

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

Fast Walking Horses.

One experienced in the management of horses tells us that any colt may be taught to be a fast walker by a little continued care in handling. A fast walk in a horse is the most valuable gait that training can acquire. It is valuable in a plow horse, in a team horse, and particularly so in a driving horse.

Some horses will trot along very well until you come to ascending ground, when you wish to relieve him by letting him walk up grade; he then falls into a slow lazy walk that is very trying to the driver's patience, but a well-trained walker will step off briskly at the rate of four miles an hour, and the driver feels that he had been detained but very little by letting his horse walk up the hill, as he starts off at his usual trotting speed, being relieved by the change of walking up the hill.

Colts should be trained to walk fast before there is an attempt made to improve them in any other gait. This may be accomplished by commencing very young, and leading at a walk by your side, urging additional speed little by little without letting it break into a trot; but this must not be continued long at a time so as to worry or tire. One or two short lessons a day will soon show a wonderful improvement; but after lessons will be required to prevent a relapse.

Farm and Garden Notes.

To keep hens from flying over high fences, cut off all the fly feathers on one wing and it will stop them.

Scotch farmers believe that cut straw is better for the dairy when newly threshed, hence they thresh every day enough fodder for the following day.

Horses may be taught to canter slowly and gracefully by riding them under the saddle for long distances up hill. The canter is a gait not so much desired since horseback riding has gone into disuse, but there are many indications that the healthful exercise given by riding on horseback is to become more popular, as it certainly should.

The quince is a slow grower. For this reason it is an advantage to buy trees well grown, say four or five feet high, rather than mere slips. Such trees will come in bearing in three or four years, and prove cheaper in the end than smaller trees at a lower price. They will have more than paid all expenses before the smaller trees will yield anything.

Aside from the looks of the thing, dead limbs on fruit or other trees should be promptly removed. Where limbs die from blight the cutting should be below any diseased part, or it will spread the infection. Prompt cutting down to healthy wood will check most cases of blight. The saw used should not be applied to healthy trees unless first washed with carbolic acid and water.

Barnyard manure is commonly deficient in phosphate, which is one reason why the two kinds of fertilizers go so well together. There is one advantage in mixing phosphate in manure heaps, as the fermentation which takes place makes the mineral manure more soluble and available. In soils deficient in vegetable matter phosphate often becomes insoluble before it can do any good.

The only safe way when weed seeds abound in manure is to thoroughly compost it until their vitality is destroyed. Turning the heap over at least once, to get the outer edges of the first heap in the middle, it is necessary, in order that all the seeds may be exposed to the heat. If well done, so as not to burn the centre, the manure will be all the better for the operation, as the plant food will be more soluble.

There is a growing inquiry among farmers as to the profits from keeping geese. Feathers are high, and though geese if unrestrained are destructive to grain crops, yet it is the belief of many that they fully pay for all that they destroy. A goose may be plucked three to four times during the warm season, and despite the outcry against the cruelty of picking live birds, the goose will be in as good condition in fall as if the feathers had been allowed to drop out.

It is well known that the common potato is the product of seed which in its wild state is wholly unfit for food. That the quality of potatoes now, however, depends largely on the soil and methods of cultivation, is less generally understood. The potatoes grown on the soil vegetable matter will be large and fine. In a wet season they will be

"soggy" when cooked. If not well covered from the sun while growing, the tubers will be green and have a harsh, bitter taste, which is really that of poison.

At a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural society Dr. Goessman announced that in his analysis he had found that the ashes of asparagus contain a very large amount of potash—fifty per cent. With this knowledge he decided that the asparagus plant requires potash fertilizers, and for several years has used potash on his asparagus beds together with bone dust. On an acre and a half of poor gravel land he has grown prize asparagus by the application of bone and potash only, no animal manure.

For use on the farm, especially in drawing manure, the tires of wagons should be three inches or more in width. The best mode of applying manure is as top dressing after plowing; but this is made impossible by the common narrow-tired wagons, which cut into the plowed soil like knives. On roads broad tires are equally beneficial, as they fill up rather than cut the ruts more deeply. It is, however, discouraging for one or two alone in a neighborhood to use broad tires on roads, as they are mending, at some expense, the ways of other people.

English farmers make much of their turnip crop. It is, with oil meal, and corn meal when it is cheap enough, the staple food for fattening stock. We, perhaps, do not grow as large turnip or rutabaga crops as English farmers, but we do grow mangold wurtzel as large as anybody, and presumably of greater sweetness, as our summers are warmer and dryer than those of England. But here roots are scarcely considered a staple food for anything. We feed some to milch cows to promote milk secretion, but supplement it with grain. The reason is that we can grow Indian corn. If English farmers had our corn crop they would think less of roots.

Sulphur-bleaching, by which means even inferior dried and evaporated fruits are made to appear white and attractive, is denounced by Professor E. W. Hilgard, of the California university. Professor Hilgard, having duly investigated by analysis and otherwise the effects of sulphur fumes on the fruit, states his objections in an effusive bulletin. These objections are not alone on the score of health, but he insists that fruit artificially bleached by means of sulphur loses its flavor and is not nearly so palatable as the darker-tinted fruit. He therefore advises consumers to select dried fruits that possess a light, brownish hue in preference to the white bleached fruits.

Recipes.

OATMEAL MUFFINS.—One cup of oatmeal, 1½ pints of flour, one teaspoonful of salt, two of baking powder, one tablespoonful of lard, two eggs, one pint of milk. Sift together meal, flour, salt and baking powder; rub the lard in cold, and then add beaten eggs and milk.

TURNIP SOUP.—Slice five turnips and three onions, with a piece of butter, in a saucepan (cover close.) Let it stew half an hour; then put in as much good stock as you require for the quantity of soup, add a few peppercorns; let it simmer for two hours, add a good slice of bread, rub it through a sieve and add half a pint of cream before serving.

BOILING FISH.—After washing thoroughly in salted cold water, sprinkle the fish with salt and pepper, and tie in a clean cloth with a sprig of parsley. Cover with cold water, except in case of salmon, when luke-warm water must be used to preserve the color. Cod requires fifteen minutes for each pound. A fish weighing one pound will be done in ten minutes after the water begins to boil. Draw butter sauce, with a hard-boiled egg chopped fine and stirred in at last, is very nice for bass. Oyster sauce is the best for cod.

APPLE PUDDING, BAKED.—Cut two or three slices of bread from a stale loaf; cut them not any thicker than a quarter of an inch; pare one pound of good baking apples, cut them in quarters and entirely move the core; then slice them very thin; butter rather liberally a good-sized pie-dish, and lay at the bottom one of the slices of bread, cut to fit the dish; put upon this a layer of the apples, a good sprinkling of sugar, and a few very tiny pieces of butter; next another slice of bread, apples sugar and butter, and so on until the dish is as full as required; pour over the top one pint of milk, and bake in a moderate oven for about an hour and a half, or until the apples feel quite soft when a fork is pressed into them.

A Singing River.

A peculiar musical resonance, which John Boyle O'Reilly describes in *Outing* as occurring in a sequestered portion of the Susquehanna, finds its counterpart in the low sandy banks and marshes of the Pascagoula river, and is accounted for by the inhabitants of its shores in a more picturesque, if not so practical, a manner. Among the numerous Indian legends which have drifted back to us from the old colonial life of our country, there are none more Rhenish in flavor than the oft-told legend of Pascagoula bay. Upon calm, moonlight nights a mysterious music has been heard to issue at intervals from the water, and floating over its surface for a time, dies away in soft melodious fragments. Apparently it comes from caverns or grottoes below the bed of the stream, and, ascending from the water in a volume of sound, it curls under the very keel of the traveler's boat, and reaches the ear like the strains of a thousand distant æolian harps.

To the wholly practical mind the phenomenon may be accounted for in part by the peculiar formation of the banks of the stream, the wild rushing of the wind through the reeds and ledges on the shore, or the hollow indentations in the bed of the river.—*Outing.*

Killing Sick Captives in India.

On another occasion one of the writer's people describes a raid into Cachar. On the return march a young woman sank exhausted and unable to proceed:

The chief halted, and after a short consultation, he said to me: "Go, Ramoni, and spear her. I will stand by and see that you do it properly." I felt much afraid, for I had never killed a human creature, and I was only seventeen years old. When the girl saw me approaching her with the spear in my hand she fell a-weeping, and caught at my feet and garments, entreating me. Then my heart beat and my head became giddy, so that I said to the chief: "I cannot do it."

But the chief reproached and the young men mocked him.

Then I shut my eyes and rushed at her with my spear, but the blow was ill directed; and Rutton Pola snatched the weapon from my hands and killed the girl with one blow. "Here," said he, giving me back my spear with the blood on it, "lick this to strengthen your heart." The blood of Bengal is very salt, added Ramoni; but since then I have not been afraid to spear any one.—*Travels in India.*

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Col. Robert G. King, for ten years Deputy Collector Internal Revenue, Baltimore, Maryland, writes: I endorse the Red Star Cough Cure. I have used it in my family for a violent cough and found it excellent. Its use was entirely free from the depressing effects of other cough remedies. It can readily be taken and agrees with and benefits everybody suffering from throat and lung troubles. The relief is permanent, and there is no reaction.

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