

Poetry.

MY MOTHER'S VOICE.

There's a sound that is dearer than all I may hear, That gladdens my soul with its rays of glad cheer;

Agriculture.

Potatoes Prospects.

Speaking of the prospect of the potato crop for this year. A correspondent of the Country Gentleman, says:-

April Suggestions.

It is well to examine the stock of seeds on hand and take measures for procuring as much as may be wanted.

The Agriculturist.

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ANDREW ARCHER, Editor.

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If scions for grafting have not already been cut, it should now be attended to; though if the grafting is done before the buds start, it will not make so much difference.

At this season sheep and especially forward ewes should daily be supplied with some roots; potatoes or turnips will answer sliced fine and sprinkled over with a little salt.

Nothing is gained by ploughing before the land is in a suitable condition of dryness. Light, porous or gravelly soils may be plowed as soon as the frost will permit.

Butter and Cream. The British Quarterly Review of a late date contains a discussion of the question, "Did the Greeks and Romans make any use of Butter and Cream?"

The great esteem in which butter and cream are held by all the Anglo-Saxon races leads us to ask, with some feeling of curiosity, the above question.

The absence of any word in either of the two ancient classical languages to express butter or cream, and the fact that no allusion is made to their use till more than half a century after the Christian era, form a negative argument of great weight.

In the "Iliad" (xi. 638), Heracles prepares a posset in the tent of Nestor for the wounded Machaon, and scrapes or shreds into it goat's cheese with a bronze knife.

and Romans, but no word in either language for churn. The Indian ghee is butter made from buffalo's milk.

In countries where olive oil is abundant, neither cream nor butter is held in much estimation. It is doubtful whether the Italians and Spaniards would make much use of either were it not for the demands of English travelers.

Pliny regarded butter as a barbarous misuse of good milk. It was considered in his time as rather a nasty thing—something midway between food and drink—not so good or so cheap as oil for cooking, and very inferior to it as a relish.

Fattening Lambs.

The following excellent and seasonable article is from the Dirigo Rural. In fattening lambs it is very important not only to secure the desired end but to do so as soon as possible, for loss of time in this case is fully equivalent to a loss of cash.

Whatever the cause, or causes, of the inequality which exists among the lambs an effort should be made by the owner to bring the smaller and poorer ones up to a high standard of excellence, and to secure for the better ones an equally rapid growth and perfect development.

best way to get them to do this is to fix a pen into which the sheep cannot go but which the lambs can enter or leave at any time. In this pen small troughs should be placed and in them a little meal should be constantly kept, and in a little while the lambs will become fond of the meal and will eat all they can get.

In raising lambs for the butchers the skillful farmer finds one of the best paying departments of his business while the negligent one obtains but a small income and a still smaller proportion of profit.

The Farm—Preparations for the Summer's Work.

A contributor to a leading agricultural magazine, referring to farm work for April, says:-

"We doubt the expediency of laying down land with oats. Isn't it better to sow your oats, say early in April, cut them in July, plough again in August, and seed down with grass in that month, or early in September?"

April brings the spring's work fairly upon us. We cannot long sit with folded arms over the kitchen fire, but must be up and at work. It is to be presumed that the plan for the summer's campaign is all laid out, and that you know just what has to be done.

THE GRAPE IN CANADA.—The report of the Fruit Growers Association of Ontario, says:-"Mr. Paffard, on a recent visit which I made to Niagara, showed me in his garden several exotic varieties, and among them a vine of black Hamburg, which has been in full bearing for six years, and produces yearly a heavy crop."

in order that it may come out well in May. A daily carding now is of great importance, as animals that have been closely housed all winter will be shedding their coats.

Higher Education for Farmer's Sons. An opinion, which we believe to be either intuitive or hereditary, exists in the minds of many intelligent men, namely, that a University training is necessary only for scientific, literary or professional men, and that it is folly for any one expecting to become "a hardy son of toil" to indulge in such an apparent luxury.

Will not our farmer friends who have never kept an account with the farm, begin this spring, which is the proper season of the year to open the books, and try it for one year, and if they are not pleased with the result we shall be glad to know it.

Common Sense Ploughing. The depth of soil can alone determine the depth of ploughing. When the soil is shallow the gradual deepening of it should be sought by the use of appropriate materials for improvement until the object is fully attained.

The Prosperous Farmer's Creed. We believe in small farms and thoroughly cultivated. That the soil loves to eat as well as the owner, and ought, therefore, to be well manured.

Average Weight of Breeds.—J. Bell, Sussex, England, says on this subject: "It may be interesting to some readers to know the weights of the animals of different breeds exhibited at the Smithfield Club Show this year. I have taken the weights of the steers exhibited and they stand thus: Increase of growth from day of birth, per month—Sussex, 54 lb. 7 oz.; Shorthorns, 53 lb. 10 oz.; Herefords, 52 lb. 12 oz., and Devons, 42 lb."

We have said that it is best to take care and not get the stock too early upon the new grass. We have only to add that all kinds of stock need greater care through this month

Farm Accounts.

We have often spoken in these columns, of the great importance of keeping an account with the farm, and while we have no doubt that every thoroughly systematic farmer does so, we fear that there are yet many who get their living by tilling the soil, who are not systematic to the extent of knowing exactly how well their business pays.

A navigator who should attempt to cross the ocean or cruise along the coast without making the proper entries in the "log book," would soon find himself upon rocks or shoals, or far out of his course, and many a business man not excepting the farmer, has been stranded from the same cause.

After a fair trial of farming in a particular way, an accurate account of profit and loss having been kept, if the profits are insignificant, or if there are no profits, then the farmer will be admonished that he must change his methods, and he will find that the account he has kept will generally indicate the proper change to be made, while without such an account, he will either go on in his blind way, until he is stranded, or if aware that his losses are greater than his gains, he will have no data to guide him in such a change as will give more favorable results.

On low or strong land the experienced farmer prefers to see the furrow left on edge exposed to the action of air and harrow. Sandy or dry soil requires flat ploughing, which tends to consolidate the land.

That every farm should own a good farmer; In crops which leave land better than they found it, making both the farm and farmer rich at once; That the best fertilizer of any soil is a spirit of industry, enterprise and intelligence—without these lime, gypsum and guano will be of little use.

In good fences, goodhouses, good orchards, and children enough to gather the fruit; In a clean kitchen, a neat wife in it, a clean cupboard, a clean dairy, and a clean conscience;

An Easy Way with a Vicious Horse.

A beautiful and high spirited horse would never allow a shoe to be put on his feet, or any person to handle his feet, without a resort to every species of power and means to control him, says the Commercial Advertiser.

Soils appropriated to garden and horticultural purposes are often deepened to fifteen and even eighteen inches with benefit, and those for general tillage crop to about twenty inches with decided advantage.

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Experience with Seed Potatoes.

A correspondent to an Agricultural paper:- "As potatoes have some years been quite scarce and dear, I have planted small ones, and the result convinced me that all the widely varied experience in the matter reported by different farmers was owing more to other circumstances than to the size of the seed. And now when a farmer tells me that his crop from small potatoes grew and yielded best, I almost invariably find that when he planted it was a very hot, dry time, generally rather late in the season; also that his large potatoes, cut a few days before planting, had dried up more or less, and were put into dry ground, and if dry weather continued there would not be vitality enough left in the cut seed to overcome all these adverse conditions, but the growth would be materially checked for the season; while the small seed, not being out, retained its moisture, and warm soil favored speedy germination and growth so that the crop from small seed proved better than the cut. But my observation has been that when all the conditions for both are equally favorable, the cut seed from large potatoes yields 8 to 10 per cent. better than small ones planted whole. Again, one will plant small potatoes too thick and too many in a hill, thinking they are so small and cheap he will use enough of them, while his neighbor, judging more correctly on the growth they will make will plant them as far apart as he usually does better seed of the same variety, and put only one potato in a hill. The result will be the latter will have a fair yield of fair-sized potatoes, with perhaps twice as many little ones as from large seed while the first only gets a lighter yield of nearly all small potatoes. So the product in either case would seem to be largely dependent on management. I believe it will answer occasionally to plant small potatoes for a crop; but when I do it I am particular to get such as were well ripened, and only use the largest of those too small to cut; mark the part of the field they are planted in, and be sure at digging time that their product is all sent to market, and that the seed for next year is saved from where the best was planted, and on those matured the best.

The Reason why Bees Work in the Dark.

A life-time might be spent in investigating the mysteries hidden in a bee-hive, and still half the secrets would be undiscovered. The formation of the cell has long been a celebrated problem for the mathematician, whilst the changes which the honey undergoes offer at least an equal interest to the chemist. Every one knows what honey fresh from the comb is like. It is a clear yellow syrup, without a trace of solid sugar in it. Upon straining, however, it gradually assumes a crystalline appearance—it candies, as the saying is, and ultimately becomes a solid lump of sugar. It has not been suspected that this change was due to a photographic action; that the same agent which alters the molecular arrangement on the iodine of silver on the excited collodian plate, and determines the formation of camphor and iodine crystals in a bottle, causes the syrup honey to assume a crystalline form. This, however, is the case. M. Scheibler has enclosed honey in stoppered flasks, some of which he has kept in perfect darkness; while others have been exposed to the light. The variable results have been that the sunned portion rapidly crystallized, while that kept in the dark had remained perfectly liquid. We now see why bees work in perfect darkness, and why they are so careful to obscure the glass windows which are sometimes placed in the hives. The existence of their young depends on the liquidity of saccharine food presented to them; and if light were allowed access to the syrup it would gradually acquire a more or less solid consistency; it would seal up the cells, and in all probability prove fatal to the inmates of the hive.

CLOVER AS HUMAN FOOD.—According to Hon. J. Stanton Gould, clover has been used as human food for generations by the Indians of the plains. The Digger Indians of California eat it raw, and also cook it by placing a thick layer of the green clover between stones that have been previously heated. When young onions or chives, and grasshoppers are mingled with the clover, the dish is considered a great luxury. The Apaches mingle together clover, pigweed and dandelions in a vessel which is then filled with water. Stones that have been heated in the fire are then thrown in, and when they have imparted their surplus heat to the water they are taken out and replaced by hotter ones, until the mass is sufficiently cooked.