

## FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

### Climate and Food on Wool.

In a recent article the Western Rural says that climate has an effect upon wool, and to prove it, cites the fact that the New England mills pay a higher price for wool that comes from Southern Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and portions of Western Virginia than for wool which comes from any part of the United States. There is a different texture to it. That climate has some effect is no doubt true, but the effect is rather indirect than direct. It has been claimed that the soil has an effect. That is true, too, but it is an indirect effect. The wool and fur of animals in a cold climate differ from the wool and fur of animals in a warm climate. But whether as cold as "Greenland's icy mountains" will not cause wool to grow. It is a wise provision of nature that the animal in a cold country shall be protected, but nature furnishes the covering by giving the animal a larger capacity for the consumption of food. This difference is due, not to a cold or warm temperature, but to the food. It is possible, too, that in certain sections there is greater system in management. Do not let us get the idea into our heads that anything, climate or other circumstances, can relieve us from the responsibility of good management.

### Excessive Swarming.

It is easy to get lots of bees and little honey, says the Iowa Homestead. Expense of hives to shelter bees that only board themselves is a burden, and it is unsatisfactory to lug hives in and out of cave or cellar for the mere fun of the thing. We use hives that are interchangeable—one will sit on top of the other. It can be tied to any height. In the season of 1888, when bees got into swarming spree and got beyond our control, and when we were too busy to potter and fuss with them, we just let them swarm, hiving and saving all we could. We hived them on clean, new frames, with starters. When the fall honey was at its best, last August, we doubled up ten stands in an experiment. To do this, first set the clean, bright combs of hives to be united in the stand to be placed on top. Place it on the other, in which has been placed the brown comb containing brood and most of honey. They will fight some, but if honey is coming in fast it will not last long. Smoke them severely and drum on the side of hive and set them to roaring, and they will soon kill off one queen and get acquainted. These five stands gained 400 pounds surplus in large frames, which brought \$45, selling at 2 to 3 cents less per pound than section honey.

### Chicken Cholera.

The Poultry-Keeper remedy is doubtless a good one, and is as follows: "Add a teaspoonful of strong liquid carbolic acid to one and a half pints of water, and let the birds eat what they will of it. If they do not eat the next teaspoonful of the water twice a day; the same with turkeys. If they do not improve, take one gill crude petroleum, one gill kerosene oil, one tablespoonful of pulverized boracic acid, and one teaspoonful of carbolic acid. Shake well before using, and give a few drops down the throat of the sick bird twice a day. Keep the bird warm and dry, and give no drinking water with this treatment. If they will eat, give the soft food (corn meal is best), mixed with the carbolic acid and water." Another good remedy that has been recommended is sulphuric acid of soda, 4 parts; red pepper, 1 part; rosin, 1 part; rhubarb, 1 part. Give each fowl a teaspoonful, and repeat every hour until relieved. It is a strong purgative, and after clearing out the germs of disease give each bird a few drops of tincture of iron in a spoonful of warm water.

### Keeping Sweet Potatoes.

We would say to a correspondent who inquires about keeping sweet potatoes, says the Western Rural, that they can be kept for several months in an ordinary cellar if he is careful in handling them. They should be thoroughly dried before being put away, and so carefully handled as not to bruise them. The drying may be done in the sun, spreading them out carefully so that the sun will dry them, and carefully covering them at night so that the dew will not get on them. Or they may be dried in a kiln. For family use drying in the sunshine would of course, be the cheapest and most answer all purposes. The cellar in which they are put will need to be well ventilated, and it is better when possible to put them away so that the air can have free access through them.

### Dressing Grass Land.

Some farmers top-dress their grass land directly after haying. Others prefer to wait until late in the fall. Those who have tried both methods prefer to top-dress late in the season. When the manure is spread upon the fields directly after haying, if there is a protracted spell of dry weather, the dressing becomes dry and hard and it takes a long time to tender it soluble, so that its fertilizing elements can be appropriated by the grass roots. When applied just before the ground freezes the action of the frosts serves to disintegrate the lumps. The fall rains and early snow render it soluble, and its effects will be more plainly visible in early spring. Late top-dressing is preferable on the whole.

### Catching Hawks.

If there is some predatory enemy of the poultry that diminishes their numbers by day it is probably the hawk. He will pounce down at the most unexpected times and swoop up chickens, tearing them to pieces for his bloody feast. Set a pole in the ground fifteen or more feet high, squaring the top just large enough to hold a steel trap already set. No net will be used, but the trap should be firmly bound to the pole with rope or chain. The hawk will quickly trap himself, when he lights to make his customary observations.—American Cultivator.

### The Value of Bran.

Farmers who live near flouring mills can buy bran and other ship stuffs more cheaply in August and September than at any other season of the year. The demand for this is less now than it is later in the season, when other feed becomes scarce. Besides, millers are filling up all available bins with wheat. Bran, in proportion to the space it occupies costs little, and the profit on it is small. If farmers have an extra dry room they can hardly put it to better use than filling it with bran and fine middlings.

### Feeding Pig Pigs.

The most convenient and the easiest way to feed pig pigs is to give them

## THE MYSTERIOUS MESSENGER.

An Envelope That Caused a Father's Hair to Turn White.

It was a few evenings ago that an ex-congressman sat with a couple of newspaper correspondents and a government official in the latter's room in a big hotel in this city, says a writer in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. They were discussing politics, and the ex-congressman was talking when he was interrupted by a knock at the door. In response to an invitation the door was opened and a messenger boy stood at the entrance. In his hand was an envelope with a heavy black border. It was such as those used to enclose a death message or to indicate deep mourning. The boy paused for a moment, evidently speculating in his mind as to the proper person to receive the letter.

Finally he tendered it to the ex-congressman, who was nearest the door. That individual turned pale and trembled, but extended his hand as if to take the messenger. He hesitated an instant and his hand dropped nerveless. A second time he essayed to take the message from the boy, and again he failed. It was only after the third effort that he was apparently able to reach it, and by that time the government official for whom it was intended had come to the door, read the address and took the message from the trembling hand that had received it.

"Ah," said he, after opening and reading it, "it's only a note from an office sealer. Why it should be so important I do not know. As the office sealer is a woman, I presume it is merely a feminine freak."

Everybody had noticed the strange demeanor of the ex-congressman, and, observing that an explanation was expected, he finally said:

"I think the use of black-bordered envelopes ought to be prohibited by law. The very sight of one unnerve me. When I tell you why you may doubt the truth of the tale, but it is true, nevertheless. Ten years ago I was making a political canvass in my district. At the close of a speech one afternoon I received the only information home stating that my father was ill, my life was dying, and that if I wished to see him alive I must come at once. I went immediately to the hotel, took my satchel and started for the depot. There was no passenger train for some hours, but a freight train was pulling out in about an hour. It was late when I reached the little town on the river where I could take a boat for home. I hurried to the wharf and found that the steambot would not pass until after midnight, and that I would thus be delayed many hours. My wife was under the impression that the steambot or hire a boat and leave at once. While I stood on the wharf hesitating a messenger boy suddenly appeared before me. Before I could say anything he thrust into my hand a white envelope with a heavy black border. A strong fragrance came over me, and it was only by a great effort that I was able to open the letter. The apprehension I felt in the few moments was awful, for I knew it must contain dreadful news. When finally I looked at the letter there appeared in a single hand the single sentence:

"You are dead."

I knew that I must hurry if I would see him alive. The message decided me, and at once I sought a boatman, and, securing his services, started down the river. I reached home some hours ahead of the steambot upon which I had originally intended to travel. I rushed to the house and was ushered into the presence of my dying boy. As I approached the bedside he recognized me with a smile, and then said:

"Papa, I've been waiting for you." "Those were his last words, and in a moment he was dead. I then knew that the message I had received had come from him, and that he had been waiting for me. None of my family or friends had seen the messenger boy did they know anything about it. Afterward I made the most searching inquiry at the town where I waited for the boat, but nobody had seen the messenger or ever heard of him. Not the slightest trace of him was to be found, and I was led to the conclusion that the messenger had never appeared to any one but me, and that I alone had seen the message.

"You can understand now why a black-bordered envelope always fills me with the greatest dread and apprehension, and why it was that I turned pale and trembled when the messenger boy who just appeared in the door tendered me the ominous looking message. I have never since that night, a feeling came over me such as I never knew since. The awful agony of that trip down the river will remain fresh in my memory until death ends all. When I reached home and stood at the bedside of my boy my hair was as white as snow. It has darkened some, but it will never be black again."

### A Card That Speaks for Itself.

Adjoining the Wesson farm I had a piece of land, writes Geo. Hubbard in the Flint, Mich., Journal. On the land was a barn, a well and some tile ditching. In the barn was some farming tools suitable to conducting scientific farming. The last time I inventoried my agricultural assets I was told that potato bug sprinklers, one half-dozen clippers and two cotton binder covers. They have been secured by some accumulating cuss, and if any friend should notice a chap decorated with a log chain, six clippers, two potato bug sprinklers and two canvases, each 9x17 feet in size, I wish they would tell the fellow he forgot to steal the drive-way, 200 yards of blind ditch, 197 stumps, and the mortgage covering the property. But if he will come back by appointment, divine or otherwise, I will fill his skin so full of bird shot and other chinking that his mother can't tell the seat of his pants from a colander.

### The Grave of Daniel Webster.

The tomb of Webster occupies the center of a large lot surrounded by a high iron fence. The vault is entirely covered by soil and is only opened on the death of one of the family. The tomb was last opened in 1862 to receive the remains of Fletcher Webster, who was shot and killed at the last battle of Bull Run. In the tomb are the bodies of children and grandchildren. Not a drop of Webster blood now remains in existence. The last living member of the family is the wife of Fletcher Webster. On her death the tomb will once more open to receive her remains, and will then be closed and sealed forever.

## A SNAKE DANCE.

Extraordinary Religious Ceremony of an Arizona Indian Tribe.

When we reached the top of the mesa, says a writer in the Globe-Democrat, we found the Indians in holiday attire, which in most instances consisted of a breech cloth of gaudy-colored stuff, and a bunch of eagle feathers fastened in the hair. The children ran about entirely nude, and it was wonderful to see them playing on the very brink of precipitous hundreds of feet high. They are climbers from the time they learn to crawl, for houses are generally entered by means of a ladder leading down into the interior from an opening in the roof. The Moquis have a host of gods, the principal one of whom is Omawuu, or cloud god, the deity who sends moisture to the earth. It is to him that their supplications are generally addressed. Instead of above the earth, they believe in the existence of the "Snake People," a supernatural race, who hold direct communication with the gods, and it is through them that the messages from the earth are delivered.

Snakes of all kinds are supposed to have sprung from the "Snake People," and to hold constant intercourse with them. For this reason they are regarded with superstitious awe. The snake dance is a festival in which the snakes are shown the greatest reverence, and songs are sung which are intended to express all of the wishes which the people wish the snakes to carry to the gods. After the dance the snakes are turned loose and are supposed to start immediately on their journey to the underworld, where they deliver their messages to the gods. The first preparation for the snake dance is the capture of a large number of all kinds of snakes. No particular species is required, but the rattlesnake is the kind usually taken, and they are brushed clean with sage and sage-brush of the mesas and plains. The snake dancers, some fifty in number, are made up of two mystic orders, the "Antelopes" and "Snakes," or snake men. The mysteries of these orders are kept a profound secret, and the information which their members will impart is that their souls have been transformed into the souls of antelopes and snakes. A Moqui of these orders will tell you with the greatest assurance, "I am a snake," or "I am an antelope," and he really seems to believe it himself.

The dance began with a low chant, in which the blessings of the gods were invoked, and the only musical accompaniment was the incessant shaking of rattles, and a low buzzing sound, which was made by the men. After the first chant ended, the antelope and snake men separated, the former drawing themselves up in a line to the right of the snake tent, and the latter moving in single file in a circle in front of them. One of the men of the snake tent entered the snake tent and in a moment emerged carrying a great rattlesnake in his mouth. The snake was held firmly between the dancer's teeth, and the head and body of the reptile were entirely free, the Indian carrying the snake in his mouth, closing his eyes and allowing himself to be led away at full speed by one of his companions, who continually stroked the head of the rattler with the eagle feather which he carried in his hand.

One after the other the snake men entered the snake tent and bringing out the rattlesnake, which had been removed. Some of the dancers carried as many as five or six small snakes in their mouths at one time, while others danced around with several in their hands. While the dance was going on the antelopes kept up a continual rattling of rattles, and chanted messages which they wished the snakes to carry to the gods. After all of the snakes had been removed from the tent the dancers gathered around a ring which had been marked on the ground by a circle of sacred meal, and a center stick, and the snake men were then free to enter the ring. For a moment there was a squirming, hissing mass in the ring, and then the dancers fearlessly thrust their hands among the snakes and boldly grasped as many as they could hold. Each man, with both hands full of snakes, then dashed away at full speed, and did not stop until he had made his way down the narrow trail into the valley below. Here the snakes were turned loose, some heading toward the south and others toward the remaining points of the compass.

### Alpine Funerals.

A clue to the origin of the Irish wake and other funeral pommposities, which we are sometimes inclined to regard as relics of barbarism, may be found in the funeral customs of some of the Alpine regions. The circle of acquaintance of the more prosperous people of the villages often extends over miles of country; and the friends of a deceased proprietor will make long journeys to attend his funeral. The dictates of hospitality require that their physical wants be provided for, or, if not, they will meet at the inn and naturally have something very like a feast. In some districts, even before death occurs and the patient is in his last agonies, all around are informed of the fact, and expected to make a ceremonial last visit. They enter the sick room, take a long look at the lying man and go their ways. After death, when the body has been prepared for burial, a table is spread covered with refreshments, and open house held till the funeral.

### Grant's Gallantry.

When the honors came upon the Grants, says America, the mistress of the white house began to renew the dream of her girlhood—to have her country straightened. "Wishing to surprise the president, Mrs. Grant, telling nobody, sent for the most eminent oculist in America. He willingly promised to undertake the operation which he assured her would be easy to accomplish and without danger. The good lady could not contain herself for joy and her husband took a way when she saw her husband, and confided to him her secret, the pleasure she had in store for him. He looked wistfully into those dear eyes which had held him with tender gaze through all the trials of a checked career, and said, in his simple way, "My dear, I wish you would not change them. I love them as they are, and they would seem strange if altered." Nor Laurence, nor Romeo; nor lover of any clime or age, ever spoke words of tenderer gallantry.

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## TUSSEL WITH A GATER.

Exciting Encounter with a Big Mouthed Monster.

Following are the particulars of a remarkable adventure of W. H. Abbott, of indigo and racing fame, as narrated by a writer in the Military Gazette: It was in the rains when the jamadar told us that there was a huge alligator under the bridge of the river. Sending for a gun and a couple of bullets, we went up to the bridge, and, sure enough, about 20 yards off, there was an enormous "gharial" some 20 feet long, with his head just visible above the water. A well-directed shot caught him between the eyes, and the brute, mortally wounded, plunged into deep water, rolling over and over, and was carried by the tide down toward the bungalow, which was a quarter of a mile off. Abbott seized a long rope lying there, and rapidly made a slip-knot in it, and declaring that he was not going to lose so lovely a skin, kicked off his boots, and just as he was in one sock, breeches and shirt—jumped into the water, and, taking a lot of other natives the other end of the rope to hold. He got well into the middle of the stream and was quietly treading water while we were all anxiously watching, when suddenly within two feet of the swimmer the alligator plunged straight up out of the water. Most foremost, as alligators generally do when hit in the head. Without the least hesitation Abbott flung both arms right around the snout and a regular rough-and-tumbled ensued.

Presently the brute's whole body appeared. He was swimming on his back, evidently trying the whole disengaged the slip-knot, which had now got tight round his own arm, and to shove it over the brute's head. Then the alligator started swimming and we followed down the bank, when, just as we were opposite the bungalow, he suddenly died, brought his tail out of the water, and with a fearful side sweep capsize Abbott, snapping at him as he fell. Then came another fight such as I never wish again to see, the pair eventually disappearing beneath the water. We hauled away at the rope, and in a few minutes reached the bank, where we were met by the jamadar, who had followed us down the bank, when, just as we were opposite the bungalow, he suddenly died, brought his tail out of the water, and with a fearful side sweep capsize Abbott, snapping at him as he fell. Then came another fight such as I never wish again to see, the pair eventually disappearing beneath the water. 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