

# FARM AN ECME.

Matters of Interest to the Farmer, Gardener, Horticulturist, Stock Raiser and Household.

## MARKET VALUE OF POULTRY.

Broilers this spring in the Portland market have been \$8 per doz from 2 1/2 to three months old, and yet the demand has been greater than the supply; they are a little lower now, but still command high prices. If our people would supply the continually growing market they must resort to other means of incubation besides the old hen. Let the hens supply the eggs and the incubators the broilers. Better, cleaner and healthier chickens can be raised artificially than the old hen can give us, and when we consider the quantity there is such a wide difference that the hen is not to be considered in the business at all. Chickens can be raised to three months old with a good incubator and brooded at a cost not to exceed \$1 per dozen, not counting time and they will bring not less than \$3.50 per dozen, and often as much as \$7.50 and \$8, while there is little cause for disease. Most of the diseases of poultry, young and old, are caused by lice; with the incubator there are no lice, and consequently very little disease.—Northwestern Farmer.

## GROWING STRAWBERRIES.

A novel method of growing strawberries for ornamental as well as use, was seen by the writer last summer at Medford. A box was filled with earth, and several two-inch holes bored in the sides and end of the box. In these holes strawberry plants were placed, and in the center of the earth a large tomato can, with holes punched in the bottom, was nearly buried. Water placed in the can fed the plants for several days. The sun beating against the wooden surface caused the berries to ripen quickly, and the blossoms and fruit were very ornamental. Try the plan.—Independence West Side.

## BOYS LEAVING THE FARM.

It is not the agricultural college that weans the boy from the farm, but the dullest literary college that gives a smattering of science, the languages (dead) and literature. It is reliably stated that in Ontario, where they make a business of sending children to agricultural schools, more than 35 per cent of them go back to the farm. And President Chamberlain says he has wished that he could exchange two year's study of Latin, Greek and philosophy for the instruction that is usually given in a real agricultural college.

## FROM THE "WEST SIDE."

Mr. George Clark, a rustling farmer near Monmouth, says that on grub land the sale of the wood will almost pay for the clearing, and that grub land, if cleared, is as good as, if not better than, the prairie lands.

Mr. Rogers, of Independence, who is authority on tiling, says that from his past years of experience he is profiting, and that he will bury 20,000 more tile this year. He places the drains four rods apart, and finds the result to be a success.

Mr. Frank Powell, of Monmouth, says that he is satisfied that thousands of acres of land in Polk county, now barely paying interest raising wheat, will in a few years make the owners wealthy in fruits, and the fruit industry will be the means of dividing the large farms.

Mr. C. M. Brown, of Independence, says that he is satisfied that spraying is necessary in all our orchards, and that no farmer can raise good fruit in Oregon, or anywhere else, unless he prays; that the careful cultivation of California orchards would surprise Oregon farmers, and that fruit raising is destined to become a great industry here.

## HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

The state method of training grape vines has but one advantage over any other. We can plow and cultivate both ways and keep the ground clean with less hoeing. It is however, not as good as a trellis, neither is it as convenient for tying and distributing.

The announcement has been made that the Massachusetts Horticultural Society will spend \$3,000 during 1891 in prizes for plants and flowers.

James J. H. Gregory says that for the onion maggot he has found hens and chickens a possible remedy. He claims that a hen and brood of chickens will take care of from an acre to an acre and a half.

In naming a list of desirable plants for the florist, Mr. J. W. Manning calls attention to Trillium grandiflorum as one of the best of early bloomers of the earliest growth, and adapted to a great variety of soils. Its handsome white lily-like flowers are greatly admired.

## THE FARMER'S DISINFECTANT.

The farmer has at his command a disinfectant, a cleansing, purifying agent better than any patent he can buy. It costs nothing except the labor of procuring it. It is earth—fresh, clean earth.

Used in the stables, it absorbs the liquid manure and holds it till used, thus becoming in itself a rich fertilizer. Several inches of earth should be under the cows' fore feet as they stand in the stalls, and renewed as often as it works back to the gutter. This saves the planking, and prevents the hoofs from making holes in it.

Earth is a foe to vermin, and if used plentifully in the poultry quarters, lice cannot live. Here also, it is an absorbent, and the droppings are saved and by the admixture of earth prepared in part for use in the spring. This is the richest fertilizer on the farm—equal to guano, and the earth may be the savings bank in which it is deposited.

The nests of sitting hens should be made of earth, with only a thin layer of cut straw on top. A dust bin is indispensable. If the fowls have it, and earth is used plentifully under the roosts and in the nests, lice are banished.

In the sheep, pig and young stock pens earth should be used with a lavish hand; for it is the farmer's scavenger—it enables him to gather up the fragments of manure, and there is no part of the farm economy more important than this cleaning and saving of the natural fertilizers. It is the life of the farmer—the life of his bank, and the dividends are sure. Whoever begins winter without a big bank of earth to draw upon, has neglected to make a good investment.

## HOW TO WASH THE HAIR.

For washing the hair, says The Ladies' Home Journal, a small piece of kitchen soap put in very hot water until a very thick white sud is achieved, is best. Use this first water to cut the dust, and after that wash the soapy water out of it thoroughly with clear water that should be very hot, holding your head over a basin and letting it be poured from a small pitcher. Dry the hair first with towels, and then do not braid it while it is damp, but have it either fanned until it is dry, or if possible stay in your room and let it hang loose until it is free from all moisture. Do not be induced under any circumstances to use a fine comb upon it; it is death and destruction to the hair, and not good for the scalp. If there are obstinate spots of dandruff, rub in a little vaseline and brush that place well the next morning.

## HEALTH HINTS.

### Good Housekeeper.

For crouped throat, sore mouth, etc., use borax and honey; drink sage or slippery elm tea.

Anyone who has been scalded by steam should be taken to a warm room, and the parts drenched by cold water.

A tea made of ripe or dried whortleberries, and drunk in place of water, is claimed to be a speedy cure for many forms of scrofulous troubles.

For simple hoarseness, take a fresh egg, beat it and thicken with pulverized sugar. Eat freely of it, and the hoarseness will soon be greatly relieved.

Anyone can add strength and weight to his body by rubbing well with olive oil after a warm bath. Oil baths are particularly beneficial to delicate children.

Equal parts of cream tartar and saltpeter make an excellent remedy for rheumatism. Take one-half teaspoonful of the mixture and divide it into three doses. Take one of these doses three times a day.

When the ankle has been severely sprained, immerse it immediately in hot water, keeping it there for fifteen or twenty minutes. After it has been taken out of the water, keep it bandaged with cloths wrung out of hot water.

The white of an egg, with a little water and sugar, is good for children who are troubled with an irritable stomach. It is very healing and will prove an excellent remedy for diarrhoea, as well as a simple preventative for bowel disorders.

As an antidote for a consumptive tendency, cream acts like a charm; to be used instead of cod liver oil. Also aged people, invalids and those who have feeble indigestion, or suffer from dullness, as well as growing children, will be greatly benefited by taking sweet cream in liberal quantities.

## OREGON WEATHER BUREAU.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Portland, Oregon. Crop-Weather Bulletin No. 7. For week ending Saturday, May 2, 1891. (This bulletin is based on reports received from 101 correspondents.) The weather throughout the state during the month of April was very favorable to the growth of

crops. The temperature was slightly below the average. The amount of cloudiness and rainfall was above the average. There were no injurious frosts. The rainfall retarded spring seeding in Western Oregon. Fall and early spring sown grain have had unusually good growth. The fruit was never more promising. The grass is good. Stock are fattening rapidly. May opens most auspiciously for a fruitful harvest of all productions. On the 23d, 24th and 25th, frost and ice and snow squalls occurred in sections of Eastern Oregon.

## WESTERN OREGON.—WEATHER.

The fore part of the week was cloudy, cool and rainy, while the latter part was cloudless and warm. Douglas, Josephine and Jackson counties were warmer, and had less rainfall than the Willamette valley and coast. Light frosts occurred on the 27th and 29th in various localities, but no damage was done. The usual frost period is now past, and no damage need be expected from it.

The sunshine was greatly desired, and is proving of great benefit to the growing crops. The present weather is excellent for all vegetation which is now making rapid growth. Poplars, lindens, and other deciduous trees are coming into leaf.

Spring seeding on low lands is now being rapidly pushed. Early wheat is very heavy, and is lodging in places. The farmers are all jubilant over present crop prospects. Fruit never promised better yields than it does at present. Apples are blossoming; peaches, pears and cherries are dropping their bloom and the calyx is enlarging. The grass is remarkably good, and stock are fattening.

## HEALTH.

The late cool, damp weather appears to have revived the gripe; many communities are suffering from it.

## EASTERN OREGON.—WEATHER.

Showers occurred in fore part of week in most sections. On the 23d snow fell and ice formed along and south of the Blue mountains. On the 25th, 25th and 29th frosts were general; no serious damage is reported from them. Cherries and wheat were slightly injured in a few places. The temperature continues cool, but gradually rising. Not quite an average temperature prevails.

## CROPS.

Fall and early spring wheat continue to be promising. Late sown spring wheat is not so good on account of lack of rain. More rain would prove of great benefit to the wheat crop. While the wheat prospects at present are of the best, reports indicate that the promising conditions will not continue unless more rain falls. The fields are dusty and the need of rain is already apparent. The grass is good. Stock reported to be doing well.

## B. S. PAGE.

Observer U. S. Signal Service.

Mrs. Bayley, of Manchester, is a most courageous and enthusiastic fisherman. Despite the inclemency of the weather, which it would seem that only hardened gillies could endure, this lady bravely faced the elements and landed on one trip six magnificent salmon, three of which weighed 23, 22 and 20 pounds respectively. Mr. Bayley succeeded in landing only four fish on this occasion.

The queen regent of Spain is a very much overworked and worried woman, despite her rank and authority. She is suffering from acute nervous prostration, and has been advised by her physicians to leave Madrid for a time to obtain perfect rest from her anxieties. This she cannot do for fear of endangering the security of her son's throne if she relaxes her vigilance in regard to state affairs.

The smallest shoes in trade are made for Annie Pixley, who trips about the country in No. 24. According to the same authority Mary Anderson wears 44, Lillian Russell, 4; Ada Bohan, 5; Lillie Langtry, 5; Eliza Terry, 6, and Maud Kendall, 6. Bernhardt takes a No. 4 last, but the long use of sandals has spoiled her feet for French boots and Spanish slippers.

Itti Kinney Reno, the Nashville authoress, is the wife of Robert Ross Reno, who comes from the Rosses of Pennsylvania, and who, with the Haklemaans and Camerons, claims a share in the estate of old Philippe Francois Renault, valued at \$200,000,000. Mrs. Ross has just completed a new novel. She is a hard worker and frequently writes fourteen hours a day.

A perfect foot is a rare beauty. The foot of Pauline Bonaparte, which was modeled by Canova, is spoken of by contemporaries as of marvelous beauty. She was well aware that her feet were the perfection of form and tint, and had them as daintily cared for as were her hands, the nails being polished and rouged by her maid.

Here is an idea. Artists will pay good prices for the frames of old pianos. They use the wood for panels to paint on. The seasoning of the wood is such that it will retain the brilliancy of color longer than any kind of canvas or other material.

At a meeting in Albany, British Turkestan, the only company consisted of two boys, a girl and a huckleberry. In the morning a school of huckleberry-eaters is reported to have been seen who were frequently looked against their male opponents for considerable odds.

## A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER.

When Mother Deber, the mother of five little Debers, has invented the most unique toilet apparatus on record. It is a machine that bathes, rinses, dries and dries the entire Deber breed simultaneously by the simple turning of a crank.

The Debers live on the water front, near the old salmon cannery, back of Old Town. Like many of the houses in that vicinity, the home of the Debers is built on piles. At high tide the back porch of this humble home extends over the water, and this fact was favorable to the idea which Mother Deber had worn concealed in her mind for some time. With the assistance of her husband, the enterprising but overworked woman cut a hole in the flooring of the back porch about four feet square, and then built a windlass like those in use on old-fashioned well curbs.

Then she got a quantity of stout wire gauze or screens and made a crate or basket that would easily slip through the hole in the floor. This basket, which was about three feet deep, was hung in slings fastened at the four corners and then attached to the drum of the windlass. The baby washer was now ready to be put in operation.

Bright and early every morning the five little Debers are hustled out of bed. The eldest, a girl of nine, though small for her age, is an extremely handy young girl and a great help to her mother. She peels the nighties off her little brothers and sisters, likewise her own, and loads the children into the wire basket. Next she throws in a handful of wafered soap, and then joins the little band of candidates for immersion.

When everything is ready Mother Deber, who has been attending to her household duties in the meantime, comes out and mans the windlass crank. She lowers her happy little flock down into the clear, cold water and gives them a thorough dousing by working the crank backward and forward. This movement and the commotion made in the basket by the children produces a lather from the soap and cleanses the kids in a manner equal, if not superior, to the regulation hand bath.

Unlike most children, who kick and raise a fuss when being scrubbed, the little Debers actually enjoy their maternal plunge bath. The cold water imparts a healthy glow to their pink skin, and their eyes sparkle with delight as they duck and tumble over one another in the basket. The youngest, a laughing little youngster only eighteen months old, fairly shrieks with delight at the prospect of a plunge, and cries when his mother thinks it too cold for him to go down in the basket.

When Mrs. Deber thinks her brood is clean enough to last till the next morning she hauls the basket up flush with the platform, fastens the crank and lets them dry a while. This operation and the gentle zephyrs that blow in from Bellingham bay remove all traces of moisture, so that no towels are needed for drying the infants, which is an important saving of material as well as time.—Tacoma News.

## Old Postage Stamps.

At last a plan has been discovered for using old postage stamps to some advantage. The first thing is to thoroughly soak them, so that they no longer adhere to the paper, and the best way is to immerse them in water for some time. You then have them ready for the mangle work. The more diverse the coloring the better, and in the collection for use there should be blue, red, green—in fact, every color that can be found.

Then proceed to arrange them in geometrical patterns, cutting some diagonally across where the design needs it, or in halves. They can be adopted to the designs published for patchwork. The chief point to aim at is to select a good pattern, to keep it uniform, and to blend the colorings well. When these have been mastered it is very ornamental work, applied to the tops of tables, small cabinets, boxes, frames, letter cases, etc. It requires to be sized and varnished with clear crystal varnish.—London Tit-Bits.

## A Rare Example of Devotion.

Miss Julia Redman, of this city, has not been half a block from her home in the last twelve years. During that time Miss Redman, who is a pretty and accomplished young woman, has been in perfect health. Her apparent strange conduct is due to the fact that she has been a constant attendant on an invalid mother, who died recently. Miss Redman this week visited the business part of the city for the first time in twelve years. It had grown out of her recollection. She is now thirty-two years old. Here is a rare example of a daughter's devotion.—Dabnque Cor. Chicago Times.

## A Blind Girl's Success.

A blind girl has matriculated at Melbourne university. In algebra, arithmetic, French, Latin and several other subjects of study she has taken a first class position. She has been sightless from infancy. She has had, however, a passion for study, and it is her ambition to earn her own living by educational or literary pursuits. At the examination she wrote her papers by the aid of the Braille system. A teacher from the Blind school transcribed her work into the ordinary characters.—Exchange.

## She Killed a Coon with a Club.

Miss Louise Barreuther, Saturday afternoon, heard a noise in the hen-coop, and going out to ascertain the cause found a large coon in the coop. The young lady soon secured a club and went back to the coop and killed the animal. It weighed sixteen and one-half pounds. The Barreuther family live on upper Pratt street in the suburbs of Winsted.—Hartford Courant.

In Frankfort experiments are shortly to be made to show the application of electricity to aerial navigation. The pulley which controls the ascent and descent of the balloon will be operated by an electric motor, and a telephone wire will enable navigation to be carried on between those in the balloon and those at the starting point below.

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