FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

IMPORTANCE OF RIDDING ANIMALS OF VERMIN.

Of All the Pests, the Worst is Those that Infest Sheep—Paragraphic Potatoes for the Farmer and the Stockman.

Look After the Vermin.

Whenever a farmer discovers that his poultry and live stock are being devoured by vermin there is but one course for him to pursue if he would be robbed of all profits from farming, and that is kill the vermin. Vermin-pestered stock can no more yield a profit than weed-choked vegetables. The presence of vermin is the presence of disease. It amounts to an attack from titanic "microbes." If the farmer does not destroy these microbes they will very soon financially destroy him. The way to get rid of poultry vermin has been too many times told in these columns to need repetition here. That way is always easy. With the kind that preys on sheep it is different. Owing to the thick, warm fleece which covers them, sheep are more subject to vermin than other animals, and for the same reason the vermin is harder to get at. Orange Judd Farmer says:

"The three worst pests that trouble them are the sheep tick, sheep louse and scab mite which is something similar to the itch mite that attacks the hands of dirty people. Crozier says that if a lock of wool from a scabby sheep is laid upon a sheet of white paper there will be seen particles which look like moving dust. These are scab mites. They are terrible in their ravages. They burrow into the animals skin under the wool and set up a running sore. The sore becomes covered with a scab and the wool peels off. The itching is intolerable. The suffering creature rubs itself against fences and trees in its efforts for relief, and it leaves wool and mites scattered along its way, and the next sheep that comes past there will get the infection. When wool from a scabby sheep is sold and passes into the hands of wool sorters, the mite attacks their hands and frequently produces wool-sorters' itch. It is to be dreaded more than any other scourge of sheep breeders, except, perhaps, dogs, and for this reason must be guarded against vigilantly. The moment a sheep in a flock is seen to be losing its wool and rubbing itself against posts and buildings examine it at once, to see if there is not a scab where the rubbing and bare spots are. If so, separate it from the rest of the flock, and give it a dip into a mixture composed of four ounces of tobacco stems, or coarse tobacco and one of sulphur, stirred and steeped thoroughly in a gallon of boiling water. This should be the proportion, and the quantity used should be sufficient to cover the sheep all over except the head. The liquid should be hot when the animal is dipped—not less than 129 degrees. Rub the scab entirely off with a corn cob or a coarse cloth. In two weeks repeat and dip and the animal will be cured. The loss from the scab mites to the sheep raisers can not be calculated. Sometimes whole flocks are destroyed. As a precautionary measure many extensive sheep farmers practice dipping their flocks twice a year in a sulphur and tobacco decoction, once at shearing time and again in the fall. The same decoction of sulphur and tobacco will destroy two other troublesome pests of sheep, the tick and louse. When the sheep are shorn in the spring, the ticks and lice leave them and crawl off upon the lambs, which they torment till the helpless creatures sometimes die. The sheep tick is about the size and color of the insects that infest the beds of slovenly human creatures. It sucks sheep's blood just as the other unnamed nasty little beast, sucks the blood of human beings."

Teach the Horse to Stand.

A spirited horse that has never been taught to stand except when secured to the rack is a dangerous animal to drive. Perhaps next to becoming unmanageable from fright this cause is the source of more accidents and inconvenience than any other bad traits found among horses. Such a horse is in constant danger of running away while the driver, after untying him, steps back to enter the vehicle, or in passing through a gate when he tries to close it. Instances can be recalled where life was endangered in this way, for the horse either wheeled suddenly before the reins could be secured, or in the confusion they were tossed out of reach of the driver.

Bad habits among horses can best be broken before the animals are very old, for it requires much more perseverance to reform an old horse than it does to prevent a young one from needing reforming. The horse should understand that *whoa* means to stop whether the driver enforces the order by drawing the reins or not.

Fire-Proof Shingles.

The Scientific American gives the farmers directions for a preparation or paint to apply to shingles of a roof, to preserve the shingles, and as a guard against fire. In other words he is about to build a home, and wishes to dip or paint the shingles with some kind of paint that will both preserve them and be proof against catching fire from sparks. Dissolve in a barrel of hot water sulphate of zinc, 20 lbs.; alum, 20 lbs.; caustic potash, 8 lbs.; manganide oxide, 8 lbs., and add sulphuric acid, 8 lbs. Pack the shingles loosely in another barrel and fill with the liquid, holding the shingles under the mixture. Fill up the first barrel also with shingles, soak for three hours and pile to dry, and repeat until all the shingles are fireproofed. After the house is shingled paint with oxide of iron of paint, tempered with other mineral color is boiled linseed oil, and mixed to suit your taste as to shade of color.

Only Good Cows Pay.

Something depends, of course, on skill in making good butter to make butter dairying pay, but more depends on having good cows. The farmer who has cows that make 300 pounds of butter a year can afford to apply the skill and labor necessary to make a first-class article of butter. He who keeps cows that do not yield more than 150 pounds a year cannot make as good butter, because he presumptively has not much intelligence and cannot afford with such small product to hire it. The old maxim holds good, "Out of nothing, nothing comes."

Get good cows for milk and butter. That is always the first and most important step towards good dairying. That taken all the rest naturally follows.

Experiments in Horse Shoeing.

In England experiments are to be made by a few small bands of horses in army service. Six are to be taken to be shod fore and hind on the near side with machine-made shoes, six others with home-made shoes identical in pattern, weight and dimensions. These horses are then to be ridden on the high road a distance of fifteen miles a day for ten days. Four horses of artilery will be shod in the same manner and worked in draught. After this a report on the relative value of the two descriptions will be made.

This is a good move, and we presume it will be followed by other horses in different service till all these are thoroughly experimented.—Am. Stockman.

What Will You Raise?

New England Farmer: The earth will produce something every growing season, and a man has it in his power to determine in a large measure whether that shall be grass or brush, fruits and grains or weeds, wool, mutton, beef, poultry, butter, cheese or cord wood and lumber. We have thousands of acres producing coarse grass, weeds and brush which should be producing a finer vegetation, which in its turn should return something more desirable and more profitable than white birches and huckleberry bushes usually return.

Dairy Dots.

If salt is properly applied, butter will not absorb more salt than is necessary to preserve it through the summer. If butter has been worked too dry, so that the salt will not absorb, the dairyman will have butter that is too salt. Salt does not preserve butter it only seasons it.

Quicker and better separation may be secured by adding water to the milk in summer. It is absolutely necessary to add water in the fall and winter. When the milk is vicious, and below the normal temperature, 98°, add warm water when you set it to cream.

Butter is injured where ice is put into the cream. Such a practice always injures the color of the butter. Saltpetre is an antiseptic and serves to prevent decay, but it is not best to put into butter. It may do when put in immediately, but butter is better without it.

The Poultry Pen.

It will be a good plan to mark the eggs intended for hatching when they are laid so that a tsack can be kept of their age.

Young turkeys are voracious eaters, and almost anything in the line of animal or vegetable diet will not come amiss.

The meat scraps from the table can always be used to a good advantage in making up a good variety to feed the poultry.

If you have one or two good breeds of fowls it will be better to work to improve them than to be seeking after something new.

Even with young poultry it will be best to feed all of the fattening food they will eat for a few days before sending to market.

If turkeys are fed only once a day let it be in the morning, rather than at night; with a good range they generally have full crops at night.

Ducks are easily hatched, and if properly managed are easily raised, more so than either turkeys or chickens, and they are an excellent table fowl.

The age at which chickens should be marketed depends upon the price. Sometimes it is best to sell them young, while at others it will pay to feed until they are better matured.

Hints to Housekeepers.

Long bags, the full length of dress or cloak, with hanging loops at top, save creasing as well as from dust and moths.

When making white cakes, use one-half teaspoon more of cream tartar than soda, as this extra quantity of cream of tartar makes the egg white stiffer.

Castor oil may be comfortably taken in hot milk, in a half-wineglass of weak punch, in hot water sweetened and highly flavored with essence of peppermint or wintergreen.

Salt makerel should be well washed in tepid water, the thin, black skin on the inside scraped out, the head and tail cut off, and the fish soaked skin side up over night in a large pan full of cold water.

Very thick cream should be beaten with a fork. As fast as the froth is beaten skim it off. To mold whipped cream add dissolved gelatine; one-third of a box to one pint of thin cream, before whipping, is a good proportion, to which other ingredients, as sugar and flavoring, are to be added.

An authority counsels us to wipe our faces upward after washing them, particularly when the evil days draw nigh that bring those first indications of age—wrinkles—on the lower part of the face. By using invariably the upward motion in drying, these wrinkles will be gently removed, and with it the tendency to undue fullness about the chin.

Live-Stock and Farm Notes.

Remove all unnecessary fencing.

The Scotch pine makes a good windbreak.

Keep fruit trees trimmed from the beginning.

It is always better to thin the fruit than to prop the tree.

A cow may be large and yet not be a a profitable beef animal.

It is not generally a good plan to rely wholly upon a new variety of corn.

Remember that good grade stock has the advantage of scrubs in every way.

If seed from any of the vegetables is to be saved, it should be only of the earliest and best.

Fertilizers that contain a good per cent of potash, give the best results when applied to small fruits.

Uniformity in size, color and weight will add to the value of a lot of hogs when they are ready to market.

Liquid manure can often be applied to plants where it is desired to secure an extra growth, with good results.

Give the calves the run of a good pasture; it is hardly good economy to keep them confined to a close, dry lot.

Deep plowing and planting, level and thorough cultivation, are the essentials necessary in growing late potatoes.

In keeping an account with a growing crop, the work with the men and teams must always be charged against it.

Of the seven to nine months required to feed a hog for market, from five to seven of them should be spent in good pastures.

Generally young animals give a better return for food consumed than those which are matured, and this is especially the case with pigs.

With the majority of farm products it pays to sort well before taking to market. The better price realized will make the work pay.

Sheep need a change of pasture occasionally in order to thrive to the best advantage. Low, wet land is objectional with them.

Sprinkling coil sufficient to whiten the ground around the grape vines is recommended as a good remedy for mildew among grapes.

FOR YOUTHFUL READERS.

SUBJECTS THAT WILL INTEREST THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

A King in a Tortoise-Shell—Boxing For Boy's—Bad Company—A Spelling Match—The Soudan Raven.

A King in a Tortoise-Shell.

The cradle that a queen should choose for her princely little baby must be a very grand affair, don't you think so? Perhaps made of choice or costly words, or even of precious metal. In either case it must you think, be most beautifully shaped, and perhaps carved with figures of sweet little cherubs watching over the favored mortal baby as he sleeps softly amid his clouds of fine linen and delicate lace.

That may all be. What made me think of it was something I heard a traveller tell about within a few days.

This traveller had lately come from France. While in that country he visited the town of Pau, among the Pyrenees mountains. In this town high up, looking over the valleys, stands an old, old castle, dark and gray and gloomy. It was built in the olden days when there was much fighting, and nobles and princes had to live in castles, with walls made so thick and strong to keep out their enemies that the blessed sunlight was kept out too, and the big rooms and halls were dark and dismal enough. Here in this castle of Pau in the year 1553, said the traveller, lived the old King of Navarre, and here, in the same year was born his grandson Henry, Prince of Navarre, afterwards known the world over as Henry the Great, King of France and Navarre. He was called great not only because he knew how to head the armies of his kingdom, fighting his enemies, but because he loved his people and tried to make them happy and prosperous as well as glorious.

So his people loved him, and after his death they cherished everything that belonged to him with the greatest care. Here, in his castle of Pau, is still treasured the cradle in which the royal baby was rocked to rest.

It is a cradle made all of tortoise shell.

Shouldn't you think it would break very easily? It would if it were thin and polished tortoise shell, like a girl's dainty bracelet, which is as brittle as glass; but there is little danger of this royal cradle meeting any such fate—no more danger than if the shell were still on the back of the turtle, its first owner! The shell is not polished or altered in any way. It was taken from the back of the big sea-turtle (which had carried it so long and thought himself so safe in his stout shell-house), and was cleaned and turned over on his back.

Then only a little blanket was laid in it, for the young prince of Navarre was not brought up delicately, and in his very cradle was taught to lie wrapped in a rough blanket, instead of on soft cushions, amid luxurious linen and lace.

The traveller did not tell the friend with whom he was talking whither or not the turtle-shell cradle was mounted on rockers. If not, how could the cradle have been rocked without giving the poor little baby a most terrible jouncing?

A little boy who was walking with the traveller and his friend, said that he didn't think the little Prince Henry had half so comfortable a time of it as his own little baby brother at home; and I shouldn't wonder if that were true. But perhaps, after all it isn't good for babies to be quite so comfortable. It may be more babies would grow up to be strong and hardy men and women if they were not treated quite so tenderly at first.—St. Nicholas.

A Spelling Match.

Our young readers who are interested in "puzzles" will like to try their orthographical powers on the following. It contains as many words difficult to spell as it is possible to put in a given space. Let some one read it to the company, each member of which is to write it down, and then let the papers be examined for errors, and the prize (of course there ought to be a prize) given to the best speller:

The most skillful gauger I ever knew was a maligned cobbler, armed with a poniard, who drove a peddler's wagon, using a mullein stalk as an instrument of coercion to tyrannize over his pony shod with calks. He was a Galilean Sadducee, and he had a phthisicky catarrh, diphtheria and the bilious intermittent erysipelas. A certain Sibyl, with the sobriquet of "Gypsy," went into ecstacies of cachinnation at seeing him measure a bushel of peas, and separate saccharined tomatoes from a heap of peeled potatoes, without dyeing or singeing the ignitible queue which he wore, or becoming paralyzed with a hemorrhage. Lifting her eyes to the ceiling of the cupola of the Capitol to conceal her unparalleled embarrassment, making a rough courtesy, and not harassing him with mystifying, rarefying and stupefying innuendoes, she gave him a couch, a boquet of lillies, mignonette and fuchsias, a treatise on mnemonics, a copy of the Apocrypha in hieroglyphics, daguerreotypes of Mendelssohn and Kosciusko, a kaleidoscope, a dram-phial of ipecacuanha, a teaspoonful of naptha, for deleble purposes, a ferrule, a clarionet, some licorice, a surcingle, a carnelian of symmetrical proportions, a chronometer with a movable balance-wheel, a box of dominoes and a catechism. The gauger, who was also a trafficking rectifier and a parishoner of mine preferring a woolen surtout (his choice was referable to a vacillating occasionally-occurring idiosyncrasy), wofully uttered this apothegm: "Life is checkered; but schism, apostasy, heresy and villainy shall be punished." The Sibyl apologizingly answered: "There is a ratuble and allegeable difference between a conferrable ellipsis and a trisyllabic diæresis." We replied in trochees, not impugning her suspicion.

Bad Company.

A young lady of sixteen, who had been piously brought up, was invited to a party at which certain persons of undisguised infidel sentiments were expected to be present. Her father objected to her going.

"I know, papa," she said "they speak against the Bible and against Jesus; but you can be quite sure they will do me no harm. I can't help that: but I shall not allow them to affect me in the least."

"My child," said her father, inventing an excuse for the sudden request, "my work can't be interrupted; I have need of a coal; will you be kind enough to fetch me one?"

"Do you want a live coal, papa?"

"No—one that is dead—burned out."

The coal was brought. The young lady had brought it in her hand.

"Didn't it burn you, my child?" asked the father.

"Why, no, papa—how could it? It's dead'"

"Of course it couldn't; but look at your hand, Florence."

"Oh, papa, how black my fingers are! I must go and wash them."

"Wait a moment, Flossie; here is a little lesson for you while you are washing them. It is this: 'Companionship with the wicked and worldly may not necessarily burn you and destroy you, but it will certainly soil you.' Remember all your life time what the apostle says: 'Evil communications corrupt good manners.'"—Selected.

Boxing For Boys.

There is absolutely nothing in the way of recreation so benefical in every respect to a boy as boxing. I am positive—and I know whereof I write, for as a boy and man I have tried them all, fencing, wrestling, rowing, swimming, riding—that no one of them has the many advantages of boxing. As an all-round developer it is unequalled; not one of the boy's muscles remains inactive; back stomach, legs, arms, all are called upon for vigorous service. But what I consider its best feature in its recomendation for boys is the very thorough drilling which the disposition of the boy must undergo. If a lad is quick to lose his temper, boxing will cure him; it will teach him that no one who lets his temper get the best of him will become an expert sparrer; it will speedily convince him of the absolute neccessity of keeping cool and in entire possession of his wits in order to sustain his efforts and avoid defeat. The boxer who can not control his temper is practically at the mercy of a cool skillful opponent. One can not spar successfully and become flustered. A boxer must ever be on the alert, his wits constantly alive, looking for an opportunity of assaults; he must be able to act instantly, and with cool deliberation, as distinguished from wild, undirected action—Harper's Young People.

The New Horse.

Jack was the new horse, whose coming into the stable was the talk of the day, for within a week Jack had gotten away from his master, run several miles, and smashed a carriage into kindling-wood.

Harry always led the horses from their stalls down to the water trough, and saw that they drank all they wanted, and led them back again. Harry was big enough to do such tasks, but not big enough to understand what a fiery-tempered horse might do.

Harry went to Jack's stall, took the halter strap in his hands, and started for the water trough. Jack was in high glee. He reared up on his hind legs, layed down and rolled and kicked as high as the barn-yard fence.

Just as his hind feet went up he seemed to see little Harry trembling violently at the end of his halter strap. He stopped suddenly, walked quietly to the trough, drank, and let Harry lead him back to his stall without another antic.

And then Harry's father, his brother Tom, and Jim, the hired man, breathed more easily.—Harper's Young People.

The Scudan Raven.

In Soudan the respect for the "bird of the shade" is unbounded. He is endearingly known to the Arabs as their "uncle," and they are more exorbitant in exacting blood-money for his chance slaughter by the hand of the stranger than if it were really the relative in question. Shoot their dove, their ostrich, their varied scavengers of the vulture kind—their once sacred ibis even—and they grin and bear it; but once aim a bolt at the "Noah bird" and a hundred lean but mascular brown arms will be raised, and the bereaved, white-teethed relatives will gesticulate and shout around you, while they explain how black hued was your accidental crime. Apart from this, the raven, with its jetty plumage, will always be a point of interest in the Soudan, from the strong contrast he presents to the ordinary "desert colored birds which preserve a neutral tint of gray or fawn, which renders them almost invisible.—All The Year Round.

Young Folk's Fun.

There are three things that beat a drum for noise.—one is a small boy, and the other two are drumsticks.

"How is it your Tommy is so small for his age, Mrs. Briggs?" "O, the little dear always was a shrinking child," exclaimed his mother.

Aunt: "Didn't you get another thrashing in school today?" Johnny: "Yes, indeed I did; but it didn't hurt a bit." Aunt: "Did you cry?" Johnny: "Yes, I bellered like everything; but I only did it to humor the teacher.,'

"My little girl, how do you wear out your dress sleeves so fast?" asked a mother when her child came home from school with a rent under her arm. "I guess it's holding up my hand so much to let the teacher know I can answer the questions," was the quick response.

"Oh, what a charming plant!" exclaimed a visitor; and his hostess replied, "Yes—it belongs to the begonia family." "Why, no, mamma," said the youngest daughter; "it belongs to the Brown family, and they lent it to us for the evening!"

A little girl who had mastered her catechism confessed herself disappointed, "because," she said, "though I obey the fifth commandment and honor my papa and mamma, yet my days are not a bit longer in the land, because I am put to bed at seven o'clock."

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