

FARM TALK

Proper Care Of Cream.

To the Editor of The Homestead:
 Cream may be termed as the second step in dairying, and it requires still greater care in handling than milk. Carelessly handling cream, or the butter from it, is not as profitable as that which is properly cared for, nor is it fit to be taken into the human body as nourishment.
 While the separated cream is still warm, in fact, just as soon as it is separated, stir some fine, clean salt into it at the rate of a teaspoonful for every halfgallon of cream. This not only preserves the cream and prevents it from retrograding in quality, but the test thus will be raised. After salting the cream, place the can in an ice box or cold water, as the product should be cooled as quickly as possible to prevent the formation of germs. For the same reason, never mix the freshly-separated cream with that

which is cool, as the warm cream will raise the temperature of the cool causing germs to be formed.
 Keep the cream thoroughly mixed. When a separation of it is poured in with the older cream, stir it well. This will insure a uniformity in the age and quality, which is most essential to a high test or a maximum quantity of high grade butter. It is also best to have all cream in the same vessel as nearly the same age as possible, as the cream of varying ages will ripen unevenly, and is almost sure to yield a low test or poor butter. Never keep cream after it once ripens; either sell or churn it as soon as possible. Although slightly sour cream will test higher than the sweet, it should not be allowed to become so sour it gets a bitter taste, and when it gives off any odor, it is about past the stage when it should be classed as a food. It is also best to allow the sweet cream to stand mixed with the sour for

six to twelve hours before marketing it, so all of it will have reached the correct acidity to give a proper test.—M. Coverdell in The Iowa Homestead.

The Change In Farm Ideas.

Our older readers can remember the time when men did not farm for the purpose of making money. The farm was to them a place they could call their own, and where they could rear a family at the minimum expense. If in the timber country as in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, or Wisconsin, they cleared a few acres and built a home, added a few acres each year by clearing, allowed their cattle to pasture in the woods, and expected to supplement their supplies by hunting and fishing. If on the prairie, they built a home of some sort broke up part of a quarter, perhaps settled along streams for fuel and protection from wind, allowed their cattle to graze on the prairies and depended on this for winter forage. These were the "good old days" that old people talk about; and there were good things about them, but better in the way of reminiscence than of realization at the time.

Railroads came in and the farmer changed his ideals somewhat. He could secure a home, rear a family and make some money besides; for the railroads provided him with a market. The ideal of the farmer then was to get rich by growing grain. After the appearance of the reaper he aspired to do it in a wholesale way. His ideal of a farm was that of a bank which permitted of an unlimited checking. Unconsciously he became a miner of the soil rather than a creator of real values. Those also were good days—better in retrospect than in reality.

The failure of spring wheat, the introduction of corn pests, rusts and smuts, and the diminishing yield finally gave farmers a new ideal, that is, some of them; for quite a large number of farmers in all sections of the country have not passed beyond the second stage just mentioned. This ideal is a much higher one than that of the mere grain raiser, and it is the ideal of a large percent of our readers now. It is a good one, elevating, humanizing, compelling the farmer to broaden his field of knowledge, to study breeding, to study markets, to keep in touch with the doings of this great world generally. But this is not, after all, the highest ideal. We must pass beyond this.

The next ideal will be that of community life, of a rural civilization, of a state society that will furnish the maximum of comfort and pleasure with a minimum of toil and expense. The farmer's object is not merely to raise a family, nor merely to increase the number and quality of his live stock, nor to add field to field and farm to farm until there is no place for neighbors and schools and churches; but to rear amid culture and refinement a family of bright, intelligent, refined, stalwart sons and fair daughters, who can take their places in government, in society, in all that is really valuable and lasting, along side families grown under other conditions in town or city. We must learn to think about the farm as an ideal place to live, not merely to rear children, but the strongest and best children; not merely as a place to eat, drink and sleep, but to have the maximum of the comforts and the opportunities which our modern civilization affords. If we stop short of that we shall fall short both of our privilege and our duty.

The old days as we look back upon them, were good days; but there is a better day before the farmers of the West than realize, a loftier ideal than they now entertain. In those days there will be a revived country church, a rural school that will afford an education such as can be found now not even in the cities, an education without the temptations of the cities, an education that can be applied on the farm and in social and political life. We shall not reach this until we form an ideal, for man never gets any in advance of his ideals.—Wallace's Farmer.

Healthy Hogs.

Over large sections in Illinois, Missouri and some other states this summer large numbers of hogs have died from cholera and other diseases. For several years farmers in general have suffered small losses from such diseases, and perhaps some have become careless in the matter.

It has been said by good authority that almost all human diseases and ailments are caused by laziness. This may be an exaggeration, yet there is much truth in it. Cleanliness and good sanitary conditions promote health among human beings and the lower domestic animals. Dirt and filth breed the germs of disease. Many persons with severe chronic ailments go away to some noted doctor or sanitarium for expert treatment, while all the treatment of value they receive is a daily bath. If they only understood the value of a clean skin in relation to good health, they could bathe at home and save the cost of going several hundred miles for their baths.

It is similarly true with hogs also though many think that hogs thrive in filth. It is very likely that many hogs this summer dead from being compell-

ed to drink water from filthy ponds. Water in ponds this year has been low, and hence very stagnant. Such water will cause swine disease, and it is injurious, to say the least, for other animals. Hogs may wallow with impunity in mud holes and dirty ponds, but had results will follow if these are their only source for drinking water.

For hogs, and all other animals as well, good wells or cisterns are a paying investment, and no other water should be given to animals except at seasons when there is pure water in the pastures. More attention to a pure and constant water supply for hogs means fewer losses.

It has been proved beyond question that mosquitoes, flies and some other insects carry and transmit disease germs. There is scarcely a question but that hog lice carry and transmit germs of hog diseases. Kerosene, grease, and a small proportion of carbolic acid will effectively rid lice from hogs. We apply the melted mixture to the animals as they drink from the trough, rubbing it on the backs and behind the ears. The operation is repeated once a week for two or three times, or till the lice on the animals disappear. At the same time kerosene and crude carbolic acid are sprayed on the walls and floors of the houses, over bedding, and around drinking and feed troughs, not only to kill lice but germs of disease as well. Dipping with dipping mixture is also good.

Another important item in preventing disease with hogs is to supply them with plenty of mineral matter, especially coal and charcoal and some salt. Little pigs barely weaned will eat soft coal "like candy," which shows that swine by nature need mineral matter. Charcoal is a good cleanser of the bowels, and hogs should have some of this at all times for good health.

Shift hogs frequently from one pasture or feeding lot to another. A number of the animals in one place for only a few weeks will pollute the grounds. Frequent shifting to new pastures allows time for disease and worms to die and the foul grounds to become clean. Keep hogs clean inside and out, and on clean pasture and they will be healthier than with filth and neglect.—H. H. Sheph in The Farm Magazine.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley has been exonerated by President Taft, who set aside the recommendations of the personnel board of the department of agriculture and also Attorney-General Wickersham. The president stated that Dr. Wiley is entitled to the thanks of the country rather than to its censure and indicated that a general cleanup may be expected in the department of agriculture in the near future. It will be recalled that Dr. Wiley was attacked by those who oppose his pure food crusade and who allege that he had exceeded his authority by hiring chemical experts and paying them a larger per diem fee than the law specifies. The president does not believe that this charge is serious enough to invalidate the good work which Dr. Wiley is doing in protecting the public from the impure food impositions which have been thrust upon it in the past. The following paragraph, in the president's letter exonerating Dr. Wiley, shows that the investigation is by no means concluded, and that developments of a sensational nature may be expected in the near future: "Further consideration satisfies me that there are broader questions involved in the investigation and the evidence there brought out than in the present charge, which is narrow and definite and can now be properly disposed of. The broader issues raised by the investigation, which have a much weightier relation than this one to the general efficiency of the department, may require much more radical action than the question I have considered and decided."—The Homestead.

Harriman Told Him.

Harriman had an almost supernatural instinct for knowing what was going on and who was doing it in the mysteries of stock manipulation. Once when Southern Pacific had been going up fast, Harriman and various banking houses buying in concert, he called up on the telephone one of his private brokers. "Somebody is selling," he said. "Yes, sir," was the answer. "Well, hand the market 25,000 for me." Immediately he called up the head of a banking firm much interested in the market. "Who's selling Southern Pacific?" he asked. "I don't know; we haven't been able to find out," was the answer. "I'll tell you," snapped Harriman; "it's your house." And he cut off the connection before any reply to him could be made.—Exchange.

The Tough Kid.

Nabor—I saw the doctor at your house yesterday.
 Subbubs—Yes; that boy of mine climbed up on the porch when he was told to do so.
 Nabor—Ah, I see. He fell and broke his—
 Subbubs—Not much! He's sound as a dollar. But my wife tried to whip him for it, and now she's a nervous and physical wreck.—Catholic Standard and Times.

New to Him.

"I see your son has gone to work."
 "Yep."
 "How is he getting along?"
 "Oh, fine! Anything in the way of a novelty always appeals to him."—Washington Herald.

In High Life.

"Met your wife lately?"
 "No; but I see by the society papers that she will be at home twice this month."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Dr. W. H. Slater, veterinary. Both phones.



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"Unless you have been in the tropics," remarked the man who had just returned from a trip to Mexico, "you can't possibly realize how great a luxury a cold bath can be. It's not that the climate is necessarily warmer than a New York summer, but the natives have worked out the problem of bathing to its ultimate conclusions. They have invented the ideal tub.
 "On the great private estates in Mexico baths are in use today which were hewn out of the solid rock centuries ago by slave labor. They are located for the most part in the vicinity of running water and are fed by bamboo pipes, but in many cases they have to be filled by the old-fashioned method of carrying a bucket to and from the spring.
 "In the cities the so called stone baths are made of cement. The residences of all well to do people are provided with them, and they are a feature of the native hotels. They are usually about ten feet long by four deep—baby swimming tanks, in fact.
 "The tropical custom is to fill the baths late at night. By the following morning the water will have acquired a limpid coolness that acts like a tonic upon the body. When one remembers that near the equator it is almost as warm in the morning as it is at noon and that water taken direct from the city mains is always tepid the advantage of the stone or cement bath is evident."—New York Sun.

How to Cool Things.
 A newlywed named Jones was talking to his friend Casey the other day about the heat in his flat and was asking the other for a little advice.
 "Do you know my dining room is the hottest place in the world?" began the newlywed. "Do you know of any way I might cool it off?"
 "From experience I should say that a very good way to bring about a change in atmospheric conditions," remarked the older married man, "and one that is sure to bring results one way or the other, is to take a friend home to dinner when your wife isn't expecting company."—Philadelphia Times.

Not Too Timid.
 "Maud is a timid girl," said George. "Yes," said Esther; "she'd jump even at a proposal!"

Mining For Coffin Planks.

One of the most curious industries in the world is the business of mining for coffin planks, which is carried on in upper Tonkin, a portion of the French possessions in southeastern Asia. In a certain district in this province there exists a great underground deposit of logs, which were probably the trunks of trees engulfed by an earthquake or some other convulsions of nature at a comparatively recent period. The trees are a species of pine known to the natives and also to some extent to European commerce as "nam-hou." The wood is almost imperishable and has the quality, either through its nature or as the result of its sojourn underground, of resisting decay from damp. This quality makes it particularly valuable for the manufacture of coffins, and for this purpose it is largely exported to Europe. The trees are often a yard in diameter. They are buried in sandy earth at a depth of from two to eight yards and are dug up by native labor as demand is made for them.—Harper's Weekly.

Foley's Kidney Remedy vs. a Hopeless Case.

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