

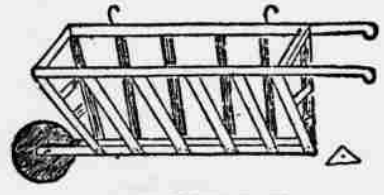


The covered milk pail shown in the illustration is said to be absolutely dust and dirt proof. The top is seven inches in diameter. A shallow pan two inches deep fits tight in the top and is fastened there. A few holes one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter in the bottom of the pan near the center let the milk run through into the pail. The spout of the pail has a tight fit.



One or two thicknesses of strainer cloth are slipped under the pan before it is fastened in place, and the result is a dust and dirt proof pail. The milk strikes the bottom of the pan, runs through the holes in the pan, through the strainer cloth and into the pail, where it is practically sealed from the outside conditions. It comes in contact with the air of the barn only while it is passing from the teat to the pan, says the Montreal Herald.

A handy thing to have around the dairy is the green fodder feed rack shown in the illustration, and any dairyman can make one. The rack



can be filled with fodder at the patch and wheeled to the barnyard. There it can be hung up against the fence by the hooks at the back. Make the rack of three inch strips and cut the wheel from hard wood.

The Clean Separator. A separator allowed to run gummy or dirty may wear out in a year. If kept free from dirt and well oiled, it will last several years. One of the objections urged against the separator has been that it would not be properly handled and that one or two years' service would wear the machine out. Professor E. H. Webster, after visiting several hundred farms and inspecting as many machines, says that the farmers, as a whole, are taking much better care of their separators mechanically than was anticipated. Machines have been noted that had seen several years' service and were still practically as good as new. In a few instances careless operators had nearly worn a machine out in less than twelve months. The farmer never bought a machine before in the use of which he was so frequently and urgently reminded that he must take care of it.

Surrounding of Creameries. There is a movement in some parts of the country to improve the appearance of the grounds of our creameries, says the Farmer's Review. The movement should receive public support. Around some of the creameries are to be found unsightly objects that take all of the romance out of butter making. Above all things, banish the drains that are open to the air and permit the casein and the other decayable matter to become a source of offense to the nostrils. Around some of the creameries have appeared flower beds and grassy lawns. The effect of these is to indirectly improve the conditions under which the milk is made and brought to the creameries.

Consider the Individuals. The keeping of records of dairy cows may be viewed from two distinct standpoints—that of the professional breeder who wishes to sell pure bred stock on their certified record of performance and that of the ordinary dairyman who is selling milk. From a business point of view each dairy cow may be regarded as a separate department of one undertaking. It is an elementary principle of sound business to take means of ascertaining that each department pays—that is, that each single individual cow gives a return large enough to pay for food, labor, etc., and leave a margin for profit. Guessing at the total yield, it will not avail. Memory is too treacherous. The total production of the milking period must be calculated, so as to strike a balance with the total cost of the twelve months' feed and expense and ascertain the margin—if any. There are hundreds of cows on our dairy farms that fail to yield an annual profit. This is not creditable. National pride of our reputation as a dairy country should spur farmers to immediate improvement.—Kimbell's Dairy Farmer.

BEGINNING WITH SHEEP.

Skill in Shepherding is the Keynote to Success.

Let me advise the beginner to start with a few sheep, says W. C. Coffey of the University of Illinois. Observe them closely and often and attempt to learn their natures. This more than anything else will teach you how to manage them. You do not have to live with them, but as an old successful shepherd said, "The shadow of the shepherd should be over them." The anticipation of their ills and needs is the highest test of the shepherd's skill, and it is this that every beginner should set out to learn.

The keynote to successful sheep husbandry anywhere is skill in shepherding. Careful selection of foundation stock is all important. The ewes should be strong in constitution, healthy and active. By the term healthy we mean that they be free from such internal parasites as stomach worm, tape worm, etc. The farm that has not had sheep on it for a number of years is usually clean, and if the beginner introduces no infested sheep upon his farm he greatly reduces the chances of attacks from parasitic diseases. Active ewes with strong constitutions usually nurse well and impart rapid growth to the lambs, which is a very important factor in making lambs prime for an early market where they nearly always sell at fancy prices.

One of the Best Crosses. One of the best crosses is to breed a good, pure bred ram of any of the Down breeds upon ewes having a strong infusion of Merino blood. Besides weight of fleece the Merino also imparts hardiness, while the Down blood secures a carcass which meets with favor on the market. Beware of indiscriminate crossing or the use of inferior grade rams, because either method results in lack of uniformity and quality in the flock.

Helping Out the Pastures. Aside from allotted pastures, the flock should have a chance occasionally at the neglected places. They enjoy cleaning up such corners. Rape and cowpeas or soy beans sown in the corn just before the last cultivation furnish excellent forage in early autumn for lambs retained for yearlings. Often the breeding ewes can be given a brief run upon this sowing to flush them in preparation for the breeding season. A small acreage of winter rye serves well to satisfy the ewes and lambs in early spring until the pasture grasses have reached sufficient growth for grazing. In winter feeding, if the grower has some leguminous hay, such as clover or cowpea hay, he may use the grain that is cheapest and easiest available.

The General Purpose Farm Horse. Many farmers get the idea that all they have to do is to breed their nondescript mares to some leggy coach or hackney to get a general purpose farm horse. We have seen hundreds of colts from this kind of breeding and must say that not 5 per cent of them are even fair specimens of the general purpose horse, while 50 per cent or more are failures from every point of view, writes a breeder in Denver Field and Farm. We have seen much better results when the coach stallion has been a finer and more compactly built one or when a hackney or American trotter of compact, smooth, muscular type has been the sire. These observations lead to the conclusion that this latter plan is the surest one to bring some measure of success in producing a general purpose farm horse.

THE SWINEHERD.

Have plenty of help in handling the heavy hogs. Hogs should be hung until thoroughly cooled out before handling or removing to the cellar.

Pigs showing signs of thumps should be stirred out of the nest. Roots and vegetables, together with scraps from the house, should be given to the hogs.

One of the best foods for young pigs is middlings, says the Farmers Advocate. They will do well on it when mixed with water. If mixed with skim milk it is a better food, and whey is superior to water.

Many breeders make the mistake of keeping the herd boar in a small, dirty pen and provide no yard for him to exercise in. He should have a strong pen and a yard of about an acre away from the rest of the herd.

Pigs of about the same age and size thrive best when confined in yards by themselves. They look better, feed better and sell better.

A good rule to follow is to make large yards and not confine the pigs on too small an area.

Small or weak pigs can be nourished on the bottle, containing warm cow's milk with a little sugar added.

Clean, disinfected yards help keep the cholera away.

A good hog house means good hog business.

Additional experiments at the Toronto experiment station confirm the results at the Vermont and other stations—that for young and growing hogs slightly sour milk is a better feed than sweet.

Get the hogs to market when they are properly fitted. When they get heavy and do not eat readily they are fatted. When they get fat and up to a good weight gain or weight is put on at an increased cost.

Save your breeders from the sows that are the best mother.

A quarantine pen is necessary on every farm where hogs are kept and should be made tight. Any new hogs that come into the herd should be placed in it and confined until all danger is past.



NEW STRAWBERRIES.

Two Are Immense Croppers and Strong Growing Plants.

Greater progress has been made the last three or four years along the strawberry line than ever before. The sample is about the only variety that holds its own, but from present indications even that berry will be set one side. The Cardinal, a pistillate variety like the Sample, just now is creating quite a sensation. The illustration here shown was taken from a cluster of last season and is a correct like.



THE CARDINAL STRAWBERRY.

ness of the berry, not one of those overgrown berries, but will average good size, an immense cropper and the most vigorous growing plant ever sent out. It will be a mortgage lifter, says an eastern grower in American Cultivator. Golden Gate is another new berry of great promise. This is a fancy berry, like the Marshall, only it is worth a dozen of it, being of fine quality and a good cropper.

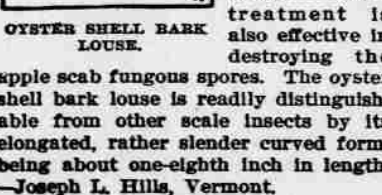
The Abington, sent out two years ago, has proved about what the originator claimed and is a safe berry to plant.

Another berry, the Dicky, that has not been put upon the market yet is a strong, staminate variety, an immense cropper, very firm, colors well and is a long season berry. I have no plants of it on my grounds, but as soon as I can I shall set largely of it.

Field Dodder. Dodder, or love vine, is a great enemy of alfalfa. It is a parasitic vine growing on the stems and taking out the life and vitality of even the roots. The vine entwines itself about the alfalfa stems in great clusters and grows thickly or small in exact proportion to the growth of alfalfa. When the alfalfa is cut, this vine appears in dry, hairy bunches about the stems. It is so repugnant to horses and cattle that it will not be eaten except as a last resort before starvation. The best way to keep free from dodder is to buy only clean seed. In some cases farmers use fanning mills and try to clean the seed before sowing. If the plant gets started in a field, the best plan to get rid of it is to scatter straw over the alfalfa stubble and burn the entire field. This does not injure the alfalfa, but kills the dodder and other noxious weeds.—Kimbell's Dairy Farmer.

Hen Manure For Crops. Hen manure gives good results on all crops, but probably best on such plants as make most of their growth above ground, like cabbage, corn or grass. Some great results, however, are reported with hen manure on potatoes. We generally use it on garden crops and strawberries. The most effective use of this manure is, as we have often described, to crush it fine and mix with chemicals, such as muriate of potash and acid phosphate. This makes a fair mixture for many crops. The hen manure is richer in nitrogen than in potash and phosphoric acid, and these chemicals give it a good "balance."—Rural New Yorker.

Injurious to Trees. The most effective insecticide yet employed against the oyster shell bark louse during the dormant period of the tree is the lime sulphur, or lime sulphur salt wash. An application of this wash during the latter part of March or first weeks in April, followed in the case of badly infested trees by a second application before the buds have swollen much, will generally suffice to eradicate the scale. Such treatment is also effective in destroying the apple scab fungus spores. The oyster shell bark louse is readily distinguishable from other scale insects by its elongated, rather slender curved form, being about one-eighth inch in length.—Joseph L. Hills, Vermont.



Orchards in Grass. The majority of good apple orchards nowadays are in cultivation. The old fashioned plan of seeding the orchard down to grass is in disfavor. Still there are some exceptional cases in which apples do fairly well or even better than that while growing in sod.—F. A. Waugh in Gardening.

COLD FEET.

This Trouble is Due to Defective Circulation of the Blood.

Many persons are seldom really comfortable as regards their feet, except perhaps in midsummer. Their feet are always cold, not only during the day, but also at night, especially when in bed. Associated with this condition we often find chilblains—not so frequently in this country as in England, yet often enough to warrant a few words regarding their prevention and cure.

Persistently cold feet are due to defective circulation. There is a lack of tone in the blood vessels or a weakness in the contractile force of the heart, which results in a semi-stagnation in the outlying parts of the body. The sufferer from cold feet usually has cold hands as well and is in danger of having his ears frostbitten on a stinging cold day if he does not keep them well rubbed or protected by ear muffs.

One who is troubled with this condition should have the feet well protected by stout shoes with thick soles, which will keep out the moisture, and if the feet have been wet there should be no delay in changing shoes and stockings on returning home. Overshoes may be worn on cold and snowy days, but rubbers should be avoided, except the kind that cover only the soles of the shoes, which are sometimes necessary, since waterproof soles are unfortunately seldom found on the ordinary shoe.

Better, however, than protecting the feet by extra covering is treatment directed to improving the local and general circulation. The best local treatment is by means of water. Night and morning the feet should be immersed in hot water for a minute, then plunged into cold water—the colder the better—kept there while one counts ten slowly and then rubbed briskly with a coarse towel until they are thoroughly dry. They should then be stroked for a minute or two, with the hands pressed firmly against the skin, in an upward direction. This treatment should be kept up for a long time—a year or two if necessary, until the tone of the vessels is restored.

As the condition is one of faulty general circulation, general treatment should also be instituted. Indeed habitually cold feet and hands constitute a danger signal. The sufferers are in a condition of weak resistance and are especially prone to become consumptive. Fatty foods are usually required, especially butter and cream. If the simple uses of water that have been indicated and changes in diet do not overcome the tendency a physician should be consulted, for there is a constitutional fault that calls for remedy.—Youth's Companion.

The Tactful Woman. A fashionably attired young woman seated between two strange men in a Sixth avenue elevated car started suddenly, felt thrice in her muff, rose and looked at the seat, then anxiously scanned the floor. "Anything wrong, madam?" one of the men asked. "Yes; I've lost my purse," the young woman snapped. "I'm sure I had it when I entered the car." And she fixed the men on either side of her alternately with a stare. Both flushed and hastened to aid in a vain search. "Well, it's very queer," the victim exclaimed. "Now I'll have to go back."

She left the train at the next station, and two wholly innocent and reputable citizens rode on downtown, each wondering if the other was a thief.—New York Globe.

A Pious Reason. "Shure and you have turned very industrious lately, Mr. Finnigan," said Mr. Flaherty. "That I have," replied Mr. Finnigan. "I was up before the magistrate last week for assaulting Cassidy, and the magistrate said that if I came back on the same charge he would fine me \$10." "Did he, though?" said Mr. Flaherty. "And so you're working hard so as to keep your hands off Cassidy?" "No, bedad, I'm not," said Finnigan. "I'm working hard to make up the \$10 for the fine."—London Tatler.

The Collegian's Retort. Members of a class in Cambridge had been rather flippant in regard to some pompous authority, and a fellow was eulogizing him. Said he: "You are probably ignorant, young gentlemen, that the venerable person of whom you have been speaking with such levity is one of the profoundest scholars of our age—indeed, it may be doubted whether any man of our age has bathed more deeply in the sacred fountains of antiquity." "Or come up drier, sir," was the reply of the undergraduate.—"Recollections of Aubrey de Vere."

CONDENSED STORIES.

When Senator Foraker's Courtesy Was Tried to the Limit.

Senator Joseph Benson Foraker of Ohio, who is very much in the limelight just now, is noted for his courteous treatment of newspaper men. He is particularly kind to young reporters and often puts himself out to assist them in obtaining material for "copy." Out at the Republican national convention at St. Louis in 1896, however, the senior Ohio senator had his patience sorely tried by an unusually raw reporter.

The senator and the members of his party reached the Mound City late at night and went to their rooms immediately upon their arrival at the hotel. They were all hot, dirty and tired and consequently not in the best of humor, but nevertheless Mr. Foraker consented to receive a reporter who sent up his



"WHO IS HALSTEAD?"

card. A very young man appeared, who immediately produced a formidable looking notebook and pencil.

"You are from Ohio?" he said briskly. Mr. Foraker admitted the charge.

"Your name, please." Then, upon being told, he added, "How do you spell it?"

The Ohio senator smiled a weary smile, but patiently spelled out his name.

"Mr. Foraker," said the scribe, "who is Ohio's candidate for vice president?"

"Young man," was the reply, "Ohio has no candidate for vice president. We have a candidate for president, William McKinley by name, and we expect to see him nominated. The constitution, you know, says that the president and vice president must not be from the same state."

"Oh,"

"I will give you the names of the members of our party," Mr. Foraker resumed wearily.

"Charles Emory Smith."

"Who is he?"

"You ought to know him. He is the editor of the Philadelphia Press, the leading Republican newspaper of the east," said the Ohio senator.

"Next put down Murat Halstead of Cincinnati."

"Who is Halstead?"

This was the last straw. "Oh, he's a bricklayer," said Mr. Foraker in disgust. "Young man, I am going to bed. Good night."—Washington Post.

A John D. Rockefeller Yarn.

Mr. Rockefeller is something of a dialect expert, and some of the stories he regaled us with were of the Hibernian, German and southern type, writes Victor A. Watson in the New York American. One of the former was:

"An old lady went to a haberdashery and called for a 'craveit' (cravat). The clerk said he thought she meant a necktie and directed her to the next counter.

"Oi want a craveit for me husband," said she to the second clerk.

"Don't you mean a necktie?"

"Sure, an' that's phwat Oi sed."

"Well, I'll recommend this beautiful green one for you. Your husband will like it."

"Sure, an' me husband will have no choice i' th' matter. He's a corpse."

Before Longfellow Died.

The breeziest reminiscence of Longfellow is this extract from one of the poet's letters which his grandson has been reading in public:

"As I was standing at my front door this morning a lady in black came up and asked, 'Is this the house where Longfellow was born?'"

"No, he was not born here."

"Did he die here?"

"Not yet."

"Are you Longfellow?"

"I am."

"I thought you died two years ago."—Boston Herald.

FEMINE SMOKERS.

Ways of Women Who Indulge in the Tobacco Habit.

It is interesting to notice the different ways in which cigarettes, cigars and pipes are held by people. The writer has traveled a great deal in different parts of the world during the past eight years and has had a very good opportunity to observe the customs of smokers in Cuba, the land where the ladies smoke, as they do in the Philippines. The Filipino and the Cuban like to smoke. No matter how poor, he or she always has a supply of cigarettes to smoke. As the ladies and children smoke, too, one can observe some delicate hands supporting cigars and cigarettes.

While the ladies do not, as a rule, smoke pipes in the Isle de Cuba or the islands of the southern Pacific ocean, you can see the pipe in service in the grasp of females now and then.

But the ladies of Spanish origin of Cuba are unique in the managing of the cigars and cigarettes. They always act as if they thought the gentlemen were observing the manner in which they hold their cigarettes. They like to assume that they are old hands at it. They are pleased to make a good impression upon the visitor.

The ladies of Cuba do not all smoke. There are many Spanish and Cuban ladies who would never think of handling either the cigar, the cigarette or the pipe. The American and ladies of other nationalities in Cuba very seldom smoke. But there are certain classes of native born ladies who smoke a great deal.

They are pleased to begin the morning duties with smoking and to finish off the afternoon with a cigarette. Toward the final hours of the night, before retiring, they smoke. Some fall asleep smoking, and the servant has to look out for the cinders to prevent the bed-clothes taking fire. Some chew a cigarette in their dreams. The men of Cuba are great smokers, as are all people in the tropics.—United States Tobacco Journal.

The Boy and the Lawyer.

In the incident related below a boy of twelve years old conquered a smart and shrewd lawyer fighting for a bad case.

Walter was an important witness, and one of the lawyers, after cross questioning him severely, said:

"Your father has been talking to you and telling you how to testify, hasn't he?"

"Yes," said the boy.

"Now," said the lawyer, "just tell me how your father told you to testify."

"Well," said the boy modestly, "father told me that the lawyers would try and tangle me, but if I would just be careful and tell the truth I could tell the same every time."

The lawyer didn't try to tangle up that boy any more.—Massachusetts Plowman.

Egyptian Draughts.

The ancient Egyptians played a game somewhat like chess. It was called draughts. The two players sat on the ground or on chairs, and the pieces, or men, arranged at either end of the table, moved probably on a checkered board, as in modern chess. Egyptian representations of the game, always being given in profile, do not show either the exact appearance of the board or the number of squares the same contained. The game was very popular both in the homes of the poor and in the mansions of the rich. Even Rameses is portrayed on the walls of his palace at Thebes engaged in playing the game.—Circle Magazine.

An Oriental Story.

There is an oriental story of two brothers, Ahmed and Omar. Both wished to perform a deed whose memory should not fail, but which might sound their name and praises. Omar, with wedge and rope, lifted an obelisk on its base, carving its form in beautiful devices and sculpturing many a strange inscription on its sides. He set it in the hot desert to cope with its gales. Ahmed, with deeper wisdom and truer though sadder heart, dug a well to cheer the sandy waste and planted about it tall date palms to make cool shade for the thirsty pilgrim and to shake down fruits for his hunger.

Bird's Nest of Five Tons.

The largest birds' nests are to be found in Australia. The Australian jungle fowl build for nests great mounds 15 feet in height and 125 to 150 feet in circumference. Grass, leaves and other vegetable matter are used in the construction of the nests, which easily weigh a ton. The Australian brush turkeys, working in colonies, build pyramidal nests even larger. One of these nests on being removed filled seven carts, and its total weight was five tons.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.