

Farm, Home, Garden and Dairy

Timely Hints Upon Matters of Interest to the Housewife, Farmer, Gardner and Dairyman.

CARE OF THE JEWEL CASE.

How to Clean and Brighten Real and Artificial Stones.

Prepared chalk is the best all round cleanser for jewelry of all descriptions. A small box of the chalk is, as a matter of fact, as important in the dressing case as a clean chamois leather, with which silver buttons and buckles can be brightened. An excellent method of combining the two is that of inclosing the block of chalk in a leather bag drawn around the neck with a tape, which can be used both to keep it taut and to act as a polisher.

For gold chains there is nothing to equal a paste made of chalk and methylated spirit, while a fine brush must be used after the paste has dried on so as to clear it of powder and give a brilliant polish. Benzine is sometimes employed by jewelers in cleaning precious stones. It should not, of course, be allowed to touch pearls or even turquoises, moonstones or opals, all of which require the greatest care in their treatment and are the first to show signs of neglect.

In the case of diamonds, sapphires, rubies and emeralds the benzine treatment may be tried, however, provided great care is observed, as benzine fumes are very inflammable.

The rings, if set into claw settings and other small items, should be collected and laid to soak in a little benzine, after which the jewels should be washed in ordinary soap and water, rinsed in cold water and finally placed on a cloth to drain. Experts further dip the jewels in alcohol, so as to evaporate the remaining water, damp of any description being certain to dull the surface of the newly cleaned stone.

To keep jewelry in sawdust is the very best method of obviating the constant cleaning which would otherwise be necessary, and it is an excellent plan to keep a small bag made of chamois leather in the dressing case, filling this with sawdust and using it to hold all brooches, earrings and rings which are not actually in daily use.

It is not, however, only real jewels which put a tax on time and patience when away from home. The many secondary gems which are used for buckles, earrings and chains, as well as the hatpins, which seem to get more and more ornate every day, require even greater attention. Old paste is best cleaned with dry prepared chalk. The same treatment agrees also with such stones as peridot or marquisite. It is never advisable to allow imitation stones to become wet, while a damp paste, moreover, which in some cases would do no harm to the gem itself, might loosen the setting.

CLEANING OF FURS.

How It Can Be Done by the Use of Simple Remedies.

Ermine and miniver are best cleaned with soft flannel. Rub the fur well against the grain, then dip the flannel into common flour and rub the fur until clean; shake the fur and again rub it with a fresh piece of soft, clean, new flannel till the flour is out. By this process the color of the ermine is preserved, and the lining need not be removed. Sable, chinchilla, squirrel, etc., are cleaned with new bran, which must be warmed very carefully in a pan, but not burnt; therefore white waiting stir it frequently. Rub the warm bran into the fur for some time, shake it and brush until free from bran. The fur will clean better if the stuffing and lining are removed and the article laid as straight and flat as possible on a table or board.

Well brush the fur before it is cleaned, and if there are any moth eaten parts they must be removed and replaced with new pieces. The following method is said to be adopted in Russia: Some rye flour is put into a pan upon the stove and heated, being stirred constantly with the hand as long as the heat can be borne. Then the flour is spread all over the fur and rubbed in well. It is then brushed gently with a very clean brush or beaten softly till all the flour is removed. It is claimed that this method will make the fur appear almost new.

How to Keep Fingers Smooth.

The bane of the average sewer or embroiderer is the roughened first finger. This is particularly trying when one is using embroidery silks which catch and roughen easily. To keep the hands in good condition wash them carefully before beginning work and rub off all roughness with a fine pumice stone. Then wash off with a little acetic acid, which can be bought at any drug store. If this is not at hand a good cider vinegar answers the same purpose and makes the skin soft and smooth.

SOME FALSE ECONOMIES.

Some of the worst blunders that are made by tillers of the soil and those engaged in animal husbandry are the result of practicing shortsighted initial economies—the attempt to save in first cost followed by increased losses later on. To this class of economies belong the purchase of scrub or cheap grade sires for the dairy or beef herds, the use of poor seed on high priced land when good seed costing half more would give three times the crop return, the use of worn-out and dilapidated machinery and tools when money would be made by the use of those new and up to date, the plodding along in the same old rut in the dairy without Babcock tester or cream separator when money could be made by the use of both, the refusal to buy a manure spreader or other labor saving devices which would make possible a maximum utilization of the various farm resources and, lastly, the use of the old, played out fuel wasting stove and furnace when the new would do vastly better work at a minimum consumption of fuel.

This is not a partial list of false economies, but enough have been mentioned to suggest a profitable line of thought. This fault may be summarized in the statement that the trouble lies in holding the copper or nickel so close to one's eye that it ruins one's perspective of the real value of things and obscures the distant dollar or eagle that might be made were a more intelligent and enlightened policy adopted.

SOME SILO ADVANTAGES.

In many sections of the corn belt during the past few months corn has not only spoiled from being left in the field as a result of heavy snows, which made husking impossible, but considerable quantities of that which was cribbed also spoiled because it was not properly dried out when stored. But that corn which was cut in season and put in the silo was safe not only from frost damage, but from possibility of rot and mildew as well. There ought to be a suggestion in this all too general situation for the farmer who would combine the best intelligence with brawn in his farming operations. There is no debating the question that the silo offers both the safest and the most economical method for handling this great cereal staple of the country. It is none too early now to begin making plans for a silo if one contemplates installing one next fall, as a study of plans and types of silos should be made, while a visit to several farms where they are in successful operation, coupled with inquiries made of the owners as to their experience with them, would be time very well spent. The greatest agricultural leak in the country today is the result of the present careless methods of handling the corn crop. The use of the silo offers the best way out.

THE LAWING CHAP.

We have in mind a fellow who is everlastingly at law about something or other. Part of the time it is because he fancies he has been wronged in some way by those with whom he has had dealings, while the rest of the time he is a defendant in suits brought by his fellows who feel that he has been an offender in an attempt to get what did not belong to him. While seemingly a strong believer in the law as a corrective of the ills from which folks suffer and a generous contributor toward the maintenance of its machinery, he now and then is hauled into court for open violation of the statutes. It goes without saying that this chap is a mighty disagreeable person to get along with, his rating as a man being away below par in the family as well as in the community in which he lives. He makes rich plucking for the lawyers, who are the only ones who are the gainers from the squabbles and suits in which he becomes involved.

How to Save a Burned Cake.

When cakes do the most trying thing to the baker—burn on the sides and bottom—instead of moaning over your loss, seek to repair it. Unless the burn is deep it will not alter the taste of the cake, though perhaps it will be a little drier in consequence. It is so unsightly that it must be covered up at any cost. Instead of cutting off the edges of the cake with a knife, as is usual, try removing the black with a fine grater. This removes all the darker portions and leaves a smooth surface for icing. Clean, fine sandpaper can be used in the same way. The cake must be handled delicately and not until cold, or it will fall and turn soggy. Ice on the brown side, and if burnt on the edges as well as bottom, particularly in small cakes, cover the sides as well as top with icing.

REARING CALVES.

Good Care Necessary When Feeding Them Skim Milk.

A little thought given to raising calves on skim milk would be money in the pocketbook of almost any farmer. A skim milk diet is artificial, and a calf being raised on it needs more attention by far than one raised by its mother. Calves are more sensitive than one commonly thinks; therefore the milk should always be just the same temperature. A single feed of cold milk will cause indigestion. This is a pretty serious thing with a young calf. No matter how light the attack may be, it will retard the growth of the animal for several days. Stale or sour milk will have a like effect.

The right temperature is 90 degrees. If the milk in warm weather is separated immediately after it comes from the cow it is just about the right tem-



FIVE OF A KIND.

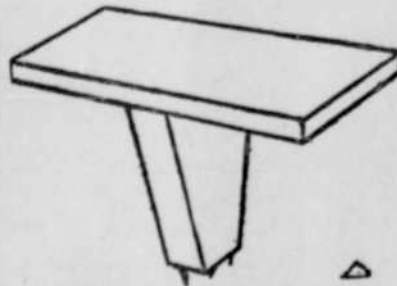
perature without additional heating. When the weather is cool the milk should be warmed artificially, and a thermometer should be applied to see that something near 90 degrees is reached. The thermometer you use for the churn serves. After a calf is two or three months old it is not so sensitive as a younger one and may safely be fed milk that is cooler.

A separator is a valuable asset in raising calves by hand. The skim milk can be got to the calves sooner after it has been taken from the cows, thus reducing the chance that it may become stale. Don't feed the calves sour milk one day and sweet milk the next, even if the milk in each instance is of the same temperature. The pail that the calf is fed out of should be kept clean. By using a foul pail it is possible to give a calf indigestion.

The most common mistake farmers make in feeding skim milk is that of overfeeding. One gallon of skim milk twice a day is enough for any calf, no matter how large it is. A little more can be given to a calf more than three months old without getting over the danger line, but be careful. A calf thrives best when it is hungry. If it bawls once in awhile it is good exercise. A calf can gorge itself on milk from the udder without dire injury, but when it gorges itself on skim milk it will pay the penalty in suffering and may turn up its hoofs. No more is required because the milk has been skimmed than if it were whole. See that the calf gets just about the same amount each day.

Convenient Milking Stools.

There are many kinds of milking stools being used by dairymen, but none as handy, cheap and easy to make as the one suggested by a well known dairymen. To construct one of these stools take either a piece of 2 by 4, ten or twelve inches long, or a round stick three or four inches in diameter. To this nail a board six inches wide and ten or twelve inches



THE CONVENIENT MILKING STOOL.

long. Be sure to have the top and bottom of up and down piece square at each end. If the milking is done where there is a floor take four or five sixpenny nails, bite their heads off and drive them into the bottom until they stick out only about one-fourth of an inch, to keep the stool from slipping. Many dairymen who have built and used this stool say there is nothing else so convenient and satisfactory.

Use System in Watering Horses.

Painstaking and experienced horsemen have proved beyond a doubt that horses seem to be better nourished when systematically watered before feeding and again two or three hours after.

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