

THE FARM.

SOD AS A FERTILIZER.—An old farmer writing to an exchange, says: There is no way manure can be furnished so cheaply as in sod. Sod not only enriches the land, but improves it mechanically, the decay of the roots in the sod making the sod, and that too of the best quality. Sod manure is always adapted to the soil, and no testing is necessary to know whether it will benefit the crop or not as with commercial fertilizers. With the sod manure it is all gain, both in mechanical and fertilizing effects. To get best results the rotation of crops should be quick, and the land got into clover and grass sod as quick as the fourth crop, so that the organic elements of the soil are not too heavily drawn up.

RULES FOR BUTTER MAKING.—1. The cream should be removed from the milk before the latter has become sour. The reason for this is easily explained. As soon as the milk begins to turn, curd is produced, and it is then impossible to remove the cream without taking off some of the curd also. Curd means cheese, and curd is made up with cheese into butter; the latter must necessarily have a cheesy flavor, and will, in a short time, become strong and very inferior in quality.

2. As soon as the butter makes its appearance, and while still in the granular state, the buttermilk should be run off. Plenty of cold water should then be thrown into the churn and the butter washed by turning the churn a few turns, two or more lots of water should be used until the butter is thoroughly cleansed. Butter is frequently damaged by over-churning. It is an error to suppose that after butter once forms more can be obtained by further churning. Every revolution after the granules are about the size of Indian corn or small nuts deteriorates the quality.

3. Butter should not be touched by hand. The water should be expelled by means of a butter-worker. No animal on this farm pays better for good keeping than the cow. Cows purchased from rich lands seldom do well on poor soils. One cow, well fed, will produce as much milk as two carelessly treated; the former will be kept at a profit, the latter at a loss. The best economy is to keep cows in such a manner as to make them give the greatest quantity of milk with the greatest profit. Carrots and other roots cause cows to give milk in abundance and of good quality. One kind of forage, even the best, may not furnish in suitable proportions all the elements necessary to produce the best milk; therefore, give a large variety of food, but guard well against anything that will taint the milk or butter. Pure water at regular intervals is essential to the best results. Cows which are near calving should be fed on substantial food and lodged in some clean, warm apartment by themselves; let their drink be lukewarm for a day or two after calving. Great milkers pay as they go, but seldom carry much flesh on their bones. It is not good policy to allow a cow to loose a single pound of flesh; it costs money and will cost more to replace it. Cows seldom yield their milk kindly to a person who is not gentle with them. Cleanliness in the dairy is sometimes classed among the cardinal virtues.

DIPHTHERIA.—The latest and most successful treatment for this dreaded disease has lately come to our knowledge, and having interviewed the man who says his life was saved by the new treatment we feel confident it is our duty to give the facts to our readers, and they may investigate for themselves. The circumstances are as follows: Amede Chartier, of West Farnham, P. Q., recently had diphtheria; he became so bad off after a relapse that all hopes of his recovery was abandoned by his physicians and friends, and as a last resort a brother of the patient said that he had a bottle of Kendall's Spavin Cure and wished to try it. He applied it to the neck, and then reduced a little, the patient after some difficulty succeeded in gargling it in the throat. He soon noticed some improvement, and by continuing its use a complete cure was effected, and now he says he knows it saved

his life. The above remarkable experience led us to investigate farther, and we found that Kendall's Spavin Cure has the most remarkable effect on human flesh of any remedy of which we have ever heard, and we have become soundly converted to the opinion that no remedy has ever been discovered which possesses such remarkable qualities for the diseases of man as well as beast. Every one should cut this out and paste into a scrap-book.—Times.

THE HOUSE.

TOADS MADE USEFUL.—Formerly the toad was considered a venomous reptile; but in our days its habits have been more carefully observed, and its great value to the pomologist and gardener has been fully established, on account of its propensity for destroying insects, especially those injurious to vegetation. We should therefore, sedulously cultivate the friendship and crave the assistance of the insectivorous reptiles, including the snake, as well as that of birds. Every tidy housewife detests the cockroach, mice, and other vermin. Two or three domestic toads would keep the coast clear of these, and would be found more desirable than a cat, as they are wholly free from trespassing on the rights of man as does the cat. The toad is possessed of a timid and retiring nature, loving dark and shady places, but under kind treatment becoming quite tame. Many instances are cited of pet toads remaining several years in a family, and doing valuable service with no other compensation than immunity from persecution. All that is necessary to secure their co-operation, indoors or out, is to provide them with cool and safe retreats by day, convenient access to water, and they will go forth to the performance of their nocturnal duties "without money and without price." In Europe, toads are carried to the cities to market, and are purchased by horticulturists, who, by their aid, are enabled to keep in check the multiplication of the insect tribes which prey upon their fruits, etc.—Our Dumb Animals.

HINTS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.—Soot falling on the carpet from open chimneys or carelessly handled stove pipes, if thickly covered with salt, can be brushed up without injury to the carpet. To clean oilcloth, wash with warm milk. Once in six months scour with hot soapsuds; dry thoroughly and apply a coat of varnish. They will last as long again. To give glass great brilliancy, wash with damp sponge dipped in spirits, then dust with powdered blue or whiting (tied in a muslin bag) and polish with a chamois skin. A paste made of whiting and benzoin will clean marble; and one made of whiting and chloride of soda, spread and left to dry (in the sun if possible) on the marble will remove spots. Cheese can be kept from moulding by putting it in air-tight glass jars.

PICCALILLO.—One peck of green tomatoes, one teaspoonful grated horseradish, four green peppers sliced, six onions chopped fine, one pint white mustard-seed, one tablespoonful each of ground cloves and ground allspice, one cup of brown sugar, about three pints of vinegar, salt, and pepper. Boil twenty minutes, and then add vinegar and a little chopped cabbage.

WATERING PLANTS IN POTS.—Many persons who love flowers, and desire to have them in the house during the winter, fail to accomplish their object because they do not know how to water them properly. They are either too sparing in the application and so starve the plants, or too prodigal of water and drown them with frequent and excessive drenchings. There is a happy medium which the experienced know how to strike, and so—other causes of failure being absent—to achieve success in their floricultural ventures. The grand secret of this success, according to a German journal, is to be found in the maxim that plants ought not to be wetted until they need it. A sure method of ascertaining whether a plant requires water, it says, is to knock on the side of the pot, near the middle, with the knuckle. If it gives forth

a hollow ring, the plant needs water; if there is a dull sound, there is still moisture enough to sustain the plant. Plants should not be watered more than once or twice a day. On dry, clear days they require more water than on damp, cloudy days. Care must be taken not to let them dry out entirely. Should the earth accidentally get too dry, the best way is to place the pot in water so that the dirt will be wetted very gradually. Watering may be done at any hour of the day, except when the sun is shining on the pot or has just left it, for the reason that when the earth is heated and cold water is poured on it, it will cool off too rapidly. Well water, our German authority adds, should never be used, rain water or brook water alone being suitable for the purpose.

HEALTH HINTS

TWO CHEAP MEDICINES.—One of the cheapest medicines that mortal can use is sleep. It is a sovereign remedy for weakness; it cures restlessness, uneasiness and irritability; it will remedy headache; it also cures nervousness. When weary, we should rest; when exhausted, we should sleep. To resort to stimulants is suicidal; what weary men need is sleep. The lack of sleep causes neuralgia, paralysis, and insanity. Many a person dies for want of sleep; and the point where many a sufferer turns his feet from the very gates of death to the open path of life is where he sinks to sleep. Of almost every sick man it may be said, as of Lazarus, "If he sleep, he shall do well." Another excellent medicine is sunshine. The world requires more of it, morally and physically. It is more soothing than morphine, more potent than poppies. It is good for liver complaint, for neuralgia, for rheumatism, for melancholy—for everything. Make your room sunny and cheerful; build your house so as to command the sunshine all day long.

SIMPLE AND VALUABLE REMEDY.—The following recipe has been known to act as a medicine in cases of prostrating diarrhoea for a child or an old person, where it was impossible to retain any other food. It acts as a medicine and also gives great nourishment, thus keeping up the strength of the patient. I have taken the trouble to write it out, in hopes that it may do some good, and can vouch for its efficacy from personal experience. Sift two cups of best white flour, and put it in a moderate oven on a yellow platter. Stir it frequently to prevent burning, till it is a dark brown almost as dark as chocolate. Take four teaspoonfuls of the flour and blend with hot (not boiling) water till it becomes a stiff paste. Then add gradually water till the tumbler is full. This can be taken either warm or cold, according to the taste of the patient. Of course the thicker it can be taken the more nourishment it contains.

VARIETIES.

People who wonder why men's hair turns gray before their whiskers should reflect that there is about twenty years difference in their respective ages. "The Vowels," by Dean Swift, who wrote Gulliver's Travels: We are little airy creatures, All of different voice and features; One of us in glass is set, One of us is found in jet; 'Tis other you may see in tin, And the fourth a box within. If the fifth you should pursue, It can never fly from you.

Men's lives should be like the day, more beautiful in the evening; or like the spring, aglow with promise; and like the autumn, rich with golden sheaves where good works and deeds have ripened on the field.

The man who is in the wrong uses hard words and soft arguments, while the man who is in the right often uses soft words and hard arguments.

Youth gives us the prospect of a long life, but we seldom think of it rationally providing for its enjoyment. It is when the term of it has been abridged by the flight of its best years that we become anxious to secure the comforts of the brief portion that remains to us.

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