

## PRACTICAL POINTS,

WHICH CAN BE PUT TO VERY GOOD USE.

Some Excellent Information for the Farmer, the Housewife, the Fowls, and the Ranchman—Agricultural Notes.

EVERY farmer who raises small grains for market should have a good fanning-mill. Clean grain is always an item, whether to market or to sow again. It is true that many of the seed drills, as now constructed, will sow grain that is somewhat threshy, but it must be remembered that in sowing such grain you are not sowing wheat and when you intend sowing five or six pecks of wheat to the acre, if very threshy, you are not sowing wheat, and in marketing grain, if it is well cleaned it will bring a better price in market. Often the better price received for one lot of grain will very nearly, if not quite, pay for the mill.

During the winter, especially, a sled will be found very convenient for hauling manure and corn-fodder. One can be made at small expense, and will save considerable labor. It should be sufficiently strong to bear up a good load, and should be made so that the wagon-box can be fastened on it.

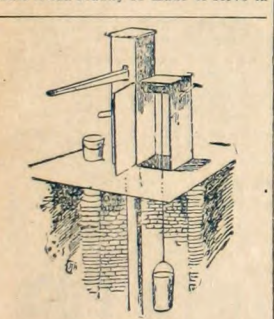
Every farmer who raises oats for feed, needs, and can use profitably, a feed-cutter. To feed sheep or unthreshed wheat is, to say the least, a very wasteful practice. With a good feed-cutter, running the oats through this and then adding a small quantity of bran, you have one of the very best feeds there is, and all waste is avoided, as the stock will eat all up clean. Get a size in proportion to the amount of stock you keep, and cut up all your wheat stalks at least. Clover hay and wheat or oat straw, equal parts, and a small quantity of good bran will make a feed equal to timothy hay, and where clover and wheat is grown a very cheap food can be secured.

Barbed wire has become so common that nearly every farmer needs a stretcher. They are so convenient both in building and repairing wire fences that they are almost indispensable.

There are few farms but where a good hand cart will be found very convenient. There are so many things that can be hauled in them and save using the team that they can be made to pay well for their cost. In hauling fruit, vegetables, wood, and often in keeping the stable clean, or in hauling a barrel of water, a hand cart will not only be useful but economical. There will be found many ways of saving time in using them in preference to hitching up the team. They are cheap and very handy, or at least this is my experience.

A post-hole digger is another useful implement that costs but little and yet saves a considerable amount of hard work, especially at this season when the soil is usually too dry to drive posts to an advantage. In some localities an auger can be used, in others the diggers. If you are building a fence but little work will be required to save the cost.

Substitute for a Cellar.  
Wherever there is a good well near a house it can readily be made to serve in



A WELL CELLAR.

summer as a substitute for a cellar, and in some measure take the place of a refrigerator. Our illustration shows the general arrangement of such a well. Of course there must be sufficient space in the well for letting down a large tin pail, or some other suitable receptacle, and the sides must be securely walled or boarded up. By merely raising a board of the platform a sufficient opening for letting down a pail may be obtained, but a much better way is to arrange a small windlass, provided with a catch to hold the suspended article at any height desired, as shown in the engraving. This cover of the pail or bucket could be fit closely to prevent the dripping of water into it. When it becomes desirable to prevent ventilation a receptacle with perforated sides may be used to advantage. This plan of utilizing wells for the keeping of butter, milk, meat and other provisions has been extensively adopted during the past summer along the south shore of Long Island, where ice could not be obtained easily. It has proved so satisfactory that those who have availed themselves of this method of refrigeration will probably continue to do so even in seasons of a plentiful ice supply.—*American Agriculturist.*

### THE STOCK RANCH.

Raising Cows for Profit.  
On the important question of raising cows for profit the *Breeder's Gazette* says:  
The Hon. James Wilson, of Iowa, observed in a public address that "where men farm for dear life the cow is the foremost consideration." Nothing could be more true, for wherever the farmer is harassed with debt, or wherever he is struggling to make good a start in life, it is the cow which comes to his assistance, paying off his mortgage, and by the best of all means, the high road to fortune and independence upon the other. Her capacities for good are almost unlimited, and in no direction can the farmer so surely improve his condition as in developing and cultivating those capacities to the highest degree. Those who keep cows, and as many of them as circumstances will permit, and take pains to have them good and of the

most improved sorts, and maintain them in a manner favorable to their thrift, which a man may not only an agency to himself, but a resort to save himself when misfortune presses, and all else fails to bring relief, but that they are also a sure means of advancing the farmer's prosperity at every stage of his progress. But the cows seldom have a chance to show their worth, and it is with a degree that they are capable of contributing to the fortunes of their owners. Upon a large number of farms they are not maintained in sufficient numbers to fully accomplish their mission, and on many unimproved farms they are the common property of those who develop them, and who are incapable of realizing for their owners one-half the profit which could be secured from highly improved animals. And this is inexcusable in these days when the improved breeds are selling at such reasonable prices that every farmer can afford the means to replace his present inferior stock with that of better character, or at least secure crosses with which to grade up to a higher point the stock he already has. If the farmer in his present estate is worthy of the good word said, of honor, what words of praise would be more eloquent honor if all the cows in the country were improved to the point where it has been demonstrated it is easy to bring them?

Live Stock Notes.  
To DETERMINE the profit on stock, do not forget to figure pasturage as having a value in the original cost.

Dispose of the poorest stock you raise, always keeping the best for breeding purposes, thereby constantly improving the grades on your farm.

If the stock you offer for sale is always first-class, customers will soon come hunting you and you will find easy sale for all you care to raise.

Young animals of all kinds are more easily stunted while being fed on milk, hence care should be used to supply them with a liberal quantity.

By keeping the stock always in good condition, and always marketable, you can avail yourself of the best prices, and turn them off at the most advantageous time. It may require extra feed and care, but that expense will be more than covered by the higher price received.

Corn is not a proper food for growing pigs, as it causes heating and constipation, two tendencies which cannot be avoided with young stock, especially in summer time.

Filth and heat combined produce disease germs; it is therefore very necessary in summer to give all kinds of stock and poultry good, clean quarters, making free use of whitewash or carbolic acid to disinfect all buildings in which they are kept.

The real value of sheep on a farm, is not usually known; their ability to live on short pastures or stubble growths, constantly fertilizing the fields and clearing them of weeds, aside from furnishing a most convenient supply of fresh meat, makes their well-known value as wool producers a secondary matter.

### THE PULTRY YARD.

Lime Dust for Chickens.  
From an exchange we clip the following cure for rickets, which may be given as a simple remedy and worthy of trial:

The lime dust treatment is the best of all cures for rickets in chickens. It is cheap, simple and effective. I put a whole brood of chickens in a peck measure with a bag over the top. A barrel partly filled with air-slacked lime, as dry powder, was tamped on its side, and the lime was stirred with a stick until the whole barrel was filled with lime floating in the air. The chickens were put into this, with the bag over the mouth of the barrel. They were put into the dust three times, not more than a minute each time. They should be kept in the dust for an hour. We let one brood stay in it long and lost five out of seven. The windpipes of the dead chickens were found more than half filled with gap worms, which made it more difficult for them to breathe. My little son, 7 years old, treats his chickens in this way successfully. The lime can be slacked with water and then allowed to dry so as to powder. A lot of lime thus prepared will last for years for this purpose.

### Poultry Notes.

The sure way to break a hen from egg-eating is to cut off her head.

"John, did you find any eggs in the old hen's nest this morning?" "No sir; if the hen laid any, she has mislaid them."

CHICKENS and hogs kept together, won't work; you will find you have raised very dear pork. It don't work to keep old and young stock together—keep them apart.

TO MAKE hens lay will give them plenty of pure water. It is more necessary than food. Water enters largely into the composition of an egg, and you therefore see the need of giving them plenty of it—pure and clean.

EVERY person keeping poultry should keep an accurate account with his stock, placing all the expenditures incurred and receipts on a separate sheet. The losses should, of course, be charged to the expense account.

AN orchard that is at the same time the poultry-yard, will produce 100 per cent. more fruit, of better quality, than one receiving the ordinary culture of the average farmer. The constant scratching of all the insects, the gobbling up of the constant droppings which the rains make soluble, and the continual supply, is marked by a dark green verdure and a large, fair fruit; the large runs make the fowls healthier, and the egg product greater.

SOME ducks of a fine breed at Norwich, Conn., had a way of diving and staying down. This led to an investigation. The water was drained off and a colony of seventeen snapping turtles found and made soup of. The ducks now come up again when they dive.

### THE HOUSEHOLD.

What Mothers should Do.  
As the boys grow up, make companions of them; then they will not seek companionship elsewhere.

Let the children make a noise sometimes; their happiness is as important as your nerves.

Respect their little secrets; if they have concealments, worrying them will never make them tell, and patience will probably do better.

Allow them to grow older, to have opinions of their own; make them individuals and not mere echoes.

Remember that without physical health mental attainment is worthless; let them lead free, happy lives, which will strengthen both mind and body.

Bear in mind that you are largely responsible for your child's inherited character, and have patience with faults and failings.

Talk hopefully to your children of life and its possibilities, you have no right to depress them because you have suffered.

Teach boys and girls the actual facts of life as soon as they are old enough to understand them, and give them the sense of responsibility without saddling them with a load of grief.

Find out what their special tastes are and develop them, instead of spending time, money and patience in forcing them into studies that are repugnant to them.

As long as it is possible, kiss them good night after they are in bed; they do like it so, and it keeps them very close.

If you have lost a child, remember that for the one that is gone there is no more to do; for those remaining, everything; hide your grief for their sakes.

Remorse upon them, although they are all your children, each one has an individual character and that tastes and qualities vary indefinitely.

Cultivate them separately, and not as if you were turning them out by machinery.

Encourage them to take good walking exercise. Young ladies in this country are rarely good walkers. They can dance all night, but are tired out if they walk a mile. Girls ought to be able to walk as easily as boys. Half the nervous diseases which afflict young ladies would disappear if the habit of regular exercises was encouraged.

Keep up a high standard of principles; your children will be your keenest judges in the future. Do be honest with them in small things as well as in great. If you cannot tell them what they wish to know, say so rather than deceive them.

Prevent your children from tale-bearing; if a child tattles to carry tales from the kitchen to the parlor is detestable.

Send the youngster to bed early; decide upon the proper time and adhere to it.

Remember that visitors praise the children as much to please you as because they deserve it, and that their presence is oftener than not an infliction.

### Hints to Housekeepers.

SALT will remove the stain caused by eggs from silver. It must be applied dry.

WRITING and benzine mixed to a paste will remove grease spots from marble.

Plaster of Paris figures may be made to look like alabaster by dipping them in a strong solution of alum water.

A PRETTY bangle-board is made in the shape of a crescent. It is covered with pale blue satin and has a design of daisies painted on it.

The color of most fabrics, when it has been destroyed by an acid, may be restored by dipping in ammonia and then applying chloroform.

THIS is the way furs are cleaned in that land of furs, Russia: Rye flour is placed in a pot and heated upon a stove, with constant stirring as long as the hand can bear the heat. The flour is then spread over the fur and rubbed into it. After this the fur is brushed with a very clean brush, or, better, is gently beaten with a horse hair brush.

The fur thus treated resumes its natural lustre and appears as if absolutely new.

In an intelligent treatment of different fabrics a large part of the art or washing consists. Fine laces, for example, must be treated by themselves.

Very fine lace may be cleaned and whitened by folding it smoothly, and sewing it into a clean linen bag. It is then immersed in horse manure for an hour in olive oil. A little fine soap is shaken into water, and the lace put into this and boiled for fifteen minutes. It must be well rinsed, dipped into starch water, and taken from the bag and stretched and pinned to dry.

### Agricultural Notes.

AUSTRALIA exported 10,000,000 rabbits last year.

A SHIPMENT of 6,022 sacks of oil-cake was made to Antwerp.

ITALY is enforcing laws which practically prohibit American patent medicines.

The largest steamer shipment of Florida oranges for the season, 13,830 boxes.

The rise in the price of meat in Germany has increased the general consumption. This was two weeks ago.

Cincinnati packing of hogs for last week was 625,000, against 475,000 the same week last year.

LARGE quantities of salmon have recently been shipped to France and black bass will soon be sent to England.

F. G. UMBACH, of Athens, Ga., has recently invented an improved harrow which is attached to an ordinary plow stock.

An English railway company was fined \$100 and costs for transporting thirty-six pigs by means of which swine fever was spread.

A CARRO of 2,500 bales of cotton from Alexandria, Egypt, said to be the largest cargo ever received, arrived last week. It was valued at \$350,000.

A SHEETLAND pony at Cincinnati made a mile in 5:49 1/2 and was presented to the man making the best guess as to his time. The guess was 5:49 1/2.

TWO BELGIANS were arrested at Paterson, N. J., for manufacturing sausages from dead horses. The sausages were said to be entirely for export.

A CONNECTICUT creamery shows in its annual report 210,870 pounds of butter made during the year. Average gross sales per pound, 27.87 cents; average net sales, 24.06 cents.

An English coffee-house keeper was fined \$10 and costs for selling oleomargarine. This was his second conviction for a similar offense, the same penalty having been inflicted upon his previous conviction.—*Rural New Yorker.*

A RATTLE-HEADED Frenchman advises Americans to import a pigmy owl found in that country for the purpose of exterminating the English sparrows. He shows a little wisdom on the subject as he is the man who imported the sparrows.

EXTINGUISHING a lamp is like a small supper—it is a small good-look.

## THE LESSONS OF WINTER

ALL SEASONS HAVE THEIR LESSONS FOR THE CHRISTIAN.

Beautiful Imagery of the Bible. Teaching Lessons From Nature—The Snows of Lebanon and Mount Hermon—The Dogs of St. Bernard.

Dr. Talmage's sermon from Job xxxviii, 22, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

Grossly maligned is the season of winter. The spring and summer and autumn have had many admirers, but winter, beset and white-headed winds, hath had many enemies than friends.

Yet without winter the human race would be inane and effortless. You might speak of the winter as the mother of tempests. I take it as the father of a whole family of physical, mental and spiritual energies.

The most people that I know are strong in proportion to the number of snow banks they had to climb over or push through in childhood, while their fathers drove the sled loaded with logs through the crunching drifts high as the fences.

In this season of the year when we are so familiar with the snow, those frozen vapors, those falling blossoms of the sky, those white angels of the atmosphere, those poems of the storm, those Iliads and Odysseys of the wintry tempest, I turn over the leaves of my Bible and find a wealth of imagery.

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The first time we find a deep fall of snow in the Bible is where Samuel describes a fight between Beniah and a Philistine, and though the Philistine may have crimsoned under the wounds of both man and brute, the shaggy monster rolled over dead, and the giant was victor.

But the snow is not fully recognized in the Bible until God interrogates Job, the scientist, concerning his wonders, saying: "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

rather think that Job may have examined the snowflake with a microscope; for, although it is supposed that the microscope was invented long after Job's time, there had been wonders of glass long before the microscope and telescope came into the world.

So long ago when the Coliseum was in its full splendor. Nero sat in the emperor's box of that great theater, which held a hundred thousand people, and looked at the combatants through a gem in his fingering which brought everything close up to his eye.

Two hundred years before Christ, in the stores at Athens, were sold powerful glasses called "burning spheres," and Lazard, the explorer, found a magnifying glass amid the ruins of Nineveh and in the palace of Nimrod.

Whether through magnifying instrument or with unaided eye I cannot say, but I am sure that Job saw a snowflake and counted its pillars and found wonders, raptures, mysteries, theologisms, majesties, infinites walking up and down its corridors, as a result of the question which the Lord had asked him, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

Job saw a snowflake through the microscope of his own mind. He saw it through the microscope of his own heart. He saw it through the microscope of his own soul.

He saw it through the microscope of his own life. He saw it through the microscope of his own death. He saw it through the microscope of his own resurrection.

He saw it through the microscope of his own glory. He saw it through the microscope of his own triumph. He saw it through the microscope of his own victory.

He saw it through the microscope of his own power. He saw it through the microscope of his own might. He saw it through the microscope of his own strength.

He saw it through the microscope of his own wisdom. He saw it through the microscope of his own knowledge. He saw it through the microscope of his own understanding.

He saw it through the microscope of his own love. He saw it through the microscope of his own mercy. He saw it through the microscope of his own kindness.

He saw it through the microscope of his own goodness. He saw it through the microscope of his own beauty. He saw it through the microscope of his own grace.

He saw it through the microscope of his own holiness. He saw it through the microscope of his own purity. He saw it through the microscope of his own righteousness.

He saw it through the microscope of his own truth. He saw it through the microscope of his own justice. He saw it through the microscope of his own equity.

He saw it through the microscope of his own faith. He saw it through the microscope of his own hope. He saw it through the microscope of his own charity.

He saw it through the microscope of his own patience. He saw it through the microscope of his own gentleness. He saw it through the microscope of his own meekness.

He saw it through the microscope of his own self-control. He saw it through the microscope of his own temperance. He saw it through the microscope of his own sobriety.

He saw it through the microscope of his own chastity. He saw it through the microscope of his own modesty. He saw it through the microscope of his own discretion.

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Bible would chiefly impress us with God in the littles. It does not say, "Consider the clouds," but it says, "Consider the lilies." It does not say, "Behold the tempests," but "Behold the fowls" and the "birds of the air." It does not say, "Consider the waters of the deep," but it says, "Behold the waters of the deep," and says the waters of the deep are numbered. Do not fear, therefore, that you are going to be lost in the crowd. Do not think that because you estimate yourself as only one among millions that you will be forgotten. The birth and death of a drop of chilled vapor is as certainly regarded by the Lord as the creation and demolition of a planet. Nothing is big to God and nothing is small.

And it is high time that we find this mighty realm of God close by and under our own little finger. To drop you out of his memory would be to resign his omniscience. To refuse you his protection would be to abdicate his omnipotence. When I pray, I say, "God of God, Jupiter, and the God of Mercury, and the God of Saturn, you tell me something so vast that I cannot comprehend it. But if you tell me he is the God of the snowflake, you tell me something I can hold and measure and realize. Thus we know the snowflake contains a jewel of comfort. Here is an opal, an amethyst, a diamond. Here is one of the treasures of the snow. Take it for your present and everlasting comfort.

Behold, also, in the snow the treasure of accumulated power. During a snow storm the snowflakes accumulate, and weigh most delicate quantities, hold his weighing scales out of the window and let one flake fall on the surface of the scales, and it will not even make it tremble. When you want to express extreme triviality of weight you say, "It is as light as a snowflake." The snowflake is much lighter. It is just twenty-four times lighter than water. And yet the accumulation of these flakes broke down a few days ago, in sight of my house, six telegraph poles, made helpless police and fire departments and halted rail traffic.

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