

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Some Very Important Points Relating to the Farm, Poultry-Yard, Dairy, Apiary, Household, and the Piggey.

THE FARM.

HOG cholera is due to feeding on sour swill, grain or corn distillery slop, or the essence of the sourness being a vinegar which is formed in the food after the alcoholic fermentation has taken place. The kinship of alcohol and vinegar is very close, as all distillers know, their great art being to separate the vinegar fermentation from the alcohol. Bakers know this also. They strive to keep their dough from being sour. The first effects of exclusive feeding on this sour or vinegar food is generally to produce constipation; next diarrhoea, as the bowels become paralyzed by the contact of the alcohol, vinegar, carbonic acid gas, etc., become distended, thickened, and pour off varying quantities of glairy, gluey, or watery fluid that comes mostly from the paralyzed cells coating the bowels. After awhile the intestines become infected with the vinegary yeast, the red corpuscles adhesive and sticky; the fibrin filaments, that naturally are very delicate and almost invisible under the microscope, become thickened into massive threads, which aggregate more or less, forming skeins, clots, or plugs which catch on the valves of the bowels. These fibrin filaments sometimes aggregate into long concretions that run for several inches, blocking up the blood vessels, sometimes plugging up the smaller vessels completely. The heart meantime automatically beats harder to overcome the obstacle, and if the vessels are weak they rupture near the obstruction. The blood pours out under the skin, if it is not the case it will, and makes it look red almost like a case of scarlet fever. Again from the paralyzing influence of the intestinal gases, there is, if the animal lives long enough, a paralysis of the hind legs more or less complete. The hog will hunch up its back, and draw the feet together underneath. In worse cases it will move by its forefeet while the hindfeet drag.

Internal organs are subjected to internal hemorrhage from the same clots floating in the blood stream. If the animal lives long enough there will be found in the lungs more or less breaking down and tubercular deposits, due to the vinegary yeast collecting in the lungs and blood stream. The appearances so much resemble those in consumption in man that hog cholera has been termed a form of quick consumption.

It is not contagious, save by contact, and hogs living among the dung of infected hogs. Swine that has been fed on ground swill, or from the different pens from swine fed on distilled slop, and suffering from hog cholera, have not taken it—according to Dr. Salisbury. And swine affected with it have been cured by giving them good sweet corn. The practice of turning hogs into a field of standing corn and living on it allows the corn to be trampled into the dirt, and dung to be water with dew, rains, and urine. The omnipresent alcohol plant and vinegar plant begin their work, and the hogs get a sour, green, fermenting food like the distillery slop. If hogs everywhere were fed on good sound food, hog cholera would be much less.

If the food is cooked thoroughly, the heat will destroy the alcohol plants and the vinegar plants, which some call bacilli, and there will be much less danger of the disease. The immunity of swine fed on sweet, sound food, some may say is due to the resultant health of the animals resisting the disease. Be this as it may—those who are troubled with cholera should feed only good sound sweet corn well steamed, and unless the cases are too far gone, they will find the disease arrested. Of course, the animals should be protected from cold.

So long as swine, and kine, too, are fed on swill, distillery slop, dungy and dirty sour corn, or swill that is indigestible with orange or lemon peel, trouble with the bowels must be expected, more or less severe according to circumstances. If those who are interested doubt these statements, it is easy to prove or disprove them by trials accurately conducted. Feed healthy swine on distillery slop and nothing else for three months, having other healthy swine alongside in a pen, and feed the one sweet corn and water, and then note the results. Such a course would be much better than arguing, and could prove or disprove the assertion of Dr. Salisbury, who experimented in this line many years ago.—*Examiner, Cutter, M. D., LL. D., in American Agriculturist.*

THE POULTRY YARD.
Unscientific Science.
In relation to science of the kind indulged in by closet professors, *Poultry Keeper* gives the following: "Whenever a 'Prof.' speaks people take off their hats. The last item going the rounds is the following which the 'Prof.' give out as science: 'In the bulletin of the Tennessee Board of Health attention is called to a condition of the egg, little known, which considerably impairs its sanitary value as a source of food. Soon after it became the practice to transport eggs in large quantities and to long distances by railway trains, it was found on their arrival that adhesion had taken place between the membranes of the yolk and those of the shell so that the yolk could not be turned out of the shell unbroken. On examination by experienced pathologists this was found to be the result of true inflammation; the material of the adhesion was found to be precisely the same as that of the plastic exudation in inflammation of the lungs or bowels. Thus, structureless and unorganized as it seems, the egg, even fresh laid, is a living being and capable of disease from internal causes, the cause of this inflammation being undoubtedly the shaking and friction from the motion of the cars, necessarily rendering the egg more or less unhealthy, as the products of inflammation can never be as salutary in food as those of healthy growth. But we poor chicken fellows would say that the eggs were stale before we had begun to eat, and that the eggs had first begun

to adhere previous to decomposition, as they always do, journey no journey. What these scientific fellows really discovered was that the yolk adheres to the shell, and that eggs become rotten. Wonderful discovery.

Mongrel Fowls.
The fact that a cross of pure-bred fowls of one sex better than either alone, far. To get the best results, fowls of at least on one side should be pure bred. That will make them half bred. It is the time of year when poultry dealers are thinning out superfluous cocks, and some of the best can now be had at very moderate prices. This kind of change in poultry should be made every year or two at the farthest.

Hens Laying in Winter.
Cold weather is the chief cause why we do not get so many eggs in winter. Fresh meat and all other kinds of summer feed may be provided, but in our climate we cannot entirely shield fowls from the cold. Some varieties are less injured than others. They have large bodies, and make a good deal of heat themselves. This is the chief reason, probably, why the Brahmas are better winter layers than the Leghorns.

THE HOUSEHOLD.
Canning Fruit.
Pare all fruit with a silver knife, and, as it darkens by exposure to the air, drop each piece into cold water, and prepare only the quantity needed to fill two cans.

Fruit looks and is better when whole, the juices are clearer and the flavor is more fully retained. It is difficult to cook a large quantity evenly without injuring the fruit. For this reason it is better to cook only one quart at a time. In canning a crate of berries it is well to select the finest loquats and can expressly for simple desserts at table. Such particular canning will not be necessary for cooking purposes.

Cook fruit in a porcelain-lined or granite kettle. If tin is used it should be new.

Cook evenly for fifteen minutes after it begins to boil.

There is no necessity for using sugar in canning fruit, but one tablespoonful to a quart of fruit is sometimes added.

When ready to can, have all articles needed close at hand. So that the one or two thicknesses of warm, wet flannel, dip out the boiling fruit with a long-handled ladle, and fill the jar to overflowing. Run a knitting-needle three times down to the bottom of the filled can, and liberate the air bubbles. Then, with a quick movement, break the bubbles lying on top, and seal without the loss of a second. In ten minutes tighten the tops again with your wrench, and when the cans are cool wrap in paper, and keep in a cool, dry, dark place. Be sure there are no seeds or sediment on the rubbering before sealing. A funnel comes in handy in canning, and is useful in filling the jars. Do not store your cans of fruit on a swinging-shelf, unless you are certain it will bear the weight. In canning berries, dip out the surplus juice, and seal, when boiling hot, in pint cans for the children.—*Eastern Argus.*

How to Make Good Bread.
Fall and Spring wheat flour mixed makes the best bread. I take a one-quart measure of flour, and add a dessert spoonful of salt and one of sugar, then when I have boiled the potatoes for dinner I drain the boiling water from them over the flour and stir it up. After a few moments I cool it with cold water to the proper heat (in winter it requires to be much warmer than in summer), and knead it. I soak two or three yeast cakes, according to the number of loaves required, in a cup of warm water and beat it all up together in a stiff batter; this I call potato foam. Cover it with a warm cloth and set in a rather warm place until next morning, then sift the yeast into the tray, and turn the foam over it; adding more salt to suit the taste, knead it up thoroughly, drawing the outer edge of the dough into the center, as this breaks the grain and makes the bread tender, then set in a warm place to rise.

Two very important things are necessary to be observed. Never let the bread get chilled while fermenting, and let it rise while being molded into loaves, for if it does not come up the first time it will not the second. I never knead my bread but once. When taken from the oven turn the loaves upside-down and cover them with a thick cloth. In hot summer weather if you have the least doubt of your sponge being sour, take a little carbonate of magnesia, and dissolve in warm water and knead into the dough, and it will be whiter, sweeter and more wholesome for it.—*Cor. Detroit Free Press.*

Hints to Housekeepers.
WELD-VENTILATED bed-rooms will prevent morning headaches and lassitude.
APPLY linsed oil and turpentine in equal parts with a soft cloth to the white spots on your furniture.

WAX drippings from the tapers now so fashionably used for lighting purposes can be removed from linen and tablecloths with a hot iron and a piece of blotting paper, or by dipping the part in eau de Cologne, which renders the wax brittle, so that it can easily be rubbed off with the finger.
If you insist on your dressmaker facing your gowns with velvet or velveteen instead of braid, you will lessen your shoemaker's bills and be saved from the purple bluish on the instep caused by the movements of the skirts in walking.
All grained or varnished wood-work should be cleaned with tea, made of medium strength and strained, after which it should be rubbed over with a small flannel cloth dipped occasionally in boiled linsed oil, and wiped thoroughly with a dry flannel cloth. Nothing is more convenient than a wooden skewer for cleaning out crevices and corners.

THE PIGGEY.
Feeding Pigs.
Pigs can be grown profitably without milk, says Waldo F. Brown in the *Ohio Farmer*, but it will require more care to make a palatable food for them, and to induce them to eat enough of it. One of the best substitutes for milk is boiled mashed potatoes; a half bushel of these to a barrel of swill will give an excellent flavor, and also help its digestibility. I think that, used for this purpose, the unmerchantable potatoes can be made profitable, but the arrangement for cooking must be such as to economize time and fuel. With only ten or fifteen times a pot of potatoes can be boiled on pigs, a pot of potatoes can be boiled on the cooking-stove each day, but if one has a large lot he should have a stone furnace with a sheet-iron pan, and plenty

of light, dry fuel, so that by starting the fire when he first gets up, the potatoes will be cooked ready to mash by the time breakfast is over. A short iron pan heats very quickly and economizes heat. I think a pan and furnace sufficient to cook two or three bushels at a time can be made for about five dollars. Lay the stone with clay instead of lime mortar. It will last much longer, as the fire will harden the clay. The older hogs will do very well with corn and grass, but cheaper, I think, gain faster and make heavier pork if fed with some bran and oil meal slop, and bran at seventeen dollars per ton is a cheaper feed than corn at fifty cents a bushel.

Care of Brood Sows.
Brood sows should be kept separate. Even two in the same pen are liable to irritate each other by crowding, and if covered places, or one lying on or against the other. The pen should be ample and free from obstructions and projections that may be run against. The pen should be kept clean and well bedded, and care should be taken to keep the sows clean from lice and other parasites. It is best to use a pen after a fattening and nourishing nature, but rather relaxing as the time of farrowing approaches. In warm weather a good free range ought to be provided, that the sow may have a chance to exercise, have good air and get a little sun. If the best, or if the boards are used for a foundation, let them be tight and the sides banked up so as to avoid all drafts of wind. Plenty of fine-cut straw or coarse grass should be provided; and, above all, the sow should have plenty of clean, fresh water to drink, and free access to salt, bone-meal, wood ashes, and charcoal. Whitewash the pen after giving a good scraping and cleaning. Carbolic acid may be used in cleaning and preparing for whitewashing. As the day of farrowing nears, feed bran mashes with oil meal, and see that the bowels are kept open and free. A little sand or fine mash will do no harm. Be sure to put pig guards all around the pen in time. These may be an inch board, ten or twelve inches wide, put in like a shelf against the side of the pen and high enough for the pigs to readily go under, but not low enough so that the sow will be likely to roll onto it. Get the sow to lie down, and she will be handled and talked to, so that she will not be disturbed by your presence at any time. Have on hand any conveniences which the situation and conditions may suggest, and watchfully abide the result. If due care has been taken, and the sow is healthy and in good condition, there is little chance of any trouble in farrowing. Nature does the rest, as a rule.—*Mirror and Farmer.*

THE APIARY.
Bee Notes.
No other legitimate business pays half so well as a stock of bees judiciously cared for.
MILLIONS of pounds of honey are lost annually for the want of a sufficient stock of bees to gather it in.
A. I. Root, in *Bee Culture*, says there is no clover equal to alsike, for bees or stock.
The bees always go from clover head to clover head, and never from clover to any other kind of flower.
EVERY farmer should keep bees to take care of his orchard. In the millions of flowers blooming in his orchard, meadow, glade, and green.
It is estimated that to collect a pound of honey from clover, 62,000 heads of clover must be deprived of nectar and 3,750,000 visits from bees must be made.
BEES are no respecters of lines, lands or persons, but roam at will for miles around in quest of honey, which they carry home and store away. They gather it from every nook and corner of God's domain, unmolested by landlord or tenant.
A STAND of bees in any of the improved hives should contain not less than 100,000 workers ready for the field. Such a stand would be cheap at \$10, for a colony of this strength will store several hundred pounds of honey during the season. They should have ample storage capacity.
PHEASANTS no other occupation is more suitable or half so profitable to the individual as bee-keeping. Thousands of invalids all over this broad land, both men and women, could begin bee-keeping with little or no capital, and as their strength increased allow their stock of bees to multiply in like proportion until both bee-keeper and bees grow strong and vigorous.

THE DAIRY.
Dairy Notes.
An exchange demands a general law taxing "filled" cheese, on the same principle that oleomargarine is taxed, and requiring that it be sold under its true name, as the oleo is required to be.
THERE is one thing to bear in mind, says an exchange, and that is, that fine butter will sell when poor butter will not. It therefore should be the aim of butter makers to always make a fine quality. By fine we mean butter of fresh sweet flavor, of good color, and above all others must be clean.
The strippings, of course, are the richest part of the milk, showing twice as high a percentage of cream as ordinary milk, or from 25 to 30 per cent. The poorest milk is drawn first; it is evident that in leaving the cow unstripped we never do get hold of this rich cupful.
In answer to a correspondent who asks if there is any system of feeding by which a poor milk can be made a good milk, the *American Stockman* says, no, but that a naturally a poor milk. There must be a natural development of the milk glands, a fact that anybody will recognize if he chooses to take cognizance of the every day fact that one cow will give more milk than another upon the same quantity and quality of food.
The *Prairie Farmer* closes an article on the "Rind" with the following: "To remark that churning should be done at the first appearance of acidity. Do not wait until the cream gets intensely sour and stale. In churning the butter should be granulated in the churn, instead of being gathered into a lump. It should be cleaned of butter-milk by washing and not by working. After lightly salting, it must be worked into a solid condition with the slightest working that will effect it."

RAISING fish from the plate to the mouth is the best health diet.

PLAGUE OF BAD BOOKS.

TALMAGE'S THIRD SERMON ON THE EVILS OF CITIES.

He Makes a Strong Point Against Those Parents Who Take No Thought as to What Their Children Shall Read—An Attentive Audience Present.

The plague of pernicious literature formed the subject of Dr. Talmage's sermon, which was the third of the series of preaching on the "Evils of Cities." The text of the preacher's discourse was taken from Ex. vii, 6, 7: "And the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt. There is almost a universal aversion to frogs, and yet with the Egyptian they were honored, they were sacred, and they were objects of worship while alive, and after death they were embalmed, and to-day they remain may be found among the sepulchres of Thebes. This creature, so attractive, once to the Egyptians, at divine hebecame obnoxious and loathsome, and they went croaking and hopping and leaping into the palace of the King, and into the bread trays and the couches of the people, and even the ovens, what was a trifling annoyance to the people on the side of chimneys, but then were small holes in the earth, with sunken pottery, were filled with frogs when the housekeepers came to look at them. If a man sat down to eat a frog alighted on his plate. If he attempted to put on a shoe it might be a frog. If he lay on a pillow tempted to put his head upon a pillow it had been taken possession of by a frog. Frogs high and low and everywhere; loathsome frogs, slimy frogs, besieging frogs, innumerable frogs, great plague of frogs. What made the matter worse the magicians said there was no miracle in it, and the people were to be made to produce the same thing, and they seemed to succeed, for by slight-of-hand wonders may be wrought. After Moses had thrown down his staff and by miracle it became a serpent, and then he took hold of it and by miracle it again became a staff. The serpent charmers and the same thing, and the people were to be made to produce the same thing, and they seemed to succeed, for by slight-of-hand wonders may be wrought. After Moses had thrown down his staff and by miracle it became a serpent, and then he took hold of it and by miracle it again became a staff. The serpent charmers and the same thing, and the people were to be made to produce the same thing, and they seemed to succeed, for by slight-of-hand wonders may be wrought. After Moses had thrown down his staff and by miracle it became a serpent, and then he took hold of it and by miracle it again became a staff. The serpent charmers and the same thing, and the people were to be made to produce the same thing, and they seemed to succeed, for by slight-of-hand wonders may be wrought. 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