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FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



The American Beauty rose and the old Brahma hen don't usually thrive as they ought to on the same lawn—that is, the rose doesn't.

Wherever one finds the silo and the clover or alfalfa meadow a sensible and profitable type of agriculture is pretty likely to be in vogue.

It is thought by many that politics more largely than economics was responsible for the unprecedented slump in hogs during the winter months.

It is claimed that the sweetness and flavor of a good orange may be increased by peeling, quartering and allowing it to stand in a cold place overnight.

Cuss words and blows in the dairy barn mean just so many less dollars in the monthly cream check. There are a lot of farmers who haven't got out to this fact yet.

Alfalfa hay at \$15, with five tons raised to the acre, accounts for a large share of the prosperity to be found in those portions of the country where this valuable cereal thrives.

The work in the average town or country home is hard and burdensome enough at best without there being an inadequate or unwholesome supply of fuel and of hard and soft water.

Flocks of sheep and substantial fencives are to be found on the best farms of the country today. The man who doesn't have either improvement is certainly not living up to his agricultural opportunities.

The hog raiser and the man on a salary both have just ground for a kick with live hogs selling at 4 cents per pound and bacon and hams retailing at from 18 to 22 cents. The gap between the raw and finished product is greater than there is any possible excuse for.

Reports are to the effect that eggs may be kept a long time and in excellent condition by wiping them clean and coating them with lard. While the keeping qualities of the egg may be considerably increased in this way, we question if the method is as effective as the water glass solution.

Some idea of the part old Biddy now and then plays in the busting of the egg trust is gathered from the fact that during a period of about four days in the middle of March 44,570,520 eggs were shipped into the city of New York alone. As a result of this deluge of hen fruit there was a slump in the price of eggs of about 5 cents per dozen.

One of the chief sources of food for the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands is the tuberous root of the taro plant, which somewhat resembles the water lily. The roots of this plant are ground up into pulp and allowed to sour, in which form it is called "poi." The stuff is very sticky, and the natives eat it by sticking their fingers into a dish of it and then licking them off.

That boy is a mighty unsatisfactory and unpromising proposition, both for himself and other folks, who is lazy as all get out, but still insists on having three square meals a day. It is a source of increasing exasperation on the part of those who have to put up with folks of this type that their constitutional inactivity is almost always accompanied by a remarkably sound state of physical health.

A friend the writer knew some years ago fitted himself for the ministry. While possessing sincerity and earnestness to a marked degree, he was so diffident and ill at ease in the pulpit that his health broke down, and as a result he had to quit his pastoral work. He moved on to a farm which he owned and today runs a model dairy, from which he supplies milk to a large number of customers in a nearby town. While he no longer has a pulpit from which to preach, he still has the same opportunity to deal squarely with his 'elbows and to give "good measure, pressed down and running over."

While it is always one of the busiest periods of the year, the best time for pruning in the orchard is during April, May and June, as during these months the buds are made most quickly and early, thereby lessening the possibility that the process of decay will set in at the point of cutting and thus weaken the tree. If the limb cut off is more than an inch in diameter it is well to paint the cut with white lead and oil. All limbs removed should be cut as close as possible to the trunk or main ranch, while in removing one of two limbs it is well to remove the one which will leave the cut on the lower side of the main branch rather than on the upper and on the side away from the center of the tree rather than on the side toward it.

Onion Sets
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The person who pays his obligations by a check on his deposit in the bank always has at hand an automatic receipt which prevents his paying the same account twice. Of course this situation presupposes a bank account, which is also a pretty good proposition.

It is a very natural instinct perhaps for boys—and this is true of some grown gray headed—to find greater zest in doing a job for one's neighbor than for one's own folks. Perhaps the appreciation they get for the service performed has something to do with the situation described.

There is absolutely no method of protecting from the green goods man, the swindler and grafter the fellow who doesn't read. And, as a rule, the fellow who doesn't read and quite likely doesn't think hasn't the reasoning faculty sufficiently developed to draw helpful deductions from his own experience.

Millet, which is just the thing to sow on the low places on the farm, furnishes a grain supply which, when ground with oats or barley, makes an excellent fattening ration for beef. While millet hay makes a fair roughage ration for cattle if cured at the proper time, it is not so good as timothy, alsike or clover.

It is well for the good housewife to keep in mind that the man of the house and youngsters enjoy a variety of food, so do the animals in the barn. She should vary the soda-biscuit-fried-potato-salt-pork ration now and then and give them a surprise. It is more than likely, too, that she herself will enjoy the change of ration. While the change of diet may not make their coats more sleek, it is quite likely to brighten their eyes and whet their appetites.

Where a business man has employment in a city which is easily reached from suburban locations it is desirable from many points of view to have one's home in such a district. Here his family have the sunshine and pure air of the country, while the advantages offered by the city are also available. Moreover, he himself finds a needed relief and relaxation in the quiet of the country surroundings, there being usually enough to do about the place to give him the physical exercise which he ought to have if he would keep in the best trim for his city work.

The view that is held by many folks and one that is common in the speech of a great many more, whether they believe in it or not, is that ice which suddenly disappears in ponds and rivers at the coming of warm weather "sinks."

This is a superstition pure and simple, for there is just the same inert physical law tending to make it float in the spring as makes it stay on the surface of the water when it forms in the early winter. The solution of the phenomenon is not difficult. When a certain point is reached in the melting and rotting of the ice it suddenly disintegrates into millions of tiny spines or needles, which, exposed to the water of a warmer temperature, quickly melt. The only instance in which a body of ice would sink would be when it was mixed with or attached to an amount of dirt or stones which would make its specific gravity more than the water which it displaces, thereby causing it to sink rather than float.

When one is thinking of putting money into this or that enterprise it is always well to view with suspicion a proposition of whatever description which promises more than a legitimate return for the use of one's money. One method that is often followed by the worst type of grafters so as to make investors in their games believe that offers of abnormal returns on the investment are sincere is to return to them two or three large interest payments—just enough to increase the appetite for speculation and cause them to put in still more. In reality these payments are taken right out of the first installment of money sent in rather than being the legitimate return of the investment of such funds in a money making enterprise. But the investor finds, to his sorrow, that subsequent returns are not forthcoming. Even in such cases as the one just cited the abnormal interest return may be safely taken as a danger signal. The wise person will heed it and keep his money where he can put his hands on it.

The growing scarcity of post timber in the United States, coupled with a corresponding rise in price for posts of any description, lends additional force to the necessity of giving posts of whatever kind a preservative treatment which will increase their period of service from four to eight fold. An estimate is made in a recent bulletin of the subject issued by the forest service of the federal government that a fencepost which under ordinary circumstances will last two years will if given a preservative treatment costing 10 cents last eighteen years. Putting this in black and white, the bulletin states that the initial cost of a loblolly pine post is about 8 cents, while the cost of setting is 6 cents. Compounding interest at 5 per cent, the annual cost of such a post, supposing it would last two years, would be 7.53 cents. A preservative treatment costing 10 cents per post will increase its use to eighteen years. In this case the post when set costs 24 cents, which, compounded at 5 per cent, gives an annual charge of 2.04 cents, which makes the saving due to the preservative treatment 5.49 cents a year. In view of these figures every landowner who has fences to build should look up thoroughly this matter of a preservative treatment of posts.

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Hiccoughing can be stopped by
sneezing. A physician says he has successfully cured a case of persistent hiccough by tickling the patient's nose. It is not necessary that the stimulus applied to the nose be followed by sneezing, the application of a mild irritant to the nasal mucous membrane being sufficient to divert the nervous energy into other channels.—New York Press

Toast Water.
For very sick people toast water is a nourishing, palatable drink. Put several pieces of cold crisp toast in a thick pitcher, pour boiling hot water over it, cover the pitcher to keep in the steam, and after it has soaked for fifteen minutes strain off the hot water, which contains the nourishing essence of the bread. It can be kept in a cool place until the next time to reheat it.—Pittsburg Press.

Irony of Fate.
Hewitt—I see that Grant, the life insurance agent, is married. Jewett—Yes, and his marriage is a case of the irony of fate. Hewitt—How is that? Jewett—He didn't know until after he was married that the woman in the case carried a lot of life insurance, and now he will have to keep up the premiums on her policies.—Harroer's Weekly.

An Astonished Indian.
In one of the engagements of General Sheridan with the Indians his men, taken unawares by the redskins, had no time to remove their mountain howitzer from the mule's back, so they biased away, sending mule and gun tumbling together down hill upon the Indians, who fled in panic. One of them, captured a few days afterward, was asked why he ran away. He replied: "Me big Indian; me not afraid of little guns or big guns; but when white man shoots jackass at Injun me light out damn quick."

Montaigne on Self Assertion.
Not to speak roundly of a man's self implies some want of courage. I dare to speak of myself and only of myself. When I write of anything else I miss my way and wander from the subject. I, who am monarch of the matter whereof I treat and who am accountable to none, do not, nevertheless, always believe in myself. I often hazard sallies of my own wit, wherein I very much suspect myself, and certain verbal quibbles at which I shake my ears, but I let them go at a venture. I see that others get reputation by such things; 'tis not for me alone to judge. I present myself standing and lying, before and behind, my right side and my left, and in all my natural postures.

To Get a Better Crack at Him.
A Sunday school teacher recently asked his pet scholar why they took Stephen outside the walls of the city to stone him to death. The little fellow was silent for a moment as though absorbed with the problem, when, brightening up suddenly, he replied, "So they could get a better crack at him."

Schopenhauer on Journalism.
Exaggeration of every kind is as essential to journalism as it is to the dramatic art, for the object of journalism is to make events go as far as possible. Thus it is that all journalists are, in the very nature of their calling, alarmists, and this is their way of giving interest to what they write. Herein they are like little dogs. If anything stirs, they immediately set up a shrill bark.

Preparing for the Worst.
A French gentleman anxious to find a wife for a nephew went to a matrimonial agent, who handed him his list of lady clients. Running through this he came to his wife's name, entered as desirous of obtaining a husband between the ages of twenty-eight and thirty-five—a blond preferred. Forgetting his nephew, he hurried home to announce his discovery to his wife. The lady was not at all disturbed. "Oh, yes," she said, "that is my name. I put it down when you were so ill in the spring and the doctors said we must prepare for the worst."

Indians on Education.
In 1744, at the treaty of the government of Virginia with the Six Nations at Lancaster, Pa., the Indians were invited to send six youths to Williamsburg college to be educated free. It is a rule of Indian courtesy not to answer important questions on the day they are asked. After deliberating they declined the invitation. They said that they had sent several young men to the colleges of the northern provinces and when they returned they were poor runners, ignorant of how to get a living in the woods, could not bear cold or hunger, could not build a cabin, take a deer or kill an enemy and spoke their own language badly. They were not fit for hunters, warriors or councilors. They were totally good for nothing. "If the gentlemen of Virginia will send us a dozen of their sons, we will take great care of their education, instruct them in all we know and make men of them."

How Bismarck Got Well.
"Do you not find it a great relief," asked Bismarck of Count Beust at Gastein in 1871, "to smash things when you are in a passion? One day I was over there—pointing to the windows of the emperor's apartments opposite—and I got into a violent rage. On leaving I shut the door violently, and the key remained in my hand. I went to Lehndorf's room and threw the key into the basin, which broke into a hundred pieces. 'What is the matter?' he exclaimed. 'Are you ill?' I replied, 'I replied, 'but I am now quite well, thank you.'"

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