

# DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

## HOUSEHOLD AND AGRICULTURAL TOPICS DISCUSSED.

A Budget of Useful Information Relating to the Farm, Orchard, Stable, Parlor and Kitchen.

### The Independent Farmer.

How pleasant it seems to live on a farm. While nature's so graciously dressed, And she treats the soil of the olden tree, And the sun is just sinking in the field, But not half so pleasant to hoe in the field, When the whiff of grass is blowing high, While hot scorching sun pouring down on your back, Seems each moment as though you would die!

Looking to sit in the cool porch door, While you smoke, but as you need your ease, Pleading to see your beautiful fields of grass, This ways to and fro, in the breeze, But it is so pleasant to start with your scythe, Ere the morning sun smiles o'er the land, And the dew on your clothes are completely wet through, And biters shall cover you hand.

In keeping a dairy there's surely delight, And it speaks of contentment and plenty, To have a large stable with a choice of cows, Say, numbering from fifteen to twenty! And it seems hard, when you're worked from the dawn, To see the sun disappear from your sight, To think of the cows you have got to milk, Before you retire for the night.

But the task fairly over, you cheer up once more, And you'll scold your repose, To dream of the cream pots with luxury filled, And milk-pans in numberless rows; But the sweet dream is broken when, early next day, You're politely requested to churn, And in the evening hours, with strength ebbing fast, The victim despondently turns.

But in raising young pigs is early a charm, When they sell at the present high price, And the young stock which a farmer can raise, There's nothing that looks half so nice, As the first one who leaves them at night, The encouraging number of eleven! But his boy slightly rames when he goes out next day, And of live ones count only seven!

The pleasant to sit by a warm winter fire, When night draws her curtain around, With the little children to make home complete, And peace and contentment abound, But every day when you think of your ax, And the cutting west wind drives the snow in your face, So you scarcely can see where you go.

But no one disputes that the farmer is blessed, With true independence and labor— Where food don't depend on the whims of man, Like that of his mercantile neighbor; For in his realm, looks down from above, And he works eighteen hours every day, And devotes only six to his bed!

### THE FENCE.

#### A Cheap Fence.

A very cheap fence can be made with wire netting four feet high and fastened in position by two rows of 2x3 inch scantling, 10 feet long, and cut into two pieces, or get stakes of any kind and sharpen the ends; then start a hole by striking down into the ground with a crowbar and working it back and forth to widen the hole, when the stakes should be driven in a foot or more and be set six feet apart.

At the bottom nail on 1x2 inch strips, twelve feet long, and similar strips a little more than three feet higher up, when you will be ready to tack on the wire, which is done with small staples made for the purpose. This will leave a little more than six inches of the wire netting (which will support itself) above the upper horizontal rails, and the top of the stakes, so that if a hen flies for the upper lath she will strike the wire and be thrown back. It will, however, be found that the bird's attempts to get out will all be made lower down and through the wire which seems to present no obstruction until they try it. To make a fence of this kind, of course, the wire must be taken off and the stakes pulled up and reset, which can all be done in a very little time. While the fence seems a frail one, it will nevertheless, stand a very hard storm, as it offers very little resistance to the wind.

An illustration and directions for making a movable fence can be still more readily changed from one place to another is given by Stoddard in his little book on "Poultry Architecture." This fence, as shown in the second cut, is made in sections, and can be quickly set up, and can be packed closely and laid away when not in use. The lengths are twelve feet long and the fence five feet high; the pickets are sawed a foot longer and a quarter of an inch wider than usual; but common four foot laths are often used, and except for high-flyers, like Leghorns, are good enough.

The object in using lath is to secure lightness, and for the same reason the posts are 5x1 1/2 inches and the rails and braces are 1x2 inches. The pickets being the horizontal rails should be nailed to the posts outside, and the pickets fastened on outside the rails, when the diagonal braces should be nailed on outside the pickets. The fence is to be set up zigzag to secure a wide base and prevent falling over, and the ends of the lengths are to be fastened together with coarse twine or wire, so that the fence will be strong winds may be expected a few props or stakes driven down in the corners may be needed. In locating fences for confining fowls reference must be had to the henry and their usual roosting places when practicable.

### THE STOCK-RANCH.

#### Why for Pigs.

The reason that calves and swine do not thrive on whey in many instances, is due generally to an overplus of acid in it. Whey gets rankly acid in the top in old sour whey, but when it is home and the whey is slack the whey tub at the factory is a potent generator of acid germs. The writer knew of one maker once who put to practical use his faith in the virtue of whey as a bog diet. As is not infrequently the case the patrons of his factory did not take away more than half of the whey to which they were entitled, so there was always a goodly amount of the waste fluid left in the tub daily to be run onto the ground. The maker being of a frugal mind and sorry to see so much excellent milk go to waste conceived the idea of utilizing it to his profit by investing in a number of young porkers to be located in the pig sty far enough from the factory to preclude all possibility of unpleasant odors traversing the distance, and then he began to put the whey into those dozen or so pigs. By the aid of a handful of cornmeal to the pall of whey the result was astonishing, and they were being sold for a handsome price. By the way, the speculative cheesemaker took pains with the character of the whey, and fed it out when only moder-

ately sour. In the fall he bought grain and fat, and the shotes, and after selling them and his expenses out, left a nice little margin of profit. He rightly attributed to the whey.—George E. Newell, in Ohio Farmer.

### THE HOUSEHOLD.

#### To Transfer Prints to Glass.

First coat the glass with damar varnish, or Canada balsam dissolved in an equal volume of very sticky turpentine, and let it dry until it is very sticky, and let it dry half a day or more. The printed paper to be transferred should be well soaked in soft water, and carefully laid upon the prepared glass, after removing the surplus water, after blotting-paper, and pressed upon it, so that no air bubbles or drops of water are seen underneath. This should dry a whole day before it is touched; then with wetted fingers, begin to rub off the paper at the back. If this be skillfully done, almost the whole of the paper can be removed, leaving simply the ink upon the glass. When the paper has been removed, another coat of varnish will serve to make the whole more transparent. This recipe is sold at from \$3 to \$15, by itinerants.—Exchange.

#### How to Talk.

Read books which will make you think. What you say is most of what you made to think. No one can talk who cannot think, and thinking is by no means as usual an accomplishment as many so called. The want of thought is at the root of many a social failure.

Good readers will present different subjects to your mind, and if you are interested, you take it up as a study. The little you will find many points in it which may seem obscure; don't be satisfied to leave them aside, but read such works as are likely to bear on the subject, and never rest content with half-truths which your glorious revelation may be awaiting you.

Try to retain important facts, but do not give up originality of thought or independent judgment when you feel it to be sound. Read and think—read and think.

When the importance of serious thought is fully understood, and good conversation will once more flourish, and we shall taste again the delights of kindred thoughts. The quick repartee, the witty answer, which often sheds an unexpected light on some knotty points, and reveals the truth in a thoughtful question, and the hidden beauties of the mind, and these joys once known will be counted as among the purest of life.

Instead of a crush of people thronging our hearer rooms, why not gather around us half a dozen chosen friends with something to say? What pleasure, what sweet recreation, we should find in such society.

A quick intelligence, a cultivated mind, a good memory, are all useful qualities which will make the art of conversation easy to acquire; but even if these are lacking, an ordinary amount of intellect, a good heart, and some of that precious common sense which is, as it were, the birthright of nearly every American woman, will be sufficient, if judiciously used, to create a revolution in conversation which would make many drawing-rooms as pleasant as those famous ones whose departed glory we would not mourn, but look upon as a stimulus to better things.

#### Hints to Housekeepers.

Grease splatters your favorite Wilton, mix half a glass of fuller's earth and the same amount of magnesia with boiling water, apply it hot, and brush off when dry. Small grease spots may be removed with a hot iron and brown paper.

If a cellar has a damp smell, and cannot be thoroughly ventilated, a few trays of charcoal, set around the floor, shelves, and ledges, will absorb the air, and sweeten it. A large basketful of charcoal placed in a damp cellar where milk is kept, the milk will be in no danger of becoming tainted.

In restoring draperies or curtains of art needle work or muslin, they should first be well shaken to get out the dust, and then soaked in clean water to remove the worst of the dirt; they are then washed in a tepid solution of white soap, rinsed through cold water with a little salt in it, and dried quickly in the shade. They should be folded before getting quite dry, and ironed lightly with a hot too hot iron.

A few pieces of horse-radish root put among pickles will keep the scum from rising on top and improve their flavor. Ink stains on mahogany may be obliterated by touching the spot with a swab of water, and then rubbing it with a few drops of nitre have been added, and directly the stain disappears. Rub it over quickly with a cloth dipped in cold water.

### THE POULTRY-YARD.

#### Marking Eggs.

An exchange says there is probably in no one article of the same relative value so much loss from injudicious management as eggs. Some shippers will gather up in small lots a sufficient quantity to make a shipment; having the amount on hand necessary to make a shipment, they search the stores for old boxes, barrels, etc.; anything that will hold the eggs, in their judgment, is good enough. If it costs less to pack eggs in cases or carriers, they are uniform in size, self-counting, no experienced packer required, clean and convenient to handle, only a small space required to pack them, will carry eggs much safer than any other package, scarcely any loss by breakage, save in freight, and they go into market much cleaner. Railroad companies cannot roll them about as they do barrels, and the best and above all, eggs in cases bring from two to five cents per dozen more than in any other package.

Why is it our market reports are always quoting eggs with such a wide range in prices? Simply because of the injudicious management and unskilled handling. In packing, make two grades of eggs, that is fresh eggs; keep the clean eggs by themselves, and the unclean ones the same. A little fresh, thoroughly clean and perfectly dry straw, or other dry packing material, is a very proper straw is not obtainable, should always layers of clean, dry paper should always be put in the bottom of the box, and also next to the lid. The straw or paper serves as a cushion and tends to prevent breakage. Stale, dirty, damp or musty straw or hay should never be used, as it not only injures the appearance, but also affects the quality of the eggs. Care should always be taken to prevent eggs coming in contact with any foreign odor. In shipping a long distance be sure that the eggs are not only sound, but recently laid. Eggs may be candled and repacked, but if they are stale, though apparently sound, they will be sure to reach the market in bad order, or will

rapidly change that dealers will lose money on them. This rule is especially applicable to Eastern and Salt Lake shippers; the motion of the cars so muddies eggs not entirely fresh that they appear clean, stale, and will soon spoil, if, indeed, they are not already bad. Do not hold lots after they are packed. Ship at once while fresh.

#### Western Turkey Raising.

First—be careful of the eggs; gather them in so as not to let them get chilled. When the hens want to set, break them up in a box which is very easily done by shutting them up for a few days then divide the eggs, giving her as many as she can cover—twenty at least. Give the others to common hens; when hatched give all the turks to the turkey; make a pen of horseys in a pen as described, so they will not be disturbed. In this pen put the young turkeys; let them stay there about a week, then drive them out into the meadow; go regularly every day and feed them; they may be a little shy at first, but which is very easily done by shutting them up for a few days then divide the eggs, giving her as many as she can cover—twenty at least. Give the others to common hens; when hatched give all the turks to the turkey; make a pen of horseys in a pen as described, so they will not be disturbed. 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