

INTERESTING TO FARMERS.

Prize for the Cow.

The path of the cow has ever been over richer fields and closer to golden harvests. A hundred experiment stations backed by the appropriations of six great nations stand half baffled before the mysteries of her life and work. A degenerate modern motherhood turns over to her sustenance millions of the children of men. There have been tied to her by all the bonds of human interest the brains of science and the hands of art. She has given us the cheapest food to buy and the most profitable food to sell. No man should tie to her whose dignity suffers where learning ponders. The bugbear of overproduction stares the man in the face who is a living example of under production. He holds it up as a reason why he should not go into business, or being in, why he should go out. The truth is simply that there is an overproduction of inferior dairy products and a tremendous shortage of good ones. An ounce of poor butter is too much for any housewife, fifty pounds of good butter is not enough. We have 500,000 too many poor cows in this state and a shortage of over a million good ones. Let misty theories of over production follow the end of the rainbow and let the Wisconsin farmer look for his bag of gold on top of a milk can. The Dairyman's association has sought and welcomed help and knowledge from every quarter—from the man with one cow, from the man with a hundred; from the theories of Prof. Arnold, the practice of John Gould; the common sense and trained intellect of Robertson, and from the agricultural department of our university as directed and controlled by Prof. Henry and his assistants. To Prof. Henry in particular we owe a debt of gratitude which cannot be paid. We can simply endorse upon it the record of our appreciation; our appreciation of modest but most effective labor, of cordial sympathy, of stirring enthusiasm, of conservative judgment and unquestioned courage. I am specially proud of the fact that the association which I am privileged to speak for here tonight has always had its windows open toward the university; that it has had the sense to understand the wisdom of the state in laying the foundation of science under the art of agriculture. I am proud of the fact that it has had none of the cheap prejudices of ignorance against the wisdom of thought; that it has in fact endeavored to blend the knowledge of farm and laboratory into a white light which shall brighten and bless our Wisconsin farms.—H. C. Adams, ex-president Wisconsin Dairyman's association.

How to Have Good Horses.

A horse is an actively constituted animal, says Dr. F. C. Grenside, V. M., in the Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal, and you cannot produce condition, in the true sense of the word, without a sufficient amount of exercise. Condition does not simply mean the presentation of a good appearance, but it signifies the ability to endure work and maintain health. The two latter abilities cannot be possessed without liberal feeding and plenty of exercise. Good condition requires time to produce. The work of conditioning ought to begin fully two months before the season. The daily exercise and quantity of food should be increased in like ratio, until five miles a day is given a draft horse, and eight or ten a light horse.

A great invigorator of the horse is rubbing; nothing next to good feeding gives him more vim. A plentiful supply of good, thick clean cotton rubbers should be on hand, and the horse should be vigorously rubbed after his exercise, until he is perfectly dry. Groom while the circulation of his skin is active, as after exercise, is far more beneficial than at any other time.

Have nothing to do with drugs or nostrums, for they do more harm than good if the animal is well; and if he is sick they should only be used under the guidance of one who understands their action and the nature of the malady to be cured. Drugs are in no way essential, in fact they are detrimental to the process of conditioning.

The death rate among heavy stallions during the season is much higher than it need be, which is largely the result of abruptly putting horses into the trying ordeal of heavy service and constant excitement, without building up the system in the manner indicated.

Many flat sided, long backed, slack loined horses are receiving liberal patronage on account of their defects being considerably masked by layers of fat and flabby muscle.

NOTES.

Potatoes are more wholesome when baked than when boiled.

Tissue or printing paper is the best thing for polishing glass or tinware. To boil cabbage whole tie or sew in cotton cloth. Boil a little longer than if quartered.

To keep insects out of bird cages, tie up a little sulphur in a bag and suspend it in the cage.

If pin cushions are filled with well-dried coffee grounds, mice nor moth will ever touch them.

The cabbage leaves, apple and potato parings, and other vegetable refuse from the kitchen, can be fed to the poultry with profit.

A particular fertilizer may be beneficial on one field, and be of little or no value on another, because it does not contain the elements needed.

Because prices for stock are low is no reason why they should be neglected; in fact the best profit only can be realized by giving them the best of care.

Blood Against Scrub.

While no amount of care and feeding of scrubs will give satisfactory returns, good breeding, coupled with good feeding, will almost invariably produce excellent results.

To illustrate this point, we recently saw, on the same farm, a herd of some fifty young cattle, steers and spayed heifers, all yearlings past.

About half of them were half-blood Galloways while the other half were calves from the same herd of cows that the grades were from, a scrub bull having been used a part of the season and then replaced by a Galloway, who completed the season and became the sire of about half that year's crop of calves.

Now here was a fair test, for these calves received the same care, ran on the same pasture, drank from the same troughs, ate from the same racks and were, in all things, treated alike, and they should, and did show, just what difference blood will make under exactly similar circumstances. The scrubs would tip the beam at an average of about 750 pounds, and were really quite a good lot, much better than a good many that one may see, while the grades averaged a strong 1,000 pounds, several of them weighing 1,100.

Now any one ought to see the blood was the power that made these grade calves so much better than the others. Blood will tell, and yet this farmer might have used a pure blood bull and not have gotten such good calves. This particular bull not only was a pure blood, with splendid pedigree, but he was a most excellent animal with a sire and dam grand sire, on both sides, that were all excellent individuals, thus giving both a pedigree of pure blood and a pedigree of excellence. Then on this came the top cross of good feeding and all combined to make this lot of calves just what they are, and will, in a few months, put a nice lot of profit money into their owner's pockets.

Now there are two other views of this subject that may be taken:

First—Had this man bred these grades as he did, but given the calves ordinary neglect instead of good care, he would have made real scrubs of them. They would have made him no profit, and he might have said, as many do, "These fancy cattle are no good for the common farmer."

Second—He might have gotten a pure blood bull with no individual excellence, or whose ancestors were such that he had no power of transmitting good qualities; in other words, lacking in prepotency, and have from such a sire got a lot of calves that, with all his care, would have been failures, and in that case he would again have said fancy blood was a humbug.

To sum it all up, then, get a bull whose pedigree is good, whose ancestors back for as many generations as possible were good individuals, and were good sires and dams, and who is himself a good animal, and then give the calves good feed and care and you are all right. This applies to any or all pure breeds. The same laws govern in all breeding, and if in any particular they are broken the result is disaster.—Western Farmer and Stockman.

In the Menagerie.

The conduct and methods of the mammals in their maternal capacity, as exhibited in a circus menagerie, might be studied with profit by American matrons. According to the testimony of Superintendent Conklin of Barnum's circus every animal, if properly fed and kept free from noisy intrusion and worry, will rear its young with unvarying care and affection, and further he believes that animals of every species which has ever survived in a state of captivity will breed, and he offers the best possible justification of this belief by saying that he has never during an experience of thirty years had charge of animals which did not breed. Of course he does not mean that every individual female has had young ones, for many individuals are barren. In the case of some species, however, the animals of one sex are never caught, and consequently young ones are not born among these. An example of such animals is the laughing and crying hyena. The female hyena is seldom caught, although the male is a very ordinary inhabitant of menageries. The males of some other kinds of animals are never caught.

A PERFECT MOTHER.

As an example of a perfect mother may be taken the 3-year-old lioness Belle in Barnum's circus. Rather more than a year ago she had two whelps, fine fat fellows. She fed them regularly and took every possible care of them, but, most remarkable to state, she not only allowed anybody to look at the cubs, but led the keepers take them out of the cage for half an hour at a time. She neither resented this nor relaxed her care for the little ones. With many animals such liberties would have ended in the killing or abandonment of the cubs.

Belle is a large lioness in excellent physical condition. She has a powerful

and expressive countenance. The cubs are stolid looking fellows, with not half as much intelligence as their mother. They are not savage, but have no particular respect for the keepers or the public.

The lioness weans her cubs when they are nine months old. Before they attain that age she takes all meat and solid food away from them, although at times they would very much like to have some. At the end of nine months she selects the tenderest pieces of meat to give to them. Soon after that they are taken from their mother and placed in enclosures of their own.

PECULIARITIES OF BREEDING.

Tigers, leopards and other felines must be left alone with their young. If they are not separated from the other, including males of their own species, they will probably kill the young ones. Not long ago a leopard ate up her three cubs simply because she was starved so much, and did not want her offspring to grow up to live a life like hers.

In case it is not possible, on account of bad temper, death or illness, for the mother to suckle them, young lions, tigers, leopards and wolves are given to Newfoundland or St. Bernard dogs to suckle. They only remain with the dogs four or five weeks. After that there might be danger that there would gobble up their foster mothers. Animals reared in this way are not so healthy as those suckled by their own mothers. They are apt to have the rickets.

Lions and tigers have three or four young ones at a time, the leopard five, bears three or four, monkeys one, elephants one, giraffes one, nyghaus two and antelopes one.

Monkeys do not breed much in the captivity of a menagerie, because they are always dying. The monkey who goes around with his Italian master in all weather gets as hardy as it is possible to be. But the menagerie monkey is pampered and kept in a warm cage, so that a shower of rain or a draught of air will kill him. The white Chinese monkey possesses the strongest constitution of any simian. He is a big fellow, with an arm like a blacksmith's and apt to be quarrelsome. The mandrill, who is distinguished by blue cheeks and a red nose, is affectionate and very delicate.

AN ELEPHANT STORY.

The mother elephant bestows the greatest care and affection on her offspring. This fact is illustrated by the following story:

A gentleman well known in this city paid a visit, when 10 years old, to a circus in Brooklyn.

An elephant and her young one were the center of attraction for crowds of Brooklyn small boys. The young elephant had not attained by the course of years that discretion which would enable him to decide what was within his powers of digestion, and he would have swallowed a hat as cheerfully as a bundle of hay. On this account his mother took all the articles which were handed to him, examined them for an instant and then, if they were quite good to eat, she gave them to him; if they were only moderately good she ate them herself, and if they were not good at all she returned them to the generous giver.

Several youths found amusement in handing in their caps, which were returned as no good, because they were made of cloth. The youth of whom we speak was never lacking in enterprise, and he, too, passed in his hat. It was promptly eaten by the mother elephant. It was a large new straw one. The sufferer complained very loudly to the manager of the circus, but was unable to regain his property.

Animals born and raised in confinement are usually as strong and healthy as their relatives from the wilderness. But, strange to say, they are much less easily tamed. Familiarity with man has bred contempt. Such animals are not always savage, but they calmly decline to make an exhibition of themselves by doing ridiculous tricks. Trainers say that for their purposes animals born in confinement are useless.—New York Evening Sun.

Why he Bought the Pies.

At the close of a fair in Boston the unsold articles were sold at auction, and a round lot of cream pies were knocked down to a gentleman who seemed particularly anxious to get them. "My wife made these pies," he said, "and gave them to the fair; and as she never makes any of this quality except to give away my only chance is to buy them." And then he sat down and consumed a couple in silence.—New York Independent.

Not Fresh Eggs.

Eggs are said to become unwholesome when kept in refrigerators; a fungus forms in them which is easily found by a microscope, although it is not noticeable to the taste. This fungus constitutes a danger when we consider how many eggs are consumed by all classes of society, and people of delicate constitutions ought to be particularly careful that they eat fresh and not kept eggs.—Exchange.

Prince de Chimay, who is \$2,000,000 richer by his marriage with Miss Ward of Detroit, is a good musician and plays the violin especially well.

SPINSTER WRITERS.

Women of Celebrity in Letters Who Have Never Married.

New York Star: Constance Fenimore Woolson, author of "Laks Country Sketches," and other graphic stories; Sarah Orne Jewett, who wrote "A Country Doctor" and "Deephaven" sketches, as well as other books which have proved so delightful to readers everywhere; Edith M. Thomas, the exquisite lyricist; Grace King, author of the attractive southern tale, "Monsieur Motte," and Octave Thanet, a name which veils the personality of a western writer of striking originality, are all still unmarried.

Charles Egbert Craddock, who through her brilliant characterizations and rich descriptive powers has won a lasting fame, now resides with her mother and sister at the old homestead in Tennessee; occupied with literary work, and deaf to all overtures on the part of her many admirers looking to marriage.

Gail Hamilton is too much wrapped up in her self-independence ever to give the subject of matrimony a moment's thought, if taken into personal consideration, while Kate Field, as the great public knows, is too much in love with journalism to believe she would be happier as the wife of any living man.

The Cary sisters, Phoebe and Alice, never married, but dwelt together all their lives, each bound up in the love of the other. There was a bond of close friendship existing between them and the poet Whittier, and one of his choicest lyrics, "The Singers," refers wholly to those two gifted women.

Jean Ingelow, now considerable more than 55, has never been married. She has always been devoted in a marked degree to her mother, and while the latter lived the two dwelt together. Miss Ingelow is much given to work of charity, and among other benevolent acts is in the habit of giving regularly at her lovely Kensington home to the poor, old and young, what are known as "copyright dinners," from the proceeds of her own books.

The charming novelists, Jane Austen, Mary Russell Mitford, Charlotte Bronte, as also other women of equal celebrity in English letters, remained true to maidenhood.

Education in Ancient Egypt.

Boys intended for the government service entered the school at a very early age. The course of instruction was very simple. The first care of the teacher was to initiate the young scribe into the mysteries of the art of writing. After he had mastered the first difficulties, he was given older texts to copy. These texts were moral treatises, older poems, fairy tales, religious and mythical writings and letters. It is to this fact that we owe the preservation of the greater part of the literary remains of ancient Egypt. When one of these school boys died, the copies he had written, that could be of no earthly use to any one else, were buried with him. From these old books that he copied he learned to form his own style; he learned the grammar and syntax of his beautiful language; he became acquainted with its vast stock of moral precepts, religious and mythical traditions, and with the unnumbered poems and tales that he undoubtedly absorbed, and of which the merest fragments have come down to us. Two classes of writings were preferred for this purpose, moral precepts and letters. It was considered absolutely indispensable to inculcate on the minds of the pupils vast numbers of moral precepts. Letter writing was considered a high and difficult art, and the pupils needed very special preparation in it.—F. C. H. Wendel in Popular Science Monthly.

Getting Together.

Slowly the people of this country are beginning to see that the three general questions of money, transportation and land are those which are coming up for discussion and decision. Government loans at a low rate of interest is the answer to the first. Government ownership of railways and telegraphs answers the second and the exemption of a moderate homestead to each family from all taxation, execution, or other processes of law settles the third.

Then, the producer of wealth would be protected in the possession of the fruits of his toil, labor would rejoice and peace and contentment revisit the homes of our anxious and careworn mothers and fathers.

Get right on these three questions. Or are you too old to learn?—Kansas Commonwealth.

The Trap-door Spider.

The trap-door spider found in various parts of Europe has obtained its popular name from the ingenious nest which it constructs. It makes a hole in the ground and lines it with moss and silk. When this has been completed it closes the little pit with an accurately fitting lid that turns on a hinge of silk. The spider retires into this den when threatened with attack, and is said to hang to the trap door when an attempt is made to raise it. In this retreat it remains during the day, leaving it at night in search of food. To gain further safety it sometimes forms a chamber leading off from the pit, and conceals this passage with a kink of certain.

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GEOLOGICAL MYSTERIES.

Supposed Origin of Some of the Precious Stones of Commerce.

Geology has been a revelation to mankind and has told us wonderful things of the past history of the earth, says the *American Analyst*. But geology has secrets of its own that are as hidden from comprehension as the atmosphere of the moon or the belts of Saturn. Certain things have been done, says the geologist, through volcanic action or the agency of fire, and that is as near as he can come to it. So that, after all, we see affects, but know little or nothing of causes. There is a rock known as amygdaloid, one of the igneous rocks, which in some of the gigantic transformations of nature, we will say in cooling from a melted state, formed within itself cavities from the size of a marble or a bead to that of the closed hand. Now, as nature abhors a vacuum, she set to work to fill these cavities, and in doing so she used other materials, and these combinations produce some of what we call the "precious stones of commerce." Exactly how this was done we can not tell, but we see, as a hint of the operation in every subterranean cave where stalactites and stalagmites are found. Every student knows that this is the result of dropping water which contains carbonate of lime. The water evaporating leaves a minute particle of lime, which takes something to itself from the earth or atmosphere, and in the course of ages bodies are formed of a most remarkable character. In probably somewhat the same fashion have these cavities been filled in the igneous rocks, and then come time and storms and other agencies—earthquakes, perhaps—and the rocks are rent apart, and out drops a bead or a bowlder, and a curious man picks it up, and hammers and breaks it, and then he puts a polish on by some process more or less advanced, and lo! he holds in his hand an agate or an onyx.

Many of the stones used in the arts have no other origin, and are deposits of silica, alumina, oxide of iron, and other coloring substances. It is the color or arrangement of colors that gives the name, and thus we have agate, onyx, chalcedony, carnelian, sard, chrysoptase, sardonyx, and others, all members of the quartz family and all having a family resemblance. The agate has veins of different shades of color in parallel lines. Sometimes these are very close together, as many as fifty to the inch, but this is unusual. When there are alternate bands of color and a transparent medium we have the onyx; but the latter may be obtained by cutting the stone in a different way. Agates are used chiefly for ornamental purposes, such as cups, seals, rings, handles for parasols, swords, table and mantel ornaments, but the material is so hard that it can only be worked by those who have practiced skill. The onyx was valued by the ancients for its application to cameo and intaglios—the first in process in relief, the latter a "cut in" object; and these objects are still made. Nature produces some very strange forms occasionally, and agates are found with exact resemblances of moss and other natural objects and figures, which are very curious and often very valuable.

Ingersoll On Crime.

Before the ninth annual convention of the State Bar association Col. Robert G. Ingersoll delivered an address upon the subject of "Crimes Against Criminals," in which at the outset he demonstrated that punishment by torture and death had failed to abate crime. The following were among Mr. Ingersoll's utterances:

"Degradation has been thoroughly tried, with its manacles and brandings, and the result was that those who inflicted the punishment became as degraded as their victims. It is safe to say that governments have committed far more crimes than they have prevented. I am perfectly satisfied that there are millions of others incapable of practicing certain virtues. There is no reformation in degradation. Whoever is degraded by society becomes its enemy. A punishment that degrades the punished will degrade the government that procures the infliction. Is there any remedy? Can anything be done for the reformation of the criminal? He should be treated with kindness. Every right should be given him consistent with the safety of society. He should neither be degraded nor robbed. Why should these men after having been imprisoned for years be turned out without the means of support? Would it not be far better to lay aside his earnings so that when the convict is released after five years of imprisonment he will have several hundred dollars of his own, enough to keep the wolf of crime from the door of his heart? If we are to change the conduct of men we must change their conditions. Extreme poverty and crime go hand in hand. Ignorance, filth, and poverty are the miseries of crime. As long as dishonorable success outruns honest effort—as long as society bows and cringes before the great thieves—there will be little ones enough to fill the jails."

Louisiana Crookes.

The usual impression obtaining concerning crookes is that they are all of them possessed of dark and swarthy complexions, hair black as the raven's wing and eyes of "ebon darkness." A New Orleans acquaintance says that many have lily-white complexions, golden locks and eyes of "heaven's own blue." The crooke girl is usually refined and dainty, sensitive and sympathetic, light hearted and sunny tempered. She is usually brought up quietly and is content to remain at home. Of course the majority of crookes are dark—they are not-brown maidens.

The Flea Hunter's Way.

The average office-worker is most sensitive as to the impression his carriage at home. When he arrives in Washington he at once begins up the correspondents of his home papers and makes a special request that they make no mention of his presence at the Capital, or if they will not consent to that he will be pleased to have them say that he came on at the request of his member of Congress, who has a place he desires to have him accept, and that he is now giving the matter that consideration which he deems is due. No one comes to Washington these days on a good, old-fashioned hunt for office. Then, again, there are those who long for place who systematically deceive not only their friends, but members of their own families. One of this class came to Washington a couple of months ago, says the *Washington Post*, and ever since has been importuning his member of Congress to provide for him. He started out for a good, fat Consulate, but now he is in about the same condition as the spinster who prayed for a man. He will take anything that is offered, and be glad of the opportunity. He had not been here over a month when his wife wrote him that he was wasting his time, and suggested in that vigorous manner that only a woman can command that he had better come home and go to work. To pacify his better half he wrote her that he had succeeded in securing a place and would go to work next week. He also stated as soon as he got enough money ahead he would send for her, and then he continued to wait for something to turn up. But success has not as yet perched upon his efforts, and last week when he received a letter from his wife, notifying him that she was ready to join him and was only awaiting a remittance, he realized that something must be done, and that quite speedily. The way he went about it was to deceive her. He wrote her to complain to the police that he had been robbed of a neat sum of money, and to take good care to see that the announcement of his bogus robbery found its way into the newspapers. Marked copies of the paper were sent to his house, and now he is enjoying another brief respite from that source. His Congressman has been given to understand that case was desperate, and he expects catch on in a few days. If he does his landlady will soon join forces with his wife.

Freaks Made to Order.

Freaks for museums are now made to order, says a showman. Give me an hour's time, and I can rig up an electric man for any person in the city. All that is necessary is to fasten two large brass or iron plates to the floor and attach them to an electric battery. Any person will answer for the man, provided he stands on one of the plates and allows everybody that steps on the other plate to shake hands with him, thus completing the circuit. Slate-writing in theaters is done with the aid of a confederate or two in the audience. The message is written on one side of the slate, which is carefully covered with a piece of clean, dry black rubber looking like slate, which fits very closely, and protecting the writing from the damp rag which is passed over it to make the audience think that no writing exists. The performer then steps in to the auditorium and asks somebody to suggest a sentence. The confederate is the first to respond, and his question is chosen. An answer to this is, of course, written on the slate already and carefully covered with the rubber. A board is next securely fastened to the frame side of the slate with a cord, and the performer then takes the whole affair on the stage and unfurls the board, being careful to remove the rubber at the same time, thus allowing the people to see the writing. All other tricks are just as simple, but on account of their simplicity nobody can easily catch on to the way they are executed.

An Old Ticket.

A resident of Murfreesboro, Tenn., presented a ticket issued in 1855 on the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad the other day and rode in a palace-car on the same bit of pastebord that would have scoured him average in one of the slumy coaches of thirty-four years ago. Chicago Market.

WHEAT—Market firm. Cash 86½¢; August, 88¢; September, 88½¢; 89¢.
CORN—Market steady. Cash, 34½¢; August, 35½¢; September, 35½¢; 36½¢.
OATS—Market steady. Cash, 27½¢; August, 28½¢; September, 28½¢; 29½¢.
RYE—Steady. 48¢.
BARLEY—Quiet.
PRIME TIMOTHY—\$1.30.
FLAX—No. 1, \$1.34.
WHISKY—\$1.00.
PORK—Market dull. Cash, \$12.25; August, \$12.00; September, \$11.65.
LARD—Market dull. Cash, \$5.47½¢; August, \$5.75; September, \$5.85¢.
TALLOW—Shade better. No. 1, solid packed, 4½¢; No. 2, 3½¢; No. 3, 4½¢.
FLOUR—Nominally easier. Dealers asked \$4.85 @ 5.25 for patents in barrels, \$3 @ 3.75 for bakers', \$2.75 @ 3.25 for straight, and \$4 @ 4.25 for winter.
BULK MEAT—Shoulders, 65 @ 30¢; 52¢; short ribs, \$9.35 @ 43¢; short ribs, cash, \$5.00 @ 5.50.
BUTTER—Steady. Creamery, 13¢; 16¢; dairy, 9 @ 13¢.
EGGS—Barely active. Fresh, 11¢; 12¢.
CHEESE—Steady. Full cream cheddars, 7½ @ 7¾¢; flats, 7½ @ 7¾¢; Young American, 6 @ 6½¢.
HIDES—Shade better. No. 1 heavy green salted, 5½ @ 5¾¢; salted bull, 4½¢; green salted on 1, 6½¢; dry blue, 6¢; dry salted hides, 6¢; dry salt, 9¢; deerskin, each 30¢.