

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

Haphazard methods don't go in the poultry yard.

Put a little alkali with the red clover when sowing.

Let the aim be not only to improve your methods, but your habits as well.

To keep the cream intended for churning uniform it should be stirred daily.

Shade is needed for the chicken. Plum trees do well when planted in the chicken yard.

It is the early chick that not only catches the worm, but that makes the most profit for its owner.

Better be late in planting corn than to be in haste to get the corn in while the ground is clammy and cold.

In pruning always cut as close as possible, and in this way, make it possible for the tree to cover the wound.

Don't plant trees if you are not willing to give them the attention they need afterwards to make healthy, vigorous growth.

Did you plant any trees on Arbor day? Not too late yet. Do it by all means, and succeeding generations will rise up and call you blessed.

The farmer who will not improve is the farmer who will tell you that the farmer's lot is the worst kind of slavery and that there is no money in farming.

The plow with a dull point inflicts a double hardship. It is hard for the horse before the plow to pull it and it is hard on the man behind the plow to hold it in the furrow.

It is foolish to let strawberry plants fruit the first season. Pick off any blossoms which may appear and you will reap your reward in vigorous plants which will yield abundant harvest the second season.

Watch the nest as well as the sitting hen for lice and mites. Make her task as easy as possible by giving her a clean place to incubate the eggs. Every sitting hen should be dusted with lice powder.

To prepare poisoned corn for gophers, field mice, crows, etc., dissolve strychnin sulphate, one-half ounce, in half gallon of water by heating gently for half an hour, then soak the corn until the solution is all absorbed.

Here is what a western hog raiser has to say concerning the up-to-date hog: "He comes in the early spring-time and gains at the rate of one and a half to two pounds per day. He is a finished hog and ready for the market by December. He is often a market topper, for he is plump and full of the right kind of meat."

Nuts and fruits exported from this country during eight months ended in February amounted to \$14,926,760; over one-third as much as the wheat exports amounted to and almost as much as the value of the beef exports, for which this country is famous. Have you a part in this splendid development of the fruit and nut growing industry?

Many a farmer who is not content to let the weeds find a foothold on his farm, is letting the weeds of many a bad habit and ill-temper thrive in his life. Weed out the bad, sow the good seed, cultivate diligently and thou shalt reap a wholesome harvest of contentment and happiness, and thy neighbors and thy friends will rejoice with thee in the good work wrought.

Never suffer yourself to be impatient with the weather conditions. These things are in higher and wiser hands than ours and it were worse than folly to say harsh, uncomplimentary things about them. Take the weather as it comes, be sweet and hopeful, and try to adapt work and crops to the weather conditions. Ten chances to one it will come out all right.

We want to warn our readers to be on the lookout for gymnosporangium juniperinum. It has, we are informed by a recent work on plant diseases, an epiphyllous sporogonia and a hypophyllous pseudoperidia. This description will make identification easy and enable the intelligent readers of Meadowbrook Farm Notes to be prepared to fight the disease, for to be forewarned is to be forearmed.

We have remarked on former occasions that the "low down" wagon of the farm is "way up" in the estimation of the farmers who have used it, and here is one farmer's testimony in corroboration: "I could not get along without my low down handy wagon. It is economy to have one, as one man can haul as much on it in a day as two can on a high wheeled wagon. It is also much handier to load and unload. The wheels are steel and are five inches wide. I can haul manure on field when ground is soft, where a narrow tire could not go, and if I had but one wagon on my farm, it would be a low down handy wagon."

Strong chicks hatch from early fresh-laid eggs by vigorous fowls.

Elbow grease and gunpoint make the winning team on the farm.

Corn diet for the ewes will make them feverish and cause lack of milk.

The good-habit horse is easily spoiled under the management of the bad-habit man.

With all your planning for the work of spring and summer don't forget to plan for the harvest.

A pint of strong cider vinegar and a quart of linseed oil make a good furniture polish. Try it.

Look after the hog lice sharply when hog cholera breaks out, for it is said they spread the disease rapidly.

In sections of the country where the soil is too poor for general farming, the poultry business can be conducted successfully.

The choice of crops should be as much a matter of deliberate, careful planning as that of their planting, cultivation and harvesting.

Grass is as good for hogs as it is for cattle. Give them a pasture, and they will do more than the square thing by you in return.

If hilly ground is plowed crosswise of the slope the chances for washing under heavy rains is much decreased over what it would be if the furrows run up and down.

Does that collar fit? Perhaps it did at the start but it needs readjustment now. Attention to these little details will give you a larger return in service from your team.

The separator must be kept clean by washing thoroughly each time after using. The slightest taint of foulness will affect all the milk and cream that passes through it.

Horses at present prices are money-makers for the farmer who raises them. Why not raise a few? Be particular about the sire you use. Go far to get the services of a good one.

The brooder that is handled right is all right, to be sure, but there never was a brooder invented which could beat the old hen for motherliness and thrift in rearing the little chicks.

By the way, how is your calendar scrap book getting on? You ought to be adding to it and you ought to be jogging your memory from the clippings and memoranda you have put therein.

Several professors in the Utah agricultural college have resigned owing to the action of the legislature of the state in abolishing engineering from the course of study. They felt it was a backward step.

Here is a point for the housewife to remember when sweeping the carpet. Put a little kerosene upon salt and then scatter over the carpet and sweep. The dust will come up better and not injure the carpet.

Land intended for parsnip growing should be deeply and finely worked, and supplied with a liberal amount of available plant food, so that the young plants will make a quick, strong start and strike down straight and smooth.

Don't be afraid of the truth. Look it squarely in the face, and if it is the truth and you are wrong, acknowledge it and get right. Don't go on living in error, whether it has to do with farm methods or the treatment of your family. Get right and then go ahead.

The man who doesn't take pure delight in seeing his stock grow and thrive, and who does not find real pleasure in feeding and caring for them, cannot expect to have much success. A close sympathy should always exist between stock and stockman.

If you want to really know what you can do with that bad piece of road which lies alongside of your place, rig up a road drag and spend a little time dragging the dirt up to the center. One season's faithful attention at the right time will make a different road of it.

Cement mixed with lime sulphur wash to make it stick to the trees is an innovation in the spraying line which an orchardist in British Columbia is said to be using. The plan is to add four pounds of cement to each 50 gallons of the spraying mixture. This is done after the lime and sulphur have been boiled.

Do you put the horse in the stall at night with all the sweat of a faithful day's work upon him, with never a stroke of currycomb or brush to make him comfortable, and in condition for a good night's rest? Stop and think how you would feel in the morning if you took no time to clean up and slept in your sweat-soaked clothes all night.

A prominent veterinarian has recommended the following as a preventive for abortion in a dairy herd: Viburnum prunifolium in two ounce doses, two or three times per day, starting one to two months before the usual time of abortion. It is a sedative and tonic to the uterine and ovarian nerve centers, and a powerful antispasmodic.

The officers of the National Dairy Show association have arranged to accommodate classes in student judging of dairy stock at the show to be held in Chicago in October. Five dairy breeds are to be represented, Jersey, Holstein, Guernsey, Ayrshire and Brown Swiss, and there will probably be 200 cows. Each breed will be represented by an expert judge, selected by the association, to which the breed belongs. Classes from the various colleges will be admitted. The rules and regulations governing the International Live Stock Judging contest will be used in the National dairy show contest, as far as they may apply.

COLD IN THE TROPICS

EXPERIENCE OF FRENCH EXPEDITION IN WILDS OF ANDES.

Average Height in Which Explorers Lived and Worked Was 12,000 Feet Above Sea Level—Hard to Secure Servants.

Paris.—A scientific expedition which has spent six years in the wilds of the Andes has just returned to France and Col. Bourgeois, its chief, has given some remarkable details of its experiences. It was organized to make a new set of observations from which to verify the length of a degree on the equator—the unit upon which the French standard of measurement and the metric system are based.

The site chosen for the work was the neighborhood of Quito, Ecuador. It was so high up in the mountains that although in the very center of the torrid zone the men lived under arctic conditions. The party consisted of ten commissioned and 27 noncommissioned officers. With three exceptions the entire party spent the entire six years in the work. One of those who gave up was Commandant Massenet, who preceded Col. Bourgeois at the head of the expedition.

Loneliness was one of the things the men had to fight hardest against. They lived to a large extent amid fields of snow and ice. The country below them was often invisible from clouds hanging about the mountains. Yet their situation differed from that of arctic explorers in this respect, that they knew thousands of people were within comparatively easy reach. The temptation to descend to the seacoast cities was therefore almost irresistible at times.

Of course the men did not spend the whole time in the mountains. This would have been almost impossible, because they had not merely the vigor of the cold to contend against but also the enervating effects of the rarefied atmosphere of the mountains. The average height at which they lived and worked was 12,000 feet above sea level. Cooking was difficult at that elevation and the proper feeding of the men was one of the most difficult problems. Another practical difficulty was securing servants and laborers. The natives consented to go into the hills only at high pay and on urgent persuasion and they deserted at the least provocation. The winters were especially trying. Bands of wolves wandered about the camp and devoured the refuse thrown out even to saddle of mules and horses.

Notwithstanding the obstacles, 74 geodetic stations were erected. A chain of geodetic and astronomical observations covering the entire six years was secured, including the establishment of the meridian of Quito, with the nearest approach to scientific accuracy that is possible. The remaining error, it is said, is infinitesimal. The result of the observations was not worked out. This is to be done in Paris now by a corps of scientists.

The expedition cost a good deal of money. Besides the pay of the members the French government contributed 40,000 francs (\$8,000). The balance of the expenses, about \$20,000, has been subscribed by Prince Roland Bonaparte.

While the members of the expedition confined themselves strictly to their mathematical work, Dr. Paul Rivet, staff surgeon in the French army, who was detailed as its medical attendant, made a remarkable collection of photographs of the country and people and brought home also an invaluable ethnological gathering of native implements and fabrics.

MACHINE FINDS OIL WELLS.

Terre Haute Men Organizing Company to Sell Device.

Terre Haute, Ind.—Business men of Terre Haute have formed a \$25,000 stock company to put a device for locating oil wells on the market. Oil well men call it an "oil smeller." Its owner, Harry Kurtz, of Princeton, Ind., says it will tell if there is oil even at a depth of 1,650 feet.

The machine is not disclosed to the public yet, but Kurtz says he has been experimenting with it for two years and that it has never failed. The presence of oil under the surface of the earth is made known by an electrical reaction process, and Kurtz says that with the machine he has selected the location for 80 wells, mostly in the Illinois field, with which it is now thought Terre Haute is connected.

The Standard Oil company's representatives have leased many thousand acres in this part of Indiana, and big independent operators have done likewise.

Taking advantage of the speculative fever, local promoters have formed companies and are offering the stock under glaring advertisements in the newspapers.

Polishing the Pole.

In the railway station at Wilkes-barre, which has a large Slavic population, is a sign over the bootblack stand bearing the legend:

Shine five cents. Polish ten cents. An Irishman stood in front of it the other day apparently plunged in profound thought. At length he pulled his pipe from his mouth and spat vigorously.

"Faith, and they'd be doin' well to ch'arge double for dagoes, too," was his emphatic comment. —Harper's Weekly.

Long Fast Cures Disease.

Webster City, Ia.—Mrs. Harriett M. Clox, a beautiful and prominent society woman, has just tasted food for the first time in 45 days. She entered the voluntary fast to cure herself of rheumatism, which had crippled her. Her first breakfast was made up of orange juice. Though she had gone without food for so long she was able to answer the telephone and inform friends of her condition. She says the pain and swelling in her legs are almost gone. She believes dieting can completely cure many diseases.

A Meeting of Mischance.



Photograph of King Edward of England and King Alfonso of Spain taken at Cartagena on the occasion of the visit of the British ruler and the Queen to meet Alfonso and the Queen Dowager.

DUELS IN GERMANY.

MORE THAN 3,000 CONTESTS DURING YEAR OF 1905.

Nuisance Knows No Bounds in Universities in That Country—Students Slightly Injured About Face Try to Retain Scars.

Berlin.—Baroness Von Eschlinger, young and romantic, was courted by a student in the University of Lublin, but before consenting to be his wife she exacted as a condition that prior to the wedding day he must fight a duel and get a scarred face.

Among the students in the German universities the duelling nuisance knows no bounds and is increasing at such a rate that alarm has begun to be felt by the university authorities, but the difficulty of distinguishing between duels carried out as sport and those in satisfaction of honor is very great. It is computed that in 1905 more than 3,000 duels were fought. Students only slightly wounded in the face take care to rub vinegar or some other irritant into the wound, that the scar may retain a fine, bright red color. There is nothing the ordinary student is prouder of than these facial adornments.

ODD DROUGHT FOR A TOWN.

Grant, Mich., Will Go Dry Till Some One Builds Hotel.

Grant, Mich.—At a special meeting of the Grant village council the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 5 to 1:

"Resolved, That we, the council of the village of Grant, Newargo county, Mich., do declare that we will hereafter approve of no saloon bonds within the corporate limits of said village of Grant, except when the proposed saloon business is to be connected with a hotel, as hotel bar, such hotel to be constructed of brick, stone or other substantial material, other than a frame building, and steam heated.

"Provided, that whenever any responsible party or person shall own, in fee simple, a suitable location within said village, and shall contract for the erection thereon of a suitable hotel building, to be erected within three months of the date of said contract, of sufficient proportions, then we, the said village council, will immediately grant a license for a saloon, to be conducted in connection with a hotel.

"Provided, further, that a copy of the contract, giving specifications for the building proposed to be erected, shall be filed with the clerk of said village council."

Grant has long ago outgrown her hotel service, every day from one to ten persons being unable to obtain accommodations. This condition has so

Is Too Fat To Drown.

300 Pound German Floats Like Cork When He Attempted Suicide.

New York.—Discovering "after repeated efforts to drown himself, that he floated like a cork, an obese German bent on suicide decided to try to end it all by some other method than that of immersion. His efforts at suicide in the Atlantic basin moved the dock loungers to unfeeling mirth. The dock loungers to unfeeling mirth. The dock loungers to unfeeling mirth. The dock loungers to unfeeling mirth.

But it did not end. Coming up from his dive, the fat man floated face upward. Again and again he tried to dive under the surface, but his body merely rolled over, and each attempt found him floating with his face upward. He was trying for the fifth time to

DEAD MERCHANT

HE SOMETIMES DRIVES TRADE AWAY FROM THE TOWN.

INDUCANCE TO LIVE MERCHANT

Are we Much to be Feared as the Competition of the Chicago House—Should Be Assured or Served.

Why should the home merchant be patronized instead of the mail order house? The subject has been exhausted almost and from all points of view, and all sides there is no valid reason why the merchant at home should not—accepting two, price and articles wanted.

It is not the invention of the writer to jot down a pleasant flow of language or to produce an interesting bit of reading matter, but merely to state in a few simple sentences what I have seen and learned of the competition between the catalogue houses and the home merchants. In the first place no one community suffers greatly in this competition. That makes the problem all the more difficult in solution. I mean by this that the majority of buyers in no one community purchase by mail. The business of the mail order house is scattered over a large territory, the number of orders coming from any one community compared with the whole is comparatively small to the number of orders in the town. There is an exception to this in a community where the home merchants are dead ones and ask exorbitant prices.

To illustrate. There is a little city in the central part of Wisconsin, a beautiful little place, with its shady streets and pleasant homes. It has several general stores owned by live, wide-awake merchants, who are hustling for business, yet are always pleasant and ready to visit with a customer. They are not put out at any time to show goods, taking down bolt after bolt of cloth and maybe then not making even a five-cent sale. They take that as part of their business; they are always

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Edward T. Hale

SOME REMARKABLE HORSES.

Wonderful Stories About the Steeds of Famous Men.

In his letters to Lord Granville, published by the Royal Philosophical Society, who was also greatly interested in natural history, Snitkion, the founder of the Smithsonian Institution in America, relates how the horse of Alexander the Great, Bucephalus, would at night, on hearing a blast of the trumpet from the soldiers on guard showing the approach of the enemy, run at great speed to his master's tent and with his teeth grab the sleeping monarch and shake him until he sprang into the saddle and galloped toward the enemy.

Also that the great Caliph Haroun-Raschid in the eighth century in marching toward the forces of Queen Irene



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will to send post-haste to the city for any article they may not have in stock that is wanted by a customer; their stocks are up-to-date and free from shelf-worn goods. These men make the humblest customers feel welcome in their stores, and particular attention is paid to waiting on children, giving them even better measure and quality than their elders would receive. And these men are advertisers. Their ads in the local papers are changed regularly and show time and study. They meet the mail order man more than half way in special sales and clearing of odds and ends. Here is an instance where there is no legitimate excuse for a person sending away after goods. And the people do not. Very few articles of general merchandise are shipped into that city. The buyer and seller are working in harmony to their own betterment and advantage.

But look at the other side. The city which we have in mind has one hardware and one furniture store. Both have fairly good stocks for the size of their circle of trade, but just step into either one of these stores. The proprietor may be in the back room or the back yard for all you know, but by and by some stir is heard and leisurely he makes his appearance—neither store has a need of a clerk—and probably with some grumbles about being disturbed, asks what is wanted. "There might as well be picnics in the store announcing 'Buy what I've got and keep still' and 'We are busy, don't disturb us.' No effort is made to show you an article; nothing is ever taken down from the shelves unless directly asked for. Neither hardware nor furniture man acts willing to get what you want if he does not have it in stock. And again—neither one of these stores believe in advertising. They use no space in their home papers; a newcomer would never know the city possessed such places of business enterprise. Who ever heard of a country hardware or furniture store having a special sale, or harvest sale or the like? But why not? These two storekeepers are bitter against the mail order houses. I wonder why? I talked with the railroad agents in that little city and he said lots of hardware and furniture was shipped in. He said, "One day I made out an express order for \$34 to pay for a bill of hardware. I told the man to go up and see if the merchant couldn't fill the order. He went but soon came back, saying that he didn't have half of the stuff on hand and that he wouldn't cut a bit on what he did have."

of Constantinople constantly had a number of trained Arabian horses (direct descendants of the famous horse owned by Ishmael 4,000 years ago) thrown forward as scouts, who from time to time returned to camp and by a peculiar whinny and neigh reported the proximity of the enemy.

All Cutting Sawing.

Knives, no matter how carefully sharpened, are little saws; the grinding away of the steel, done by the stone, is not an even work, but when the edge gets thin in a process of tearing away tiny bits of steel by the grit of the stone. This tearing makes the teeth. A fine stone makes fine teeth, a coarse stone coarse teeth. A carving knife, used on meat, is sharpened on a coarse stone or a steel, and has coarse teeth, although its edge is thick. Its action in parting the meat is more that of a saw than a fine wedge. No matter how soft it may be, it will not cut easily unless it is drawn over the meat and not simply pressed down. A razor, however, with its paper-like edge, will cut into flesh with a simple pressure—it is a wedge dividing the fibers of flesh just as a wedge of iron divides the fibers of the log it splits. But a razor is a saw, too, only as it is ground on the flint stone and water finished with a leather strop, its teeth are very fine indeed—hundreds and hundreds to the inch of blade.—St. Nicholas.

The Actor's Complaint.

The physician looked grave. "I give you," he said, "but ten more years of work."

"Grinding his teeth, the actor hissed malevolently: "Curse you, why didn't you tell me this before? Are you aware that you have robbed me of at least seven farewell seasons?"

Where the Grand Opera Lies.

"What is difference as distinct from light opera?"

"Oh, you pretend to appreciate one, but you can appreciate the other."