Pig Sticking.

The most popular sport in India is "pig sticking." A number of elephants form a circle and beat the jungle to drive the wild boars out into the open. Here are stationed a number of horsemen with lances, who immediately give pursuit to the boar. He gives them a wild chase until some lance wounds him, then he turns and gives the horsemen a desperate fight. Sometimes horses are ripped open by the huge tusks of the boar. It is very dangerous.

It is estimated 800 federal plums will be distributed within forty days. Line up to the pie counter.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Values of Agricultoal Colleges and Stations—Foundation and Shed for a Farm Kettle—How to Get Rid of Rats—Warm Stables for Cows.

Clover and Clover Sod.

The idea that clover will not grow well on a newly-turned clover sod comes from the experience of farmers in wheat-growing sections, where the clover sod is plowed in the fall, seeded with wheat and then with clover again in the spring. In such case the mechanical condition of the soil is not right for the seed after it germinates so as to allow the young plant to get firmly rooted. A sod plowed in the fall does not rot much until spring, especially if a little green herbage is turned under. It holds the furrow up and makes the land peculiarly light and porous. When clover seed is sown late in winter or early in spring it germinates well and begins to catch hold of the soil with it roots. The farmer thinks as he sees a thick seeding of clover early in spring that he will have a good catch. But the unrooted sod lets air in under the clover roots, and if there comes a dry time the clover, having little hold on the soil, perishes. Besides, if there are hollows under the furrow, these are closed up when the sod begins to rot, the sod falls down and leaves the clover roots broken and exposed. We have seen many cases where the failure of clover was distinctly traceable to this cause. Mr. Terry, in the Practical Farmer, gives an example where this explana- will probably apply.

Locating a Farm Kettle.

One of the necessities upon a farm is a set kettle for boiling food for hogs, hens and other stock. It is often impossible to locate this within one of the farm buildings, and so the necessity arises of building a brick foundation for the kettle out

FOR A FARM KETTLE.

of doors. Such a set kettle should be protected from the weather, for, if it is not, the kettle is soon rusted, and the bricks become loosened by the entrance of water from the top. A good protection is shown in the illustration from the American Agriculturalist. The corner uprights are secured to the brickwork by iron straps, one side and the front of the wooden structure being hinged at the top, allowing free access to the kettle. This useful contrivance will be more convenient if the top of the structure in which the kettle is set be of one complete slab of stone, slate or soapstone, but this is not at all necessary.

Coloring Whitewash.

An inquirer who has been in the practice of simply whitewashing his fences and outbuildings wishes information for giving the work a light brown or a drab, more nearly white than many which he sees, which are so dark as to be positively gloomy, and he inquires for the best way of making the lime into the wash. Procure fresh or caustic lime, put a peck or more in a tub or barrel, and cover six inches above with hot water. Cover it to keep in the steam. When cool, add enough water to reduce to a wash which may be easily applied with a brush. Two pounds of rice flour will make it spread more easily, mixing it with cold water before it is put in, stir thoroughly. Or, instead of the rice water, add two pounds of sulphate of zinc and a pound of salt. This will harden it better on exposed woodwork. To give it the right color add a pound or two of yellow ochre for cream color, or two pounds of umber, or less if lighter is desired; or for a light slate color or gray add half a pound of lampblack, or a less quantity. We have found a durable wash for outdoor work of a peck of water-lime, half a peck of fine clear sand, or as much as the water will hold in suspension, with enough water to apply it.—Country Gentleman.

Getting Rid of Rats.

An Ohio farmer, writing to the American Agriculturist, says: On the barn floor I placed a thirty-six-gallon kettle filled half full of rye. A plank six feet long led from the floor to the top of the kettle. The rye was left in the kettle for about a fortnight, until the rats had become thoroughly familiar with the kettle and were making it the headquarters for their nightly revels, with seeming confidence that no harm was intended, when, very treacherously, one evening, water was substituted for the grain, and a half inch of chaff from the barn floor concealed the water. The result was that twenty-one drowned rats were forked out the first morning and sixty-two within a week, and after that no rats were seen for a year.

Warm Stables for Cows.

Success with winter dairying depends on maintaining an even, warm temperature. Succulent food is not enough if it has to be eaten at a temperature where it will freeze while the cow is filling herself with it. The ideal stable is in a well-protected barn basement. Here the warmth from the cows will usually prevent any freezing in even the coldest weather, and this, too, while allowing ventilation required to keep the air pure and sweet. It is better to feed the cows in a milking room outside the stables while they are being milked. The narrow stalls do not give the chance that is required for ventilation when the cow dungs or urinates, as most cows are pretty certain to do while being milked.

Ashes as a Fertilizer.

Ashes are too much wasted by many farmers who do not seem to appreciate their importance as manure. They are among the best fertilizers that can be applied either directly to the land or mixed with the compost. They are beneficial to all crops, and this has been found to apply even to coal ashes which, in themselves, have but little manurial value; but the reason that even these are so useful is that they absorb and retain moisture. Independent of the potash that wood ashes contain and which makes it such a valuable manure an application of it renders the ground porous and keeps it cool and moist. Farmers cannot be too careful too save it and spread it over their lands. Upon sandy lands we consider it equally as valuable pound for pound, as guano. I think about 100 bushels of wood ashes per acre is a fair proportion to apply to light soils. Try it, brother farmers, and I don't think you will ever regret having read and put to practice my experience with ashes.—C. W. Norris, in Epitomist.

Door Yard Walk.

In New England, says a correspondent of the Country Gentleman, we have plenty of gravel walks, which are always dry, but for tender feet they are not so pleasant. I used one between my residence and dairy house, but it often needed repairing. Then I thought I would try cement—water lime—and I shoveled out the gravel. The grass had grown into it on the sides, forming a sort of curb. I filled the space between these with cobblestones the size of goose eggs and applied cement—Portland and coarse, clean sand, half and half—thin enough to fill all the spaces between the stones, but thick enough to smooth over the top with hoe or shovel. This walk is never slippery, wet or dry, unless covered with ice. It has been down several years, and is as solid as a rock. We drive loaded wagons and carts over it occasionally without injury. It is smooth enough, is pleasant, and has come to stay. The frost has not disturbed it. The ground is dry where it is laid.

Colleges and Stations.

Statistics furnished by the Department of Agriculture at Washington make it appear that in 1892 there were 62 schools where agriculture was taught more or less. There were 1,159 instructors and 11,358 students, of whom only 2,469 were studying agriculture. Last year 3,311 students graduated from the schools. Since the Maryland college started in 1856, 3,333 students in all have graduated. The revenue for conducting these colleges in 1892 was $1,432,908. As to experiment stations, there were 54, with a total revenue of $997,244. The station with the largest income was the New York State, at Geneva, which received $68,500. The Ohio station received the most for farm products sold—$6,019—with Missouri next—$4,05[illegible]. The total number of persons employed at these stations was 491.

American Beef Best.

The committee of the House of Lords which has been considering the policy of marking all imported beef with a brand showing the country it came from, has made its report. It declares positively that beef imported from America is better than the average of home-grown beef. This is strong and evidently unprejudiced testimony. It will not please English farmers who had hoped from this same committee some proposition for giving them a monopoly and excluding foreign-grown beef altogether.

Farm Notes.

The Idaho experiment station pronounces carbon bisulphide a successful exterminator of the ground squirrel that is such a serious pest to Western farmers.

The appearance of animals on a farm tells a good deal about the owner and his tasts. Thin cows, with prominent ribs in winter or spring, are not much of a recommendation.

Some men have so much faith in the scriptural assurance that "the Lord tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," that they refuse to build sheep-sheds.

When the trough is filled with ice-cold water, and the cow is compelled to drink from the trough, she will lose heat exactly in proportion to the heat imparted to the cold water by her body.

Hens may fail to lay because of improper feeding. An egg is very complete in its composition, as it will produce a chick, and the food must necessarily correspond. The safest and best course to pursue is to feed a variety.

The United States, which produces the best rice in the world, and which has millions of acres of wet lands which are especially adapted to its growth, raised only about one-half of that cereal which is consumed in this country.

Concerning the importance of grass in the farm economy, it is surprising that so many farmers give it so little attention. While in a majority of cases if more care was taken in seeding down and securing a good stand of grass, no better plan could be desired for building up the land.

Lost Control.

A Frenchman was teaching in a large school where he had a reputation among the pupils for making some queer mistakes. One day he was taking a class which was rather disorderly. What with the heat and the troublesome boys he was very snappish. Having punished several of the boys and sent one to the bottom of the form, he at last shouted out in a passion, "Ze whole class go to ze bottom!"—Bit-Bits.

Wm. Hecker, a Swiss banker, in Augusta, Ga., is a powerful fellow. He can break a chain with his teeth, break ropes with his naked hands, and snap a chain wound around his arms by simply swelling his muscles.

The oldest female horseback rider in the world is Mrs. Fannie Muller, of Milton, Ky. She is ninety years old and at least twice a week rides ten miles on horseback. She is also a graceful dancer, and is as erect as an Indian.

A couple of burglars in Fall River Mass., while trying to escape, were pursued by two foot-ball players, who jumped on them, trampled on them, and brought other foot-ball tricks into use. This treatment settled the burglars.

In Russia the consumption of beer is smaller, for each person, than in any other nation. The favorite beverage is a sort of whisky made of rye, called vodka. A spree based on that lasts about three days, and it is almost a week before the toper's head comes down to its original size.

Fred White, of Osego, Minn., while mentally deranged, gouged out his right eye, and, with an ax, cut off his right foot and his right hand.

At the time of the Crimean war the combined armies of Europe numbered about 3,000,000 men. Now they number about 20,000,000.

An English officer being hypnotized in South Africa, began to speak in Welsh, which he had known as a child but forgotten for 20 years.

Scotch Apple Pie.

Scald a large teacupful of oatmeal by pouring over it a pint of boiling water. Allow it to stand for four hours or longer, if that is not long enough to swell the oatmeal. Add 4 large apples pared and sliced, 2 tablespoonfulls of sugar, two tablespoonfulls of flour. Mix all thoroughly together and bake in a buttered dish. When cooked turn out and serve. This makes a delicious pie, and is as wholesome as it is good.

"Madam, have you a receipe for this pied" said the tramp.

"Yes; would you like to have a copy of it?" replied the good woman.

"No, but I should like to destroy the original." said the tramp.—Harper's Bazar.

Apples grow wild in the forests of the Sandwich Islands. A recent traveler says he saw an apple forest there ten miles wide and twenty miles in length.

A London electrician has demonstrated that the hardest wood may be sawed with a platinumplated steel-core wire, made red-hot by electricity.

Nature supplied Colorado with an abundance of rilled canons. Kansas furnished her the most vociferous smoothe bore.

The iron ore miners at Allentown, Pa., receive 70 cents per day.

Dogs as Fire Alarms.

Nature has so fashioned the dog's nose that the nasal bones are convoluted and rolled in scrolls, upon which his olfactory nerves are spread so that the entire space from his nose forward is a most intricate and delicate "smelling machine," and the largest which has been given to any living creature. The organ is extremely sensitive, especially in the spaniel breed.

One of these little jewels in the house will not only instantly warn all inmates against intruders, but will be the first to discover, by its sensitive nose, that most deadly and dreadful of all the elements—fire—which comes creeping stealthily upon the unconscious sleepers and suffocate them in their beds or rouses them only to die a horrible death in the stifling, smoke filled halls and stairways.

No spaniel or hunting dog can rest an instant while the slightest pug of smoke is irritating his sensitive nostrils. He will fret and whine and increase the volume of his alarm until the household is aroused, and do all this before any human being can detect the faintest odor of smoke. He is indeed a most prompt, speedy, reliable fire alarm, which never fails and never gets out of order while his life lasts.—New York Herald.

Christmas Customs in France.

It is not unlike Voltaire's statement regarding the keeping of Christmas in some French cities: First a young man appears with wings on his shoulders and recites the "Hail Mary!" to which a girl responds "Fiat," after which the make believe angel kisses her on the mouth. Then a boy inside a pasteboard cock shrieks, "Puer natus est," a fat ox growls "Ubi?" a lamb bleats "Bethlehem," an ass brays "Bihamus" instead of "Eamus"—and the affair is under way.

California's exposition opens Jan 10.