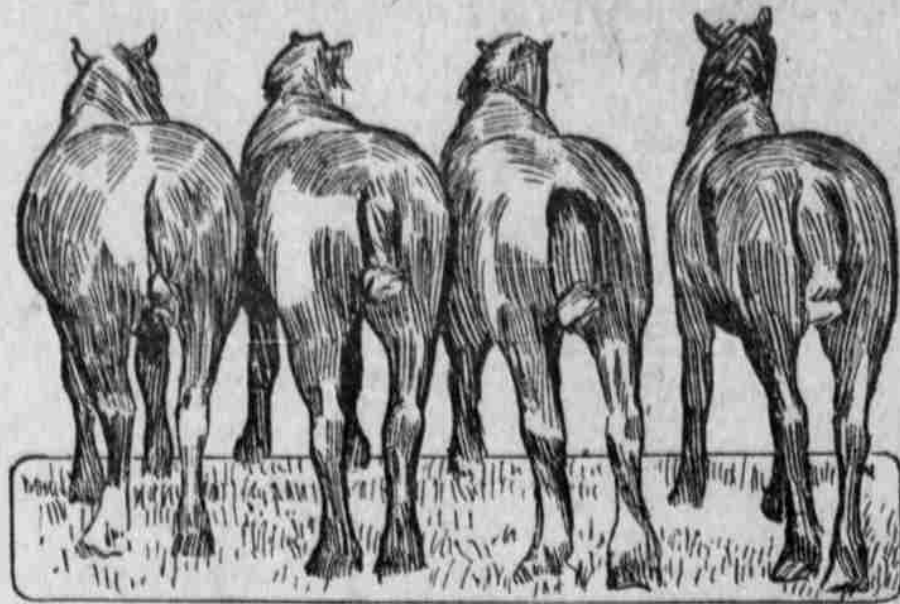
You can feed and care for a good grade cow so that she will be more profitable than a full-blood half starved. The man is at the bottom of his own success.

After corn is too big to cultivate, lambs, if turned into the field, will eat out all the grasses and weeds and a few of the lower blades of the corn before they touch the grain.

A tomato vine trained against chicken fence gauze is very ornamental. Only two shoots should be allowed to grow until the vine is three feet high. The scarlet plum and yellow plum are better for this culture than the large fruited kinds.

Do not forget about the potato patch and the bugs. Treat the latter to a dose of paris green. If you do not do that the chances are that you will not have the pleasure of digging this fall. So, if you love to dig potatoes, keep the bugs away now.

## RAISE THE STANDARD OF HORSES ON FARM



Seven-Year-Old Percherons.

(By A. S. ALEXANDER.)

While some farmers are beginning to appreciate the importance of using sound, pure-bred stallions, the equal importance of using sound mares is not yet generally understood. When a mare by reason of unsoundness is no longer fit for anything else, she is often set aside for breeding purposes and so long as this absurd and ruinous policy persists, the penalty will be paid in the prevalence of unsound horses on our farms. For corroboration of this, one has only to examine the brood mares on a number of farms. The unsound mares will be found numerous and many of their adult offspring are similarly affected. The following letters from farmers will help to demonstrate the lack of comprehension of the principles of horse breeding.

"I have a thirteen-year-old mare that has a knocked down hip, the heaves

and she is lame. Would it be all right to breed from her?"

"I have three mares, the oldest ten and the youngest four which have been breeding since spring. The one ten years old has the heaves, is moon blind in one eye, and has a discharge from the nose. Her hind legs stalk up if she stands in the stable over night; she is wormy, very bad at times. Have had her two years but have never done anything for her. She had a colt which died with blind staggers at ten days of age. In hot weather it bothers her to breathe. Would you breed her again if you were in my place?"

"Can you tell me what ails this mare? Bay filly three years old, unbroken and always well kept. Became stiff in hind legs last winter and after awhile got the same way in front legs and at present is so stiff she can't lie down. Straddles wide both in front

and behind when she walks. Her knees are bowed backward. Eats well. Would she do to breed from?"

Emphatically, NO!

The following suggestions may be outlined for the guidance of farmers in conducting their horse breeding operations.

Commence grading up the farm horse stock by mating carefully selected, muscular, pure-bred registered stallions. Continue year after year to use the best obtainable pure-bred males of the character and breed first chosen and never out-cross to any other breed.

Do not use any stallion that is unsound, unsuitable, partially impotent, unlicensed or not registered in a stud book recognized by the department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Do not breed from any mare that is deformed, nick, diseased, unsound, unsuitable, a poor milker, or a cross mother.

Properly feed, shelter and care for the pregnant and nursing mares and from birth until ready for market, nourish their offspring in such a way as to prevent stunting and insure perfect development.

Encourage the working of pure-bred stallions sufficient to keep them healthy, muscular, propotent and prevent pampering, weakness, partial impotence and actual sterility and so tend to insure vigor, strong constitution and health in their offspring at birth and throughout life.

As soon as possible stop working scrub horses on the farm and in their place use grade horses of good quality and character, well fed, properly groomed, furnished with attractive, nicely kept harness and hitched to modern implements, wagons and carriages.

Organize township and county associations for community breeding of horses of the same blood, character and quality and to more readily obtain pure-bred stallions and mares and insure a profitable market for surplus horses.

Encourage representative exhibits at the county fairs, of pure-bred stallions and mares and grade mares, gelding, farm teams, and young stock by pure bred sires. Discourage the offering of classes and premiums for grades and mongrel or scrub stallions or their progeny.

Boost for the betterment of the horse breeding industry and do nothing to retard its progress.

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## FEED FOR WORK TEAM IN SUMMER

### Bad Management to Stuff Horses During Idle Season and Starve Them Later.

One of the worst mistakes a farmer can make is to feed heavily during the winter season, when work is slack, and to feed slightly in summer when work continues all day and every day. Only last week, says a writer in an exchange, I saw a team owned by a young, but at the same time rather opinionated farmer. This team was fed during the winter season all the grain and forage they would consume.

As the season advanced the price of grain and hay became higher. Money might have been a little tight perhaps, at any rate feed was sold that should have been kept. The working season arrived. Crops must be put in and cultivated, feed was short, and the teams suffered.

When I saw them they were living skeletons, and depreciated 75 per cent, so far as cash value was concerned. This seems to me to be mighty poor management stuffing your work horses in the idle season and starving them at the very time that they need the best care.

Just think a moment, dear farmer, of the plentiful food that the women-folk prepare for you three times daily, and most especially during the harvest season, and then imagine how the horse must feel that pulls a plow, binder, mower or wagon, all day, and on insufficient feed!

There is no economy, or even business sense in feeding sparingly during the long, hot and busy summer season. A pair of strong, well-fed and well-kept horses or mules will do the work of any four head of half-starved ones you can pick up.

Rye for the Silo.

Rye may be cut for the silo when it is in blossom and the most advanced heads are in the dough.

## COST OF RAISING AMERICAN HORSE

### Average Is Found to Be \$104.06 for United States—Interesting Figures.

Reports have been received from about 10,000 correspondents of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture upon the cost of raising colts to the age of three years. The average for the United States is found to be \$104.06; or, if we deduct the value of work done by the horse before he has passed his third year, namely, \$7.52, the net cost is \$96.54; this is 70.9 per cent of the selling value of such horses, \$136.17.

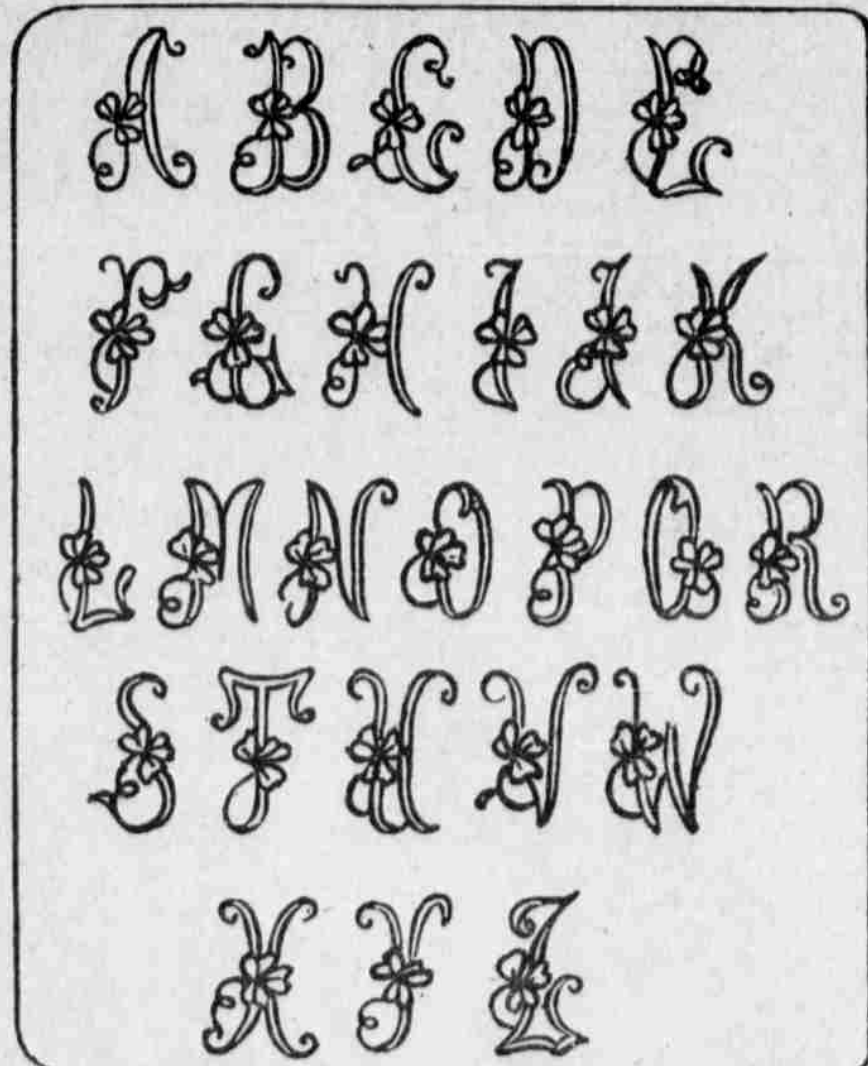
The cost varies widely by states, from an average of \$69.50 for New Mexico, \$71.59 for Wyoming, and \$82.47 for Texas, to \$156.60 for Rhode Island, \$149.98 for Connecticut, and \$141.80 for Massachusetts.

Itemized, the cost is made up as follows: Service fee, \$12.96; value of time lost by mare in foaling, \$10.06; breaking to halter, \$2.22; veterinary services, \$2.94; care and shelter, first year \$1.96, second year \$5.26, third year \$6.35; most of grain, fed, first year \$4.98, second year \$7.14, third year \$9.56; hay, first year \$4.14, second year \$6.61, third year \$4.48; pasture, first year \$2.56, second year \$5.41, third year \$6.21; other costs, \$6.01; total, \$104.06.

The total cost for all feed is \$56.30, being \$21.69 for grain, \$19.33 for hay, \$14.18 for pasture, and \$1.21 for other feeds. The total cost of care and shelter is \$10.69. Of the total cost, 54 per cent is charged to feeds, 16 per cent to care and shelter, and 30 per cent to other items, as enumerated above.

As more than half the cost of raising a three-year horse on the farm is chargeable to feeds, it is readily observed how important it is the influence of variation in prices of feed-stuffs upon such cost.

## PRETTY SHAMROCK ALPHABET



Three little leaves of Irish green  
United on one stem  
On Irish soil are always seen,  
They form a magic gem.

One leaf is truth and valor won,  
The other one is love;  
Those three little leaves are best  
By dewdrops from above.

The dainty woman's belongings may be made daintier by using letters with this emblem of pretty sentiment embroidered on them.