

FARM AND GARDEN.

KEEPING APPLES.—Great improvements have been made in the keeping of fruit. Baldwins which were formerly out of the market early in the spring, are now kept to the first of the summer in a perfect condition, retaining their flavor remarkably well. Russets, which not many years ago were regarded as a rarity in June, are now kept in good condition, until July, or even August, if desired. This great success in keeping fruits till late in the summer has been attained largely by regulating the temperature of the fruit-cellar. The aim is to keep the temperature as near the freezing point as possible without injuring the fruit. Arrangements are made so as to let in the cold air from outside nearly every day in winter, so as to keep the air in the cellar near the freezing point. Some of our fruit-growers, when the weather becomes warm in spring and summer use ice to keep the atmosphere at the proper point. In this way one orchardist keeps his large crop of Roxbury russets in excellent condition until July, when he markets them, usually at four and five dollars per barrel. Some of our fruit-growers have found that the old way of putting fruit in boxes, and barrels, or bins, is not the best way to keep it. Fruit, in order to keep, they say must have free exposure to the air. In order to do this, they make bins composed of slats placed at a little distance apart, forming the sides and bottoms. The bins are raised a foot or two from the bottom of the cellar, and the cellars neatly floored over, to keep dampness out of the fruit. When these bins are filled with fruit, the air circulates freely throughout the mass and promotes the preservation of it. These bins are a great improvement over the old boxes and barrels, and should be generally adopted. In the preservation of fruit it is important to harvest it carefully, and avoid all bruising in handling it. Apples, to keep well, should not be allowed to remain on the trees until fully ripened. They keep better if gathered about as soon as the seeds begin to turn.—Mass. Ploughman.

A correspondent of the Western Rural however says:—Put the apples in air-tight barrels covering the bottom of the barrel with chaff and slacked lime mixed—the larger proportion of chaff. Put in a layer of apples, alternating each with a layer of lime and chaff, until the barrel lacks two or three inches of being full, and fill with the latter. Insert the head carefully and tightly; put in a cool place—an even temperature of about 40° Fahr. would be about right—and you will have good, sound apples late the succeeding summer.

Cattle will not eat nearly so much fodder in a good warm stable as they will in a cold one. When wintered in a stable that is frost-proof, with the usual allowance of feed, stock will come out in the spring in good condition. On the other hand, it matters not how much fodder and choice food may be given them if wintered out of a good warm shelter, for they are bound to come out in poor condition in the spring. A good man should be merciful to his beasts, and by keeping them in a good warm stable during our long winters he will have the satisfaction of knowing that his dumb brutes will be comfortable and that he is making money by administering to their comfort.

NOT TOO MUCH HAY.—The cow must be well fed. It is not enough to feed the cow all the hay she can eat. Generally it is not advisable to feed a milch cow on all the hay she can eat. Hay is difficult to digest, and if as much is fed as the cow can eat the digestive organs will be burdened to such an extent that the animal cannot digest enough nutriment to enable her to yield as large a flow of milk as she otherwise could. In regard to this matter, Professor L. D. Arnold says:—"The slow and imperfect manner in which common hay digests is an objection to using it to the extent many dairy-men do as the main food for the dairy. It is often the boast that cows have all the hay they can eat and it is a boast that does not speak

well for the largest returns. Hay will not allow of the best returns in milk production. Dried grass will do very well; but common hay would require an amount burdensome for a cow to carry, an amount beyond the capacity of her stomach to yield the material for a good flow of milk without drawing on her store of flesh to produce it. The more I study the food of milch cows, the more I am inclined to limit the quantity of hay to the smallest amount which will afford a comfortable distention of the stomach and make up the rest of the ration with food richer and more rapidly digested. It is the best way to get large and paying returns." It is not advisable to give a cow all the hay she will eat even when she is fed with grain to a considerable extent. She will take in more food than her digestive organs can properly digest and a portion will be wasted. By feeding only enough hay to produce a comfortable distention of the digestive organs, the remaining digestive power can be expended on more easily digested food, and thus enable the cow to yield a larger flow of milk. If the hay used is early cut or "dried grass," it will be permissible to feed it more freshly than late cut hay.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

An experienced sheep raiser says that a good way to control a flock of sheep is to take a ewe lamb to the house and make a pet of it. Use nothing but kindness and give it a name, teaching it to come at the call. Whenever the lamb obeys give it something as a reward such as a grain of corn, a piece of bread, or anything that is acceptable, but never give it a blow. When the lamb is grown place it in the flock and you will need only to call that one sheep, when all the others will follow. As sheep follow their leader the training of one is the training of all, and it is a saving of time and labor to do so.

SAND FOR A CLAY SOIL.—Twenty-four years ago, says a writer in an exchange, we had three or four inches of sand carried on part of a garden the soil of which was too clayey for the successful or convenient raising of garden vegetables. When this sand was well worked in, the whole became an excellent sandy loam, just the soil for agreeable working. The labour of drawing on the sand was considerable; but it was done in winter, when there was little else for the man and team to do, and the fine condition of the soil remains as good as at first, and probably will for a century to come, as the sand does not evaporate, wash away, or become consumed in the growth of plants, as will manure.

FOOD FOR SHEEP.—For eight-month lambs and young, growing sheep, says the National Live Stock Journal, a half pound of bran, with one or two gills of corn or a half pound of oil meal, will keep them thriving. For fattening sheep to be sold in a late fall or early winter give one pound of corn and a half pound of oil meal; this, with part pasture, will push them forward favourably.

If you want your mutton to be tender and juicy, feed turnips to your sheep. With the aid of turnips a four-year-old wether can be made to eat as tender as chicken.

GIVE THE COWS WATER.—When cows are obliged to live on hay they have a stronger desire for water than if fed on other kinds of fodder. See that they have access to it at all times. It will pay to give the milk cows a pailful of water at noon in which a quart of bran has been stirred. A lack of water will quickly cause a shrinkage in milk as well as an actual loss of flesh.

In the history of the Smithfield Club, 1883 will be spoken of as "The Queen's year." Her Majesty having accomplished a feat altogether unparalleled by any exhibitor in the annuals of live stock competitions—namely, winning all three of the champion honours awarded in the cattle classes. The Queen took the £50 silver cup for the best steer or ox, the £50 silver cup for the best heifer or cow, and the Champion Plate of 100 guineas for the best beast in the show.

SCIENCE.

A FRENCH surgeon says, that on chloroforming some mice and lifting them by their tails, they tried to bite, but on laying them again in a horizontal position, they resumed insensibility. Acting on this hint, when a patient showed signs of collapse under a dose of chloroform, he dropped the patient's head over the bedside and raised the feet quite high. The patient at once became conscious; when laid straight on the bed he became insensible again, and a return to lowering the head and raising the feet for ten minutes was required to counteract the chloroform. It is thought that by this treatment anaesthetics may be used with great safety.

A free dinner was given the other night at the Coffee Palace Hall, London, to about 100 persons, who had been invited to come and test for themselves the possibility of preparing a satisfying savoury, and cheap dinner consisting wholly of vegetable foods. To begin with there was served to each a generous plateful of hotch-potch soup, into the constitution of which half a dozen succulent garden products entered. The second course was potato pie, served with parsnips and savoury sauce made tasty with two or three kinds of herbs. A pudding of maize meal and raisins in a sweet lemon sauce was the dessert, and to judge from the cheerful and comfortable air with which the party of free diners settled themselves down after their supper to be talked to and to hear what was to be said theoretically for a kind of diet with which they had been invited to make themselves practically acquainted, the guests had found the fare palatable and sufficient. As a matter of detail it may interest house-keepers to know that in the composition of the pie-crust, which was in cook's parlance 'short,' a vegetable oil was used instead of butter or the thrifty 'dripping.' Considered with regard to one of the recommendations which vegetarians put forward on behalf of their system of living, the meal must be allowed to have fulfilled the condition of economy, the cost of the materials being at the rate of 3d per person fed, or an average of 1d per course. Brown whole meal bread was given with the soup.

VARIETIES.

A St. John, N. B., clergyman, who preached in the New Brunswick Provincial Lunatic Asylum a few Sundays ago, earnestly appealed to his hearers to avoid the folly, and possibly the sin, of running around from church to church instead of attending their own particular place of worship. The Rev. gentleman had evidently got hold of the wrong manuscript for the congregation, or the wrong congregation for the manuscript. At all events the affair was a clerical error.—Toronto Mail.

A SHEPHERD BOY'S PRAYER.—A little lad was keeping his sheep one Sunday morning. The bells were ringing for service at church, and the people were going over the fields, when the little fellow began to think that he, too would like to pray to God. But what could he say? for he had never learned any prayer. So he knelt down, and commenced the alphabet—A, B, C, D, and so on to Z. A gentleman happening to pass the other side of the hedge heard the lad's voice, and looking through the bushes, saw the little fellow kneeling, with folded hands and closed eyes, saying A, B, C. "What are you doing, my little man?" The lad looked up. "Please, sir, I was praying." "But what were you saying your letters for?" "Why I didn't know any prayer, only I felt that I wanted God to take care of me and help me take care of the sheep; so I thought if I said all I knew He would put it together and spell all I wanted."

Bless you heart my little man, He will, He will, He will; when the heart speaks right the lips can't say wrong." The prayer that goes to heaven comes from the heart.

Living without work does not make a gentleman. It is just as liable to make a loafer.

The farmer's wife should wear gross grain silk.

A woman carriage-painter at Grand Forks, Dakota, is considered the best in the place.

Whistlers are always good-natured; says a philosopher. Everybody knew that. Its the folks that have to listen to the whistling that get ugly.

Gold jewellery may be cleaned and be made very bright in this way:—Line a small tin cup with soft paper, fill with nice suds, put the jewellery in (one piece at a time, of course), shake it about well, rinse with clear water, and dry with a piece of chamois skin.

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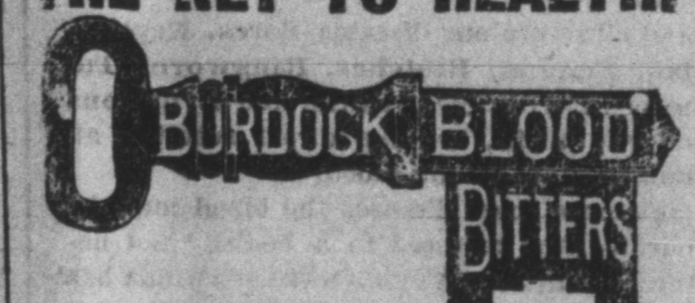
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