

THE FARM AND HOME.

SOMETHING ABOUT ONE OF THE HIGHEST CLASS OF INSECTS.

No One Has Discovered How the Bee Converts the Nectar of Flowers into Honey—Farm Notes and Household Hints.

About Bees. There are few, if any, living things upon the farm of more interest than the honey bee. It belongs to the highest class of insects, the hymenoptera. It includes the insects which feed upon pollen, or pollen and honey.

The two varieties of honey bee now domesticated all over the civilized world are the German or black bee, and the Italian or Ligurian bee. It was not until about 1860 that the Italian bee was imported.

But the wisest writer upon bees has not explained by what mysterious process the nectar of flowers is changed by the bee into honey, nor how long the line of waxmakers suspended from the top of the hive convert the honey they have eaten into wax, nor yet the secret of the perfectly constructed hexagonal cells which serve as granaries for the bees.

The Simpson honey plant has a seed ball with opening at the base of the leaf. This hollow ball is filled with honey from the middle of July until frost, and is the delight of the bees, as is also the spider-plant, a low-growing bee-plant which supplements the other, the one yielding abundantly at the evening and the other during the morning hours.

Full Together. We believe that farmers should have seats at the first table and partake of the good things that abound without crowding other worthy people away. There is no use trying to force the millennium. The good time we all pray and work for will be slow in coming at best, and we cannot hurry it up.

It is folly for farmers' organizations to unite with other labor societies. Farmers must learn to manage their own team, before they hitch up with another team that has not learned to pull true. It is all right for labor to organize; if it does not it will be left in the lurch.

Fewis Eating Feathers. When hens eat their feathers it is a symptom that something is wrong with their feed. Giving too much corn is a common cause of this habit. The hens grow fat at first from the excess of carbon or starch this grain possesses, but soon become unhealthy and stop laying.

Let it be understood that if it is intended to make a good cow—or a good steer—keep the calf straight on growing. He will soon learn to eat hay. Give him a chance to nibble at it.

Finch and Other Birds. The English sparrow would be less of a nuisance if it were not so quarrelsome, and, like other ill-tempered characters, driving away those more industrious and useful than itself. Robins, wrens and bluebirds, that were once common, have been driven from many neighborhoods since the English sparrow made its appearance.

The garden provides the luxuries of the farm. It should be the first plot to be well manured and fertilized. Many farmers have no time, as they suppose, to attend to a garden, yet there is more profit to be derived from the garden, even when used for supplying the family, than from larger areas

of lands planted to a staple crop. Vegetables and small fruits should have a place on every farm, as they can be had of better quality when grown at home than when purchased elsewhere.

Drink For Beated Workers. Speaking of oatmeal, an American contemporary remarks that "a very good drink is made by putting about two spoonfuls of the meal into a tumbler of water."

The Western hunters long ago considered it the best of drinks, as it is at once nourishing and satisfying, yet unstimulative. It is popular in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, 2 1/2 pounds of oatmeal being put into a pail of moderately cool water. It is much better than the ordinary mixtures of vinegar and molasses with water, which farmers use in the haying or harvest field.

Clover For Pigs. The phrase "pigs in clover" has long stood as representing the highest point of animal contentment. When pigs have plenty of other food they will still eat sufficient clover to keep their digestion good, and thus thrive better than under any other conditions.

Household Hints. Pour vinegar over fresh fish, and the scales will come off easily. Salt water, borax, and carbolic acid are aids in the battle with vermin. The luster of Morocco leather is restored by varnishing with white of an egg.

Mr. Chase of Iowa reports an income of \$360 net from nine cows. A pig farrowed in April has nine months to grow, and ought to weigh 250 pounds at that time.

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My Angel. Seated at her harp so graceful, In the parlor after tea, The fair maiden I call sweetheart Played, soft melody to me.

Dear love one that tall Erard, When to me her heart she gave, Well I knew it held a rival— That my love was music's slave.

I heard gently 'er my darling, Smoothed those locks of priceless worth, Told her she was like an angel, Far too lovely for this earth.

With a little laugh she answered, "Really, I don't think I care Very much to go to heaven, Everybody plays harp there."

When does a maiden become an old maid? Ah, there's the rub! says a Pittsburg paper.

If somebody will determine this point the social world will feel a shock of relief and then go whirling on more smoothly than ever. You who have never been old maids, and never will be, have no idea of the worry a certain class of women endure.

Hints of the Modes. Glace hair-line striped mohair for summer traveling dresses. Lace straw hats trimmed with lace, flowers and feathers. A gown without a high collar is not considered important.

A few green dress fabrics, which color is now very fashionable in Paris. Capes or jackets and gowns en suite for bride's spring traveling dresses. To keep asparagus crisp dip the woody ends in an inch of salty water.

Pointed bodice belts of silver to wear with a silver gilt trimmed house gown. A novel vinaigrette in gold or silver is in the shape of an artist's color tube.

Old-fashioned lace capes of the time of our grandmothers have been revived. Extra fine English tweeds and chevrons are used for the more elegant tailor-made costumes, and French camels hair carmelite fabrics and materials with tufted surfaces are in high vogue.

Women as Physicians. During twenty-three years of association with women students and practitioners, writes Dr. Phoebe J. R. Wait, in The Ladies' Home Journal, I have known of but few failures.

Prejudice? Yes, there is prejudice against them. But it is the same prejudice that does not allow women to have political suffrage; the same that objects to women being anything but housekeepers or butterflys. There is no foundation for it whatever, and it will pass away in time.

No do men. When I commenced the study of medicine I was fully convinced that women would not make good surgeons. But a long experience has reversed that conviction. Many of them undoubtedly possess the nerve to perform any surgical operation. They do their work in a masterly manner, and without flinching. The theory that woman's nervous temperament and sympathetic nature militates against her in this connection, is absolutely false.

The Wife of the Great Showman. In appearance she was a trifle under medium height, with a figure slightly inclined to matronly stoutness, which she carries with an erectness and poise gained from long years of physical culture.

Mrs. Barnum's pet hobby—at least so says her husband, laughingly indulgent—is her indefatigable pursuit of bric-a-brac, and most beautiful examples of her success in this pursuit, with the numerous mementoes of her master's varied career, make of "Marina" a home worth the having. It is the family home during most of the year, though a part of each winter is spent in New York for the purpose of attending the opera and theaters.

Mrs. Barnum possesses to an unusual degree a liking for society and entertaining which makes of her the most delightful of hostesses. Her dinners are models, the easy grace and cordial hospitality of their hostesses adding much to their enjoyment. Herself a brilliant conversationalist, she attracts, in turn, people of unusual intellect and brilliancy, and her most honored guests are apt to be either literary or musical people.

Gold and silver wire belts about an inch and a quarter wide. Dressing jackets of red China silk trimmed with black French lace. Sprigged nets worked with "jewels" for the fronts of tea-gowns.

Neckerchiefs of light pink, blue, heliotrope, gray, tan or yellow crepe. Parasols having chiffon frills running up and down every gore. Dainty Swiss ribbed silk vests having a yoke of silk hand-made lace.

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