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If a fellow finds it hard in his bones to give scrub care to the animals about him they would better be scrubs than pure breeds.

Eggs for hatching will give better results if saved from hens that are two or three years old, provided they are vigorous and healthy.

Galveston, Tex., has exported to foreign countries since last September 3,200,000 bales of cotton, or more than the output for the entire season of 1910 and 1911.

How many of the bright boys and girls who read these notes have ever inspected an ear of corn closely enough to tell whether the germ side of the kernels faces toward the tip or butt of the ear?

Sunshine is one of the cheapest as well as most effective germ killers known and should be made use of along this line far more than it is in the home, in the dairy barn and in the poultry house.

The stuff that grows in one's garden may taste just as good if grown in crooked as in straight rows, but the crooked rows are kind of hard on the eyes of the folks who pass the garden patch and look it over.

Cream for churning whether in summer or winter should have a temperature of 62 degrees F. If much colder than this the cream will come slowly, while if warmer the butter will come with a mushy and greasy texture.

A tempting price for corn which causes the grower to sell it in the raw state rather than feed it to his hogs or cattle brings him in ready money, it is true, but it constitutes petit larceny against the soil that he ought not to be guilty of.

A stack of weeds can often be killed in a hurry in a field of corn that is from six to ten inches high by using a tooth harrow, and slight damage will be done to the corn provided the dragging is done during the afternoon, when the sun shines warm.

While the United States is remarkably rich in most minerals, it is very low in the scale when it comes to the production of tin. The total value of the output for 1910 was \$23,477. The importations for the same period reached the large total of \$33,913,253.

A firm, hard collar that fits is invariably better as well as easier on the horse's shoulder than the ill fitting contraption that has to be padded. Especially is this true in warm weather, when a pad makes the shoulder sweat a good deal and the skin becomes sensitive and tender.

It is a pretty good idea to rake the straw or hay which has been used as covering for the strawberry bed between the rows of plants instead of removing it from the bed entirely. Left between the rows it serves as a mulch and also gives a clean place to walk, besides keeping a good many of the berries out of the dirt.

The ideal orchard, that which is most thrifty and in the long run will yield most profitably, is the one that starts with thrifty and vigorous trees that are kept growing vigorously from the time they are set in the ground. Once let young trees get seriously stunted, either through lack of tilting or spraying, and it is impossible for them to develop into what they would otherwise have been.

It is a mighty good plan to build a nice comfortable home on the farmstead in place of the little shack that has sheltered the family for generations, but it is an easy matter to overdo the business and get the house too big, so that instead of being a real comfort and convenience it may easily prove a bugbear and white elephant. An institution of this kind is costly to maintain if one has a financial backset, while if one wants to sell such a house would be a drawback rather than an advantage.

The alfalfa leaf spot, a fungous disease that is doing considerable damage to this valuable crop in some sections, may be reduced, according to advice given by the Kansas experiment station, by frequent cutting and as complete removal of the infected leaves from the field as possible. In case a field is badly infested the recommendation is made of burning the field over after making a cutting and allowing it to dry thoroughly. This means the loss of one cutting, but the subsequent crops will be much larger to more than make up the difference.

**THE RAG DOLL TESTER.**  
If one has to test seed corn on short notice and does not have a box tester on hand, the "rag doll" tester is a very convenient one to use and inexpensive as well. In testing corn by this method first get a good quality of sheeting or cotton flannel of light weight, the amount required depending upon the amount of corn to be tested. This should be cut in strips about nine inches wide. Tack these to a board, stretching slightly, and draw a line with a soft pencil lengthwise through the middle of the strip. At intervals of about three inches make cross lines, numbering the spaces where the kernels are to be placed in some regular order. After numbering moisten the cloth. Then take six kernels from ear No. 1, two each from near the tip, the center and the butt and from both sides of the ear, and put them on square No. 1, germ side up, and so on. The strips of cloth used can be cut of a length to test from a dozen to fifty ears, as one desires. While the ears may be kept in rotation, as given number in a row, the writer has found a very convenient marker to be a small piece of cardboard or pasteboard bearing the number and stuck to the ear by an eightpenny nail run into the pith at the butt. When the kernels are all in place a little wisp of hay or straw should be caught in the end for a core and the cloth carefully rolled up. To provide for this the marking for the spaces should not come closer than five or six inches to the ends of the strips. When rolled up cords should be tied around the ends of the "rag doll." When kernels from all ears to be tested have been secured and the cloths rolled up they should be soaked in tepid water from eighteen to twenty-four hours. This should then be placed in a box covered with a couple of inches of earth or sawdust and kept moist and warm for about six days, at the end of which time the test should be ready to read. The "rag doll" tester has an advantage over the heavy box tester in that it can be moved easily to places where it can be kept warm and does not take up so much room. It also gives quicker germination than the box tester.

**SOIL AND FRUIT.**  
A common mistake in the selection of a site for the apple orchard tract, large or small, is that of choosing a soil that is too rich; that will cause abundant growth of wood, but mighty little fruit. In the valley in which the writer's ranch is located is an orchard of mature apple trees, as pretty a sight from the standpoint of foliage as one could ask to see, which has lately been felled because it did not deliver the goods. The tract is fat, rich and well watered. Within gunshot of this tract is a block of winter Nellis pear trees of the same age that for several years past have grossed their owner close to a thousand dollars per acre. Never was more emphatically demonstrated the fact that soil can be too rich for apples, but not for pears. Within a mile of these unproductive apple trees, on thinner and lighter granitic soils, the apple trees bear prolifically to the point of breaking down.

**PRACTICAL EDUCATION.**  
That trend in education which is coming to lay greater stress upon those branches that have to do with the home—domestic science—and with the farm—manual training, agricultural and horticultural—has much to commend it, as it is clear that these branches have a far more important and vital bearing on the everyday life of the people than do languages and some other branches. In many schools today located in rural communities attention is being especially directed to a study of agriculture and horticulture, and the results are often manifest in an improved condition of the school grounds, while many of the lessons taught are being worked out on the farms of the community.

**THE WORTH OF RIGHT HABITS.**  
Perhaps there is no single factor in the training of the boy or girl aside from the fundamental traits of obedience and honesty that will have more to do with their success in life than the habit of doing well and thoroughly the task that is set for them. It is very easy for the child to get into a stony and disorderly way of doing things, and when this is observed the parents should do everything possible to correct it, for unless it is righted it will crop out in school as well as in business pursuits, and in housework later on. It takes time and pains to aid the child in the forming of right habits of work, but the effort if persisted in is well worth while.

**THE POTATO CANKER.**  
The potato canker, a fungous disease that is akin to the potato scab disease, which has been known in England since 1901, has made its appearance in Newfoundland, and it seems reasonably certain that, except for most rigid precautions, this worst of potato pests will shortly gain a foothold in the United States. The canker causes the potatoes it infects to become a mass of warts, losing both their shape and value for either seed or eating purposes. A characteristic that makes it most difficult to combat is that the spores of the canker, once introduced into a field, will remain there for years and not disappear under crop rotation, as is true of the potato scab.



**The Sincerest Flattery.**  
Everything about Aunt Dorothy seemed lovely and wholly desirable to Bobby. Even an accident that broke a piece from one of her front teeth produced at last what seemed to her small admirer an attractive result.  
On his first visit to the dentist Bobby bore with more or less patience the work which had to be done and then made a request.  
"Right in the middle, in front," he said. "I should like a copper tooth like Aunt Dorothy's."—Youth's Companion.

**When Newton Missed His Dinner.**  
Sir Isaac Newton one day invited a friend to dine with him and, as usual, forgot all about it. The friend arrived and found the philosopher in a fit of abstraction. Dinner was brought up for one. The friend, without disturbing Newton, sat down and dined. When Newton recovered from his reverie he looked curiously at the empty dishes and exclaimed:  
"Well, really, if it wasn't for the proof before my eyes I could have sworn that I had not yet dined."—Kansas City Star.

**Fruit of the Soap Nut Tree.**  
Natives of India find many uses for the dried fleshy berries of the soap nut tree. These "nuts" are employed as detergents, and by the dyers of India are supposed to possess special merits in the preparation of certain dyes. In Kashmir the soap nut is preferred to the European soaps for washing shawls. In other parts of the country it is specially valued for washing silks and is used by Indian jewelers to restore and brighten silver plates and ornaments tarnished by exposure. The soap is also used medicinally.

**Washington's False Teeth.**  
Washington is said to have had the first set of false teeth manufactured in America. They were made in Baltimore and so pleased was the Father of His Country with the improvement they made in his facial contour that he straightway ordered his portrait painted. It might be remarked that these teeth were not a perfect fit since it is declared that they rattled so badly while he was reading his inaugural speech when first elected president that he could scarcely be understood.

**Old English Houses.**  
St. Albans, which claims the oldest inhabited house in England, now an inn, is rich in old hosteries. The Feen there dates back to the fifteenth century, though the present building is modern, save for some old woodwork in the coffee room. The priory, too, in Holywell hill, was once the Bull inn and as such was visited by Queen Elizabeth, while off the High street is the George inn, dating from 1446, which at one time had its private chapel for the use of its guests.—London Chronicle.

**Not an Absolute Embargo.**  
The expert burglar, disdainful of the use of explosives, had attacked the lock itself.  
"This may be a combination somewhat in restraint of my trade," he muttered, turning the knob slowly to the right again and listening intently, "but you couldn't call it a case of unreasonable restraint."  
Apparently his view was correct, for presently he was engaged in the unrestricted pursuit of his trade and reaping large profits.—Chicago Tribune.

**Cure For Baggy Trousers.**  
"In pressing trousers," said the tailor, "the first thing you want to do, before ironing in the creases, is to take out the bagginess at the knees. To do this you turn the trousers inside out and spread each leg on the ironing board, not as you lay them to press the creases, but exactly the other way, crosswise, from seam to seam, and then you lay on the damp cloth and press in the usual fashion with the hot iron. By this pressing you shrink the wool fibers of the cloth together again, where they had been punched out at the knees; you take out the bagginess, and then you turn the trousers right side out again and press for the creases."—New York Sun.

**A Shrewd Suggestion.**  
They tell a story in New Hampshire about a country squire before whom a man was arraigned for passing a counterfeit half dollar. The prisoner protested his innocence, on the ground that the date of the coin, 1859, showed that it could not have been in circulation so many years without being detected if it was counterfeit. The squire thought this a logical defense and discharged the prisoner. After the man had got out of the state some one suggested that the date might have been counterfeited as well as the coin, and then it was tested and melted in the flame of a candle.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

**MISTAKEN DUTY.**  
People are very often heard to say, "I thought it my duty to do such a thing." It too frequently happens that what they thought it their duty to do was some mischief which lay miles out of their way. At a fair computation fully one-half of the bad things done, out of the ranks of the avowedly vicious, are done under the impulse of a sense of duty.

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