FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN.

POINTERS FOR PROGRESSIVE AND INDUSTRIOUS FARMERS.

A Word About Farming--Pampas Horsebreakers--Incubator Experience--A Novel Corn Tie--Cleanliness for Sheep.

A Word About Farming.

Farming may not be as delightful as we, in the poetic mood in which we sometimes write may paint it, but there is one fact in relation to the calling that cannot be denied and that is this, that however distaseful it may be to some, there is none other beneath the sun that men can engage in with a like capital that is anything like as pleasant and profitable. Every farmer may not see the golden beam of promise in every rick of well cured hay or every waning field of golden grain, but there is no rubbing it out that the farmers home may be made the most beautiful spot on earth and his table supplied with the best eatables, the land affords and if such entertaining surroundings a good appetite such as the farmer always possesses, and a table spread with delicious fresh vegetables, fruits, ice cold cream, butter and crisp brown chicken, will not produce happiness then we are at a loss to know what will. This is according to our ideas the ne plus ultra of existence and for these things poetry or no poetry commend us to farm, the green leaf embowered home in some nook or mountain dell behind which rises romantic cliffs that run back into lofty heights of eternal snow and pinacles grand, and from whose doorway spreads out to the front waving meadows, marked with winding willow, fringed brooks clear as crystals and alive with mountain trout; or even the home on the broader valley beneath the spreading cottonwood and from which the valley and heights in all direction from an ever-changing panarama of things to please and delight the eye and refresh the mind—Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

Pampas Horsebreakers.

Amid this mass the quick eye of the domador soon singles out a horse suitable to his requirements, perhaps the finest and most vigorous of the whole tropilla. As the animal passes beneath the cross-beam—swift as a dart, unerring as the lasso—the domador drops upon his back and rides on with him into the spacious corral. The terrified brute plunges and rears and rushes madly here and there, rousing the whole herd into a state of excitement and fear.

Once free of the danger of collision with the herd, which has fled to the furthest corner of the corral, the domador whips from his arm a large and coarse cloth, with which he promptly succeeds in blinding the captured horse, and then begins in a variety of ways to master the proud wild spirit beneath him. The horse will kick out in all directions, plunge and rear, whirl round and round, backward and forward, and even roll over and over; but as well might he attempt to shake off his own name as to rid himself of that terrible incubus, the domador. The latter, of course, takes care that the animal does not roll over him. He simply steps off and aside till the brute picks himself up again, only to find that the grip on his sides is there as strong as ever. Blindfolded as he is, he cannot see his tormentor, although at times he manages to elude the latter's grasp and attempts flight; but the ready lasso speedily arrests his mad course. As a rule, before the horse has had time to regain his feet the domador has contrived to slip into his mouth the cruel massive bit used all over the Platine countries.

The effects of this new instrument of torture are fearful. Maddened by the pain, quivering with rage and fear, the animal dashes away in any direction, forced by the cruel bit now to this side now to that, until the domador, at length succeeds in forcing him through the gates of the corral into the wide open camps. Then begins a mad race for liberty or the mastery of a noble spirit. At a speed to which terror, pain and fury lends wings, horse and man thunder over the ground, which seems literally to fly beneath their feet. Foam drops like flying scud on each side of the horse; his nostrils dilated and his eyeballs distended, mane and tail streaming on wind which their speed creates; the tamer seated cool and grim, hand and eye alert, and every faculty bent on overpowering the fierce beast he bestrides. Thus they pursue their wild flight for many leagues, and the domador knows that when the brute's mad rage is spent and his strength exhausted he will slacken his headlong pace more and more, until he almost completely halts, and soon, breaking out into a fit of trembling, surrender forever the savage freedom of his untamed state. The rest of his education is easy and need not be told.

Incubator Experience.

The Farm, Field and Stockman publishes the following experience of J. F. Wood with incubators.

I see very little in print, from those who are running incubators, in regard to their experience with the machine. Is it because they are not very successful, or is their success so great they are afraid of too much competition?

I want to relate some of the difficulties I find, and if anybody can give any pointers to help me any I would be glad to hear from them. I have been trying artificial incubation this summer for the first time.

From all the information I could gather on the merits of incubators the one I have is as good as any. It is easy to run, even here, where the outside temperature always cools off in the night from 20 degrees to 40 degrees. I have kept it steady at about 103 degrees to 104 degrees with very little variation. It is top heat. The water in the pans underneath evaporates readily, yet is always cool.

So far I have only been able to hatch about two-thirds of the fertile eggs; the others are dead in the shell, when almost ready to come out and a few pip and then die. Those that hatch come out lively and smart. Now is this the common experience with incubators or am I or the incubator at fault? There is something wrong somewhere, for I have set forty hens with the same kind of eggs, and when they set steady every fertile egg has hatched.

Will some one explain the difficulty? Is a machine that has both top and bottom heat any better?

Tankage.

This is the name given to a product of rendering establishments; it consists of meat, bones, hair, gristle, food, etc., from which the fat has been taken, brought to dryness and ground. It is very rich in nitrogen and phosphoric acid, and is a most admirable manure for garden and fruit crops. I have found it to give good results wherever tried in the garden, but it is especially valuable on lawns and in the green house, though for greenhouses and pot plants generally it should be used in connection with a small amount of potash salt. In the open field I have used it at the rate of 1,000 pounds per acre without any injury, and this is probably as large a quantity as could be applied at one time economically. A much smaller quantity, from 400 to 600 pounds, would be enough for an ordinary application to a lawn or field in grass. To the lawn it would be well to apply it several times in the course of the growing season, and if possible just before a rain. Also on garden crops it should be applied several times at intervals of three or four weeks during the growing season. On plants in pots I used it at the rate of one teaspoonful to a five inch pot, applied to the surface of the soil. The price at which it is sold at the present time varies from $10 to $15 per ton f. o. b. in south St. Paul. This material is at present our cheapest commercial source of phosphoric acid and nitrogen.

A Novel Corn Tie.

A writer in the Ohio Practical Farmer says: For several years we have been using the blades of the common cat tail (Typha latifolia) for tying corn-fodder. The blades should be cut before frost and in time that they may cure partly before they need to be used. If they are too dry and brittle, dampen the bundle as you would rye straw. A grass sickle is very good for cutting them. We think them better than straw, being much stronger, nicer to handle, and if cared for, will last for a number of years. If this plant is growing near you it might be well to try it. Or if it is not handy it would, I think, be profitable to start it. It will thrive in a rich black soil if there is a constant supply of water. It will produce more bands on any area and does not need to be cared for as rye

The Lice Plague.

Lice are the greatest plague and profit destroyer of the poultry raiser. Unless the utmost care and cleanliness are observed they are sure to appear as soon as warm weather comes. It is the best not to wait until they come before applying the remedies, but saturate the perches with kerosene now, burn up all old filthy nests, and whitewash coops and fences with hot lime wash. Do this thoroughly, and it will save lots of trouble later in the season. The effectiveness of the whitewash is much increased by applying it hot and getting well into the cracks and corners.

Sheep Profitable.

Speaking about paying stock, the American Live Stock Journal says that sheep are undoubtedly the best paying stock kept, and when their enriching and brush destroying proclivities are considered, it is questionable whether any farm can afford to run without a flock. The call from good livers for fine lamb and mutton is on the increase, and the time will never come when wool, famous for its usefulness in all ages, will not be prized.

Cleanliness for Sheep.

Be careful about the sheep pens during warm weather. It is necessary to have pens into which they may go for shelter during storms, but they should not be housed in these at night unless they are dry and well ventilated. Nothing is worse for sheep, more quickly inducing disease, than overwarm pens, which of necessity become damp and foul. Cleanliness is perhaps more essential for sheep than for any other class of live stock.

Resembles Beeswax.

A French chemist has found a mineral which after being melted and remelted several times, resembles pure beeswax so closely that even experts can only distinguish it after careful study. It is extensively used in Europe to adulterate wax, which has fallen greatly in price on account of the fraud. Its scientific name is or ceresin, purified ozokerite.

A Few Hints.

A good constitution in a hog is inherited, not made.

Sour milk is a treat both to hens and to little chickens.

If only one thing is used coal oil is probably the best for lice.

Provide a shelter under which the young fowls can run whenever it rains

Giving the hogs the run of the timber pasture will maintain better health.

Young poultry should not be allowed to go on the roosts too early; it causes deformed breasts.

Hens should never be fed so well that when they are given a good range they will not forage a good portion of their time.

Turkeys can, to a considerable extent be given sweet skimmed milk in place of water, and if the drinking vessels are kept clean will be all the healthier.

"The advantage of hatching guineas under common hens is, that properly managed, they are usually more gentle than if the guinea hens are allowed to hatch them out and raise them.

While old hens usually lay larger eggs than pullets the shape of the egg has little or nothing to do with the life germ, and if the broad end is smooth and the egg is properly fertilized it will hatch

SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

INTERESTING DISCOVERIES IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE.

Mining With a Balloon--Protection From Collisions--A Clever Trick--An Odd Light--A Table With Growing Legs--Beware of Kisses.

Mining With a Balloon.

To descend hundreds of feet into the earth in search of the hidden treasures of mineral wealth supposed to be concealed there is no uncommon thing, in fact is the natural way of mining. S. C. Rees, however, promises to revolutionize the old fashioned way of mining, and has under consideration now a prospecting tour by means of a balloon. His scheme, as outlined to a Journal Miner man, is substantially as follows: Rich carbonates have been found in Cataract canyon in a blanket ledge. While the ledge is accessible at the upper end of the canyon, owing to the steep descent of the canyon toward the Colorado River, when near the latter point the ledge is located about 1200 feet above the bottom of the stream, and is consequently inaccessible by all ordinary means. The question of reaching it by means of ropes from the top of the almost perpendicular walls of the canyon have been discussed and pronounced impracticable. Mr. Rees has accordingly arranged with Æronaut Howard to visit the canyon in October. A large balloon will be inflated in the bottom of the canyon and secured by ropes there to prevent its escape, when it is proposed to inflate it and make the ascent to the point in the walls of the canyon where the ledge is and a foothold worked into it from the balloon.

After the work is fairly commenced the balloon will be used only as a means of conveying them to and from their work. The experiment is a new and novel one, and while to the ordinary mind looks impracticable, Messrs. Rees and Howard think it practicable and expect to make their fortune there. They propose and will have it divided into seven or eight compartments, any one of which, when inflated, being capable of carrying a man's weight. This will be done as a precaution in case of accident, as having the airship strike against the rocky sides of the canyon the raising power of the balloon would not be totally destroyed.

Protection From Collisions.

In his article on "Protection from Collisions" Mr. Huntington attempts to excuse the engine men from responsibility in some cases by the assertion, "It is certain that hundreds of collisions have resulted from the air-brakes being inoperative." This is a favorite explanation offered by newspaper reporters and sometimes by trainmen in order to cover up their carelessness or errors of judgement, but we believe that it is very rarely if ever true, and we are surprised that our correspondent should make the assertion. In talking the other day with the engineer of a very fast train in suburban service, which is required to make numerous and quick stops, he said in regard to the excuse that had been given for a recent accident, namely, that "the brakes failed to work," that he did not see how this could happen, and that in his extended experience it never happened. Of course it is easy to understand that with a slippery rail or when running at high speed too near to the station, the air-brake may sometimes be applied and fail to stop the train at the desired point, but this is the result of lack of good sense or experience on the part of the engine-runner, and is not to be charged to the brake. We doubt if Mr. Huntington or any of our readers can present a well-authenticated instance of the air-brakes actually "failing to work" after they had been properly tested and adjusted before the train set out and were properly handled by the engineer. Of course there are plenty of instances where the air-brakes did not stop the train at the desired point, but slippery rails, poor brake shoes, faulty adjustment of the leverage, or neglect to apply in reasonable time or with reasonable skill will be found to be the actual reasons in the great majority of cases for the undesired results which have followed. The brake, like every other piece of mechanism, may be improperly handled and thus indirectly be the cause of accidents, and what is needed is more thorough education of all trainmen in regard to the operation of this device, and then more care and good judgment in using it.—Railway Age.

A Clever Trick.

Place on the surface of the water contained in a large glass bowl several pieces of camphor of unequal sizes, in such a manner as to form the shape of an animal, for instance, a lobster or a scorpion. After a while the scorpion will begin to move itself in the liquid; you will see it move its legs as if it wanted to swim or agitate its tail convulsively.

This experiment is very amusing and inexpensive, and you will find camphor in every household.

First. We will notice that our scorpion swims on the water, but partly submerged, which proves to us that the density of the camphor is nearly equal to water.

Second. The animal does not melt in the liquid—camphor does not dissolve in water but will in alcohol.

Third. The several pieces composing our scorpion remain placed where we have put them, and adhere to one another, which illustrates to us the force known as cohesion.

Fourth. Finally, if the scorpion moves readily in the water, the cause of it is the well-known property of camphor to agitate itself on the surface of water, as a small piece of camphor placed in a tumbler of water will, in a short time, move from one place to another and turn upon itself.

These movements are due according to some authorities, to the recoil produced by the escape of vapors, by others to a mysterious force called superficial tension, existing on the surface of liquids.

The Swiss Watch Trade.

The Economiste Francais publishes an interesting article upon the progress of the Swiss watch trade, which is described as having undergone a complete transformation within the last 15 years, this transformation being due to the substitution of manufactories for work in the homes of the watchmakers themselves. The opening of these manufactories has led to a decrease in the cost price of the watch and to a great increase in the sale, so much so that at the recent Paris Exhibition the official report of the international jury was to the effect that "Switzerland occupied the first rank as regards chronometers, watches of precision, and complicated works, and has made great progress in the domain of watches for common use, this progress being due to the improvement in the equipment of the manufactories. The different schools for teaching the watch trade at Geneva, Neuchatel, la Chaux des Fonds, Loole, Bienne, St. Imier, and Porrentruy, the various associations of manufactories, and the journals dealing with the subject of watchmaking have contributed in no small degree to this progress, which has been very marked in the last six years; the number of watches exported from Switzerland having increased from 2,734,234 in 1885 to 4,431,301 last year, these figures not including the works and cases exported separately. Altogether, the value of the exports last year is calculated by the Economiste Francais at £4,000,000, while the wages are so high that many families earn from £12 to £16 a month.

The Production of Very Low Temperatures.

An apparatus has recently been constructed by M. Ducretet for getting quickly in the laboratory a fall of temperature 70 to 80 deg C. below zero, by means of the expansion of liquid carbonic acid. The inner of two concentric vessels contains, in alcohol, a serpentine metallic tube communicating through a tube with two stopcocks, with the carbonic acid reservoir outside and opening below into the annular space round the inner vessel, in which are some pieces of sponge impregnated with alcohol. This two-walled vessel with coil is enclosed in a box. One stopcock being opened wide, the other slightly, the carbonic acid passes through the coil as snow, and turns to gas, with strong cooling effect, and any of it not vapourized in the coil is dissolved in the alcohol of the sponge. The gas escapes through a tube passing through the outer box.

An Odd Light.

To instantly obtain a light sufficient to read the time by a watch or clock at night without the use of matches, and without the danger of setting things on fire is an easy matter. Take an oblong vial of the clearest of glass, put into it a piece of phosphorous about the size of a pea, upon this pour some pure olive oil heated to the boiling point; the bottle to be filled about one-third full; then cork tightly. To use the light, remove the cork, allow the air to enter and then recork. The whole empty space in the bottle will then become luminous, and the light obtained will be a good one. As soon as the light becomes dim its power can be increased by opening the bottle and allowing a fresh supply of air to enter. In very cold weather it is sometimes necessary to heat the vial between the hands to increase the fluidity of the oil, and one bottle will last a winter. This ingenious contrivance may be carried in the pocket, and is used by watchmen of Paris in all magazines where explosive or inflammable materials are stored.

A Table With Growing Legs.

Under the heading "A Curiosity," the Montreal 'Daily Witness' publishes the following letter from an Ontario correspondent:—"I had presented to me on the 3rd of May last a small fancy table as a birthday present—painted black, varnished and gilded. However, it had not been in the house very long before the legs were observed to be growing, and they are still continuing to do so. One of the legs has put out a shoot four inches long, upon which there are ten leaves. Altogether it is a very pretty table, with its black and gold and now the green. I think they are apple-tree leaves. I set it out of doors occasionally, so that a little moisture might be given to it to continue the growth, as I do not know but it may blossom and bring forth fruit, which would very much increase the curiosity."

Beware of Kisses.

Dogs, cats and men are liable to be infected with dangerous, loathsome, and sometimes disgraceful maladies, which are in no way so apt to be communicated as by the mouth. A physician reports in the St. Louis Courier of Medicine, a painful case of a young married lady of unimpeachable character, mysteriously infected, and ultimately exonerated only by tracing the infection to a young man who, unsuspected, had been allowed in the habit of kissing her baby. The baby had thus contracted the disease, and communicated it to the young mother, to her infinite mortification and peril of character, to say nothing of the most serious physical evil.

Mountains of Volcanic Origin.

A paper was recently given in the Comptes Rendus describing experiments in the mechanical actions exercised on rocks by gas at high pressure and in rapid motion, by M. Daubree. The author shows that volcanoes of the same group have approximately the same height, and points out that it is probable that each group is the result of internal action at one center. These considerations are applied to oid volcanic rocks, which often exhibit a marked tendency to equality of level. The experiments which throw light on the disturbances investigated were previously described.

A New Use for Diamonds.

A use for diamonds—as an assistant to marksmen—has been discovered. According to the 'Horological Journal,' the diamonds are fixed in the front and back sights of rifles, and it is said they enable the marksman to take a quick and correct aim even in a bad light. The brilliants are so fitted that immediately the piece is brought to the shoulder the rays in the gems assist alignment, and the eye takes aim without the least hesitation

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Where They Come From.

Our Alliance friends are wondering where all the marked copies of eastern papers are coming from that have been flooding the country with seductive arguments to win them back to their old political slavery. The following from the Indianapolis Sentinal gives the solution of the matter:

"Mr. Clarkson's scheme for the systematic and comprehensive circulation of Republican newspapers is a legitimate one. It is a good deal better than buying votes in 'blocks of five,' and is likely to prove even more successful unless the Democrats are at least as prompt and thorough in the circulation of their papers."

The time for buying voters will find as many if not more buyers than ever before, but why do not the People's party and the various farming and laboring organizations follow suit and liberally sustain their zealous champions of the reform press and send their papers as broadcast over the land as possible? The struggling publishers can not afford such an expense, but every one of the organizations should, through the agency of the Reform Press Bureau, subscribe liberally toward sustaining such a plan of enlightening those not yet educated to their noble ideas of how to emancipate the toiling masses of our country from the political serfdom into which they have ignorantly and innocently degenerated.—San Miguel Messenger.

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