

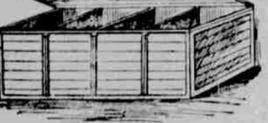
AGRICULTURAL



GRAIN BINS.

In most cases feed chests with compartments for different kinds of grain are necessary conveniences in both the barn and stable, but often the construction of such a bin is a matter of considerable expense and labor if the ordinary course is adhered to. With a view to assisting farmers whose bank accounts do not permit extravagances a New York correspondent of *Ohio Farmer* suggests the plan which is here depicted.

The plan sketched and described by the correspondent in question is not only perfectly simple, but very service-



CHEAP GRAIN BINS.

able. First obtain the requisite number of dry goods or grocery boxes, all of the same dimensions. Place these boxes side by side, then nail together with wire nails long enough to reach through and clinch. Next attach a cover to the top of the bin thus made, and your work is done. Of course each box should be of size sufficient to hold all the grain of any one kind that may be kept on hand, but this need not occasion any alarm, for boxes of every size and shape mentionable can be procured at grocery and dry goods stores for a merely nominal sum.

How to Grow Asparagus.

A row of asparagus 100 feet long will afford an abundant supply for an ordinary family. The best way to make a bed is to dig a trench 2 feet deep and 2 feet wide. Fill in with 10 inches of clean horse manure, and on this sow a mixture of 25 pounds of bone dust and 40 pounds of sulphate of potash. Cover with six inches of rich dirt, and then place on this dirt two-year-old roots, placing the roots two feet apart, as they will thicken in rows in years to come. Cover the roots with two or three inches of dirt, and after the plants are well up and grown above the surface fill the trench with equal parts of well-rotted manure and rich earth. The object of using so much manure is that it will be difficult to apply it deep after the bed is established. Common salt may be used on the surface every year. Mound the rows every year, so that the plants will not be grown on a level, but in a long hill. Soap-suds are especially beneficial to asparagus and celery, and when putting in the manure and earth suds should be used freely. Make a drain by the side of the row and let all suds flow down the drain.

Horn Shed.

The cut shows an addition to the side of a barn covering a side door and affording a house for poultry and an open shed for the poultry to scratch in during the winter. It affords a chance also for cows to find protection during showers on summer nights when they are confined in the stable yard. If the horse stalls are adjacent to the side



BARN SHED AND POULTRY-HOUSE.

door, the horse manure can be thrown out into this open shed for the hens to scratch over, a little grain being thrown into it. The barnyard fence can be made fowl-tight as well as cow-tight, thus obviating the necessity for a separate poultry yard.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Alfalfa for Poultry.

Every one who has used alfalfa clover in winter, or at any other time, knows the great value of it as a poultry food and an egg-producer. It is easily prepared in winter when the hay is dry. With a little pounding it is astonishing to see how little bulk there will be of the stems. This chaff, well sprinkled with bran or shorts and scalded with hot water, makes a feed for poultry in winter that may be equalled, but it is doubtful if it can be excelled.—Kansas Farmer.

The Seeds Problem.

The really extravagant farmer is the one who saves in buying seeds. There may be a difference in seeds on the market, but to the farmer there should be no such thing in his vocabulary as "poor seed." No seed is worth more than so much dirt if it is not strictly good and true to variety. The use of poor seed, which fails to germinate, and which compels the farmer to re-

plant, may cause the loss of weeks in the spring, making his crop late. And that is not all, for he also loses the advantage of the early rains, and his yield will thereby be reduced. With certain crops there is also a loss in quality and prices. The seed used is everything on a farm.

Biggest Flower of All.

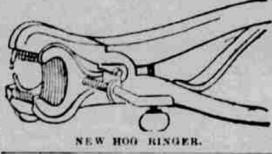
The largest flower in the world grows on the Island of Mindanao, one of the Philippine group. It was first discovered there some years ago by a German explorer. It is a five-petaled blossom, nearly a yard wide. At a distance the buds look like giant cabbage heads. A single flower has been known to weigh twenty-two pounds. The natives call it the *bolo*. Specimens sent to Europe were recognized to be of the species *Rafflesia*, a plant discovered in Sumatra, and named after the English governor of that island, Sir Stamford Raffles. The *bolo* is only to be found in the neighborhood of the crater of Apo, one of the highest volcanoes in the Philippines, or about 2,500 feet above the level of the sea.—Philadelphia Press.

Ginseng Culture.

Every year there is a new interest in ginseng culture, yet I have never known nor ever heard of a man who made any money growing it, outside of those who have used to sell. It is true that the Chinese esteem it very highly as a medicine, and pay large prices for it, but these prices are quoted because of the scarcity of the tubers. If any considerable increase in the available supply were to be put on the market it would result in a great reduction in the price. When some man comes forward and gives evidence that he has actually grown a crop of ginseng and received at the rate of from \$2,000 to \$10,000 an acre for it there will be ample opportunity to go into the business.—Farmer's Voice.

Useful to the Farmer.

A new rapid repeating hog ringer is here shown. In action it is automatic, as the cylinder once loaded with partially formed rings, 100 in number, can be rapidly used on hogs until the supply needs to be replenished. Closing the movable jaws secures the ring in a hog's nose, the spiral spring in front



NEW HOG RINGER.

simultaneously forcing another ring into position for a subsequent operation. When more than one ring is put in a hog's nose the performance can be quickly repeated without releasing the animal to reload the ringer. The grooves in the jaws are milled, making a perfect joint.

Heat for Hot Houses.

The old-fashioned coal furnace with flue is now out of date for cheap and safe production of heat for hot-houses. It is almost always used by beginners, because its first cost is less. But the coal fire is not always reliable, and the heat can not be regulated as to preserve an even temperature. Sooner or later pipes with hot water will be used, and in this way the hot-house can be saved from either extreme. Too many forget that in growing vegetables in winter under glass an excess of heat may prove as serious an evil as a frost, as it is harder to recover from.—American Cultivator.

Supports for Peas.

The expense of supports for peas is a detriment to their cultivation, and for that reason many prefer the dwarf varieties, which, though early, are not as prolific as the taller growing kinds. It has been suggested that 3-inch mesh of woven wire be used in the rows for peas, having the rows run north and south, planting early peas on the east side and later kinds on the west. When the peas are removed set out large pot-grown tomato plants. The wire should last for several years.

Farm Experimenting.

Experiment work on the farm may be performed on small plots at a moderate cost. There is no system of education that can equal the work of the farmer himself in experimenting, as soils differ, and work done on one farm may not apply to another. When a farmer begins to experiment he finds out where he made mistakes, and when mistakes can be avoided the greatest difficulties will have been overcome.

Cats in the Poultry Yard.

A well-known Massachusetts poultry breeder says for more than ten years he has had from four to six cats about his poultry yards, and having been brought up among chickens they never trouble them, but are of great service in killing or driving away the rats and mice that would do much damage in stealing the grain, as well as stealing the chickens themselves, if they had a chance.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Cleaning the Hen Roost.

The proper way to clean a hen roost is to first carry everything out doors—roost poles, nest boxes and loose boards. Give them a dose of oil and apply the match. If the wood takes fire it can be put out by throwing sand on it. Now rake out all the foul dirt, and give the inside a good coating of white-wash. Do this once a month.—The Epitomist.

KISSING THE ROD.

O heart of mine, we shouldn't
Worry so!
What we've missed of calm we couldn't
Have, you know!
What we've met of stormy pain,
And of sorrow's driving rain,
We can better meet again,
If it blow.

We have erred in that dark hour
We have known,
When our tears fell with the shower,
All alone.
Were not shine and shower bled
As the gracious Master meant?
Let us temper our content
With His own.

For we know not every morrow
Can be sad;
So, forgetting all the sorrow
We have had,
Let us fold away our fears,
And put by our foolish tears,
And through all the coming years
Just be glad.
—James Whitcomb Riley.

"THE OTHER ONE."

EVERY marriage is hazardous, but I can conceive of no greater risk than was taken by that same handsome, mild-mannered woman.



Judge Watson was speaking of a smiling, elegantly dressed lady, whom he had just bowed out of his office and to her carriage. "She doesn't look to me like one who had gone through many severe trials in life."

"I am thinking of the chance she took, and what might have been. The story is worth listening to, although, perhaps, I will tell it badly."

"Let's have it by all means," I said.

"Very well," answered the judge; "take a cigar, and while we are smoking, I will try to tell you the story."

"The lady who just left has a twin sister, who is now abroad. When they were girls together it was impossible to tell them apart, and when they grew to young womanhood they were literally as much alike as two peas, and their mother was the only one aside from themselves that could tell which was which, when they were abroad in the same attire. They used to play lots of jokes on the young men, for, being so much alike, this was easy to do. They were pretty girls, and had scores of young beaux, ready and willing to have all sorts of pranks played upon them, for just the sake of their company."

"Howard Gleason was especially attentive to Maud, and he admits that he sometimes made the mistake of embracing the wrong sister when he happened to meet her suddenly in a poor light."

"The father, old Mr. Wardlow, was rich and proud, and only knew that Howard Gleason was courting one of his daughters. Now Howard was not blessed with this world's goods, and old man Wardlow was ambitious for his daughters; so he very promptly issued an ultimatum. The young man could have neither of the daughters until he had toiled. Sometimes he felt tempted to break his pledged word, and write to the girl, imploring her to send him a few words, if only enough to tell him that she was still faithful. And then his pride would come to his rescue, and he would say to himself: 'No, I will not write; if she can't be faithful to me, better I should know it now than when it is too late.' So he worked, and toiled, cheered always by the belief that a fair, sweet girl was waiting to welcome him home, and counting the hours just as he was doing."

"Luck was with the young man, and in little more than a year he and his partner 'struck it rich,' and he was half-owner of a mine that promised to become one of the richest in that country. Then he determined to go back home and tell the girl of his heart of his good fortune. He would be his own messenger in carrying the glad news, so without a word he put his things together and started east."

"Of course, having had no correspondence with any one in the town, no one was aware of Howard's good fortune, and when he arrived at his old home he came unheralded. He took only sufficient time to brush up a bit, and then he started for Mr. Wardlow's. Arrived at the house he knew so well, and the afternoon being warm, he found nobody about, save the old gardener, who was looking after his flowers."

"Where is your mistress?" Howard asked.

"The old man hesitated.

"Can't you understand English?" Howard said impatiently. "Where is your young mistress?"

"She's—she's—in the grove, sir, a-reading," said the old man, bowing obsequiously, and without more ado Howard went to seek her. You can perhaps imagine the meeting. He came suddenly upon a fair young creature swinging in her hammock under the trees and reading. Coming up quietly behind her he flung his arms about her and caught her to his heart, as he covered her face with kisses.

"Then he held her off at arm's length and said:

"Maud, my darling!"

"While she answered 'Howard' and hid her face on his breast."

"Howard had waited sufficiently long for his wife, and so they were quietly married the next day and left at once on their wedding tour."

Here the judge ceased his story and

sat silent, puffing at his cigar, so long that the other said:

"Well, I don't see anything so very 'risky' in that."

The judge smiled, and then went on: "Well, it was the 'other one' that Howard had married. Maud had succumbed to the charms of a foreigner, had married and gone away with him. The 'other one' loved Howard, had always loved him. When she found, too, that he had not the slightest notion of the true condition of affairs, she conceived the idea of marrying him herself, and explaining to him afterward. After much coaxing, and because she believed that her daughter's happiness depended upon it, Mrs. Wardlow consented to the plot. When they returned from their wedding tour Howard's wife told him everything. He's a sensible fellow and was quick to see that what had happened was all for his happiness."

"Five years have gone by and to this day he has never quit 'thanking his stars' that he didn't marry Maud, but married 'the other one.'"

OVER STREES

Twelve million silk hats are annually made in the United Kingdom, worth five million pounds.

Russia possesses at least one luxury, in a breed of dogs which are said to be naturally quite unable to bark.

Liszt's great skill with the piano was in part due to his immense industry. For years he practiced ten hours a day.

The highest masts of sailing vessels are from 100 to 180 feet high, and spread from 60,000 to 100,000 square feet of canvas.

It costs \$5.74 per million gallons to pump water to Chestnut Hill Reservoir. The engines pump 883.8 gallons on one pound of coal.

The Sudbury River aqueduct in 359 days has delivered 14,857,300,000 gallons to Chestnut Hill Reservoir, and 35,500,000 to Lake Cochituate.

In Geneva, Switzerland, many buildings have been fitted with electric letter boxes which ascend and descend automatically in a shaft and deliver the letters destined for each story.

There is much trouble and conflict in the South over the proposition to put cotton up in round bales. Nobody is exactly clear as to the result. Several round bale compresses have been built.

There are 124 bridges in the city of Boston. The city owns and maintains sixty-four of this number. The railroads support thirty-three. Besides these there are also eighteen bridges which begin in Boston, but end in some other city or town.

Poisoned by a Stingaree.

There is a fish inhabiting tropical waters and often found along the Florida and Gulf coasts known as the stingaree. Along its back and tail are sharp spines which inflict serious wounds and at the same time poison the flesh. As a rule these wounds are very painful but not dangerous, being much like the sting of a wasp or hornet.

Dr. Charles Spratt, a physician living in Jacksonville, Fla., was fishing the other day at the mouth of the St. John's River, and caught one of these stingarees. While removing the fish from the hook he was stung on the left hand near the little finger. The pain was intense and Dr. Spratt ordered his boatman to row for Fort George Island, where Dr. McAuley lives. Before the island was reached Dr. Spratt was unconscious. Dr. McAuley was unable to restore the injured man to consciousness, so he sent for the surgeon on board the United States ship Wilmington, which was anchored near.

The doctor concluded that artificial respiration was the only way to save Dr. Spratt's life, and a number of negroes were employed alternately raising and lowering his arms. This was continued for ten hours, at the end of which time Dr. Spratt awakened up and in a short time was out of danger. This is the first instance in which the sting of the fish has threatened serious results.—New York World.

First Princess to Ride in Bloomers.

Princess Louise of Saxony is the first princess to wear bloomers. The bicycling craze early took hold of the women of European royal families, just as it has of women everywhere. The King of Italy was opposed to it and Emperor William became angry when his sisters and cousins persisted in wheeling around the country lanes of Germany, but they were loath to permit it. Princesses cannot do as other mortals and so they had to forego bloomers and cling to the drop frame bicycle. But now Princess Louise has thrown over the conventions and rides in comfort. The princess is the wife of George, the heir to the throne and a brother of the king. She herself is an archduchess of Austria-Hungary. She is 55 years of age and has two sons.

French Device Against Fire.

The Theatre Francaise, at Paris, has a peculiar device to insure the greatest possible safety for the audience. Not only can the scene be separated from the audience by a hermetically closing steel curtain, but the roof of the scene can be uncovered at a moment's notice, so that a draught of air is produced, which carries away the smoke and noxious gases produced in the fire. These, it is said, constitute the greatest danger to the audience, often rendering escape quite impossible. It is on the scene that the fire usually breaks out.

Useful There.

"Hopsmith ought to take his wife with him to the Klondike."

"Any special reasons?"

"Yes; I've noticed she always does their snow shoveling at home."—Detroit Free Press.

The sweetest smile is always bestowed on somebody else.

DOINGS OF WOMEN

JEALOUSY AND HAPPY LIFE.

THAT is the question that bothers many a wife. To be loved devotedly is the ambition of every woman, but to have that love take the form of exacting suspicion, or a sort of affectionate jailership, is not always desirable. Opinions galore are given on this topic and we can only judge from the lives that come closest to us, in fact the lives that are lived under our observation.

To begin with there is a couple happy as two young lovers, the husband, however, so insanely jealous of his wife that he has broken off even her women friendships. If she were to walk as far as the gate with another man a tragedy would be the almost certain result. Yet, as we said before, they are both serenely happy. Would they be so if circumstances brought about a new existence and set up new conditions? Let us hope so, for it would be a pity to spoil their illusions. From them the thought wanders to another couple, who see no reason, because they care more for each other than anyone else in the world, why all the other pleasant people should be excluded from their companionship. The wife dances, talks and drives with other men. The husband dances, talks and drives with other women. There is no question of jealousy because there is perfect confidence. When they are together they are not bored. The husband is pleased to have his wife admired and she is happy to find that she has not married a freak whom no one else would want. It is a hard question to decide and one upon which the parties themselves alone should sit in judgment, but it is our belief that jealousy is but another name for selfishness, rather than an indication of any overpowering affection.—Philadelphia Times.

Scientific Shirking.

No woman's strength is equal to the demands made upon it by claims—domestic, social and intellectual—of these latter days, and since this fact is indisputable why not look the problem squarely in the face and decide calmly when to shirk? The question, of course, chiefly concerns the housekeeper; she who endeavors to keep a house up to concert pitch of tidiness and not just occasionally and in spots, either; but all over and all the time. Besides the mere sweeping, dusting, arranging and menu-providing to be superintended, there are, too, the hospitality that she must be ever ready to offer smilingly, and the duties to herself—not to speak of church and charitable work, club life and the claims of society. One cannot do everything; why try? Of course, the question at once presents itself: Where shall the remedy be applied? In answer to which common sense, system, a right estimate of essentials and self-control may be suggested as the best aids to the conscience in deciding what shall be left undone. With a judicious application of "scientific shirking" there need be no lasting truth to this statement. However degenerate it may sound, "shirking" is the only thing by which a woman can, under the pressure of present living, hope to keep her health and to escape a care-crazed brain.

Care of the Hands.

The first necessity in the care of the hands is to keep them white and clean. For the roughest of the housework as much as is possible should be done in gloves.

With the determination to do so, it will be surprising how few of these daily occupations cannot be literally "handled with gloves."

The difference in the texture of the skin, and the ability to cleanse it, will amply repay the housewife for the sacrifice of her old gloves and prejudices.

As a rule, for washing the hands, neither very hot nor very cold water should be used.

A few drops of ammonia or a small quantity of borax may be added to soften the water.

Ground mustard is excellent for cleaning the hands after having handled strong-smelling substances.

After having the hands a long time in water, rub with a little vinegar or lemon juice, and then with oatmeal.

Chokers and Ties.

Collars of dresses are made very plain and smooth. The latest one is of velvet folded plainly about the throat without a bow, and pinned with a round jeweled clasp. Tailor gowns and skating costumes are worn with a big cravat bow of plaid silk or velvet, or a large, rich-looking scarf pinned about the throat, the long ends reaching to the waist. Capes of fur and velvet are worn with a lace scarf with a big bow in front.

Chapped Hands.

Chapped hands are the bete noire of the average woman during cold weather, but a little care will soon obviate the difficulty. Wipe quite dry after washing, and then rub in a few drops of glycerine diluted with water, wiping thoroughly again, and taking care to wear none but loose gloves when out of doors.

Woman in Business.

She had served acceptably as treasurer of the club for a little over a year, and that was an exceptional record, observes the Chicago Post. "Don't you have difficulty in balancing your books?" they asked. "Oh, dear, no," she replied. "Why, it's the easiest

thing in the world. I just add up what I have received and subtract from that what I have paid out to show what is due the club, and then I make my husband give me a check for the amount. There's really nothing hard about keeping books when you know how."

Shrewish Wives of Famous Men.

Ben Jonson had a shrew for a wife, who used to go to the ale room after him and bring him home, scolding all the way.

Boswell, Johnson's biographer, married a scold, and in his "Uxoriana" recorded faithfully all her snappish sayings and his own answers.

Rohault, the philosopher, had a wife whose opinion of him was so high that she sat at the door of his lecture-room and refused to admit any but well-dressed persons.

The great Dr. Cadogan married a lady several years older than himself. She was jealous, and in company accused him of poisoning her; whereupon he told the company they were welcome to open her at once and show her her mistake.

The famous Rev. Andrew Bell had a virago wife, who left him and then devoted her time to abusing him by mail. She once addressed a letter to him: "To that Supreme of Rogues, who looks the Hang-dog that he is, Doctor Andrew Bell."

British Woman Lawyer.

The first and only woman allowed to practice in a supreme court in British dominions is Miss Ethel R. Benjamin, who last year graduated from Ottaga University at the head of her class in



MISS ETHEL R. BENJAMIN.

every branch of the law. The New Zealand courts immediately admitted her to the bar, although in Great Britain and British possessions there is a prejudice or conservatism that has prevented any other woman from being thus honored.

Senora De Lome.

Senora De Lome, as the wife of the blundering Spanish minister is called, suffered greatly on account of the disgrace and humiliation which her husband brought upon his family and country by the writing of the foolish letter. The senora was one of the most popular women in Washington. If De Lome had submitted that letter to his wife it probably would not have been sent to Spain.

A Costly Veil.

It required 500 hands to make the bridal veil of the Princess Margaret of Prussia. It was composed of 500 different pieces, all the work being done with the needle. The several pieces, each of which required ten days for completion, were joined by the most skillful lacemakers in a pattern which appeared to be all the work of the same pair of hands.

Women Laborers in Germany.

There are in Germany no less than 2,000 women marble workers, 370 female blacksmiths, 300 petticoated masons, 147 female tinners, besides 50 roadmakers, 53 slaters, 19 clockmakers, 7 armors, all of the gentler sex, also 3 lady chimney sweepers, and a number of quarrywomen and female workers in sewers.

Diet in Cold Weather.

If you would preserve the beauty of your skin do not indulge too freely on cold winter mornings in over-rich food, such as buckwheat cakes and sausages. And remember that fruit is just as essential to your diet in cold weather as in warm—indeed, more so, as we have fewer green vegetables.

Of Interest to Women.

A girl has only to start some unusual enterprise, and publish the fact that she is doing it to get money to send herself to college, in order to be overwhelmed with all manner of proposals of marriage.

Mrs. Lucretia B. Hubbell, the first American woman aeronaut, once made a balloon ascension during which the balloon burst, floated seven miles and finally let her down unhurt in a New Jersey clover field.

Ellen Terry has a very simple recipe for the retention of youth and beauty. You must work till tired, sleep till rested, have plenty of fresh air, live in cool rooms, take a daily sponge bath and eat the simplest food.

No sooner was La Froude started in Paris with women for composers and printers than the government interfered with it for violating the law prohibiting night work for girls, recently passed at the instance of the advocates of woman's rights.