Agriculture.

LARGE TURKEYS AND TURKEY BREEDING.

A passion for extra size is one of the weaknesses of the American mind. In the decisions given at our fairs, weight is not only an important item, but the one thing needful. It is the big swine, the big pumpkin, and the largest fat ox that takes the premium. Economy of fattening, or the process of production, is seldom inquired after. The same bad taste is likely to affect the decisions in our poultry shows, unless the managers insist upon a more wholesome standard. A large, well developed bird, of maximum size, is desirable. A monster is not, for any conceivable purpose, except to excite wonder and draw the crowd. We raise poultry chiefly for the table. What the producer wants in his stock is good quality of flesh early maturity, and capacity to make the most flesh out of a given amount of food. A turkey, weighing fifteen pounds, is just as good for the table as one weighing thirty; and most housekeepers would prefer them under twelve pounds. In most markets the lighter weights would bring the higher price. It is only in the region of large hotels and boarding-houses that the very large birds bring an extra price. For what object, then, do we want large breeding birds, and how large do we want them? It takes about three years for a turkey to attain his largest weight. If at twelve months a gobbler reaches thirty pounds live weight, at two years he would reach thirty-five, and at three years forty or a little more. But it is rare to get a male bird above forty pounds, and then it is generally by some process of stuffing that destroys his stamina and oftentimes his life. This weight is excelled some times; but about the time one thinks he is almost sure of a forty-five pounder, the prodigy sickens and dies. It may be assumed then, that forty pounds is about the limit to which a vigorous turkey-cock may be safely carried, and from half to two thirds of that weight is the last safe limit for the hens. With breeders of this size, and a little under, we should get large strong chicks, that will economise food, and mature earlier than the offspring of common-sized birds. No bird yields more quickly to treatment than the turkey. The influence of a large-sized gobbler in a flock is immediately visible in the increased size of the chicks. The introduction of wild blood increases the hardiness of the young. A larger proportion of the eggs will hatch, and a much larger number of young will be likely to grow up. With a little painstaking it is quite easy to breed to any desired shade of plumage.—*American Agriculturist.*

SHEEP.—Some way or other agriculture seems incomplete without a flock of sheep. They are essential to the thick-set longevity of the old grass land, and all the world over and in olden times they were esteemed as most important, and in the most improved agricultural country, viz., England they are cherished by every farmer, from the highest to the lowest. The wool is one of the incomes which cannot be dispensed with, and the flocks are so managed that the tegs cut heavier and more valuable fleeces than older sheep; in fact, teg fleeces in England not only weigh thirty per cent. heavier than those of the ewes, but make ten or more per cent. higher prices. If any tenant farmer in the regular agricultural districts of England farmed without sheep, he would soon lose his crops, and nobody would rent to a man who did not practice sheep husbandry. — *Cor. Country Gentleman.*

Dr. Randall, in the *Practical Shepherd*, says:—"Lambs of all breeds should be weaned at about four months old; and if drought or other circumstances have occasioned a particular scarcity of pasturage for the lambs and their dams, and the former can be put on good feed by separating them it would be advisable to take off the lambs three or even four weeks earlier. The somewhat prevalent idea that it is improper to wean them in "dog days,' has not a particle of foundation. But whatever the period of weaning, sweet, tender pasturage is indispensable for them. New seeded stubbles and the rowen of meadows are usually reserved for them in this country.

Scientific.

THE SUN AT MIDNIGHT IN NORWAY.

The following paragraph is from the description of a scene witnessed in the north of Norway, from a cliff 1,000 feet above the sea:

"The ocean stretched away in silent vastness at our feet; the sound of the waves scarcely reached our airy lookout; away in the north, the huge old sun swung low along the horizon. We stood silent, looking at our watches. When both hands came together at twelve, midnight, the full round orb hung triumphantly above the wave; a bridge of gold, running due north, spanned the water between us and him. There he shone in a silent majesty that knows no setting. Combine, if you can, the most brilliant sunrise and sunset you ever saw, and its beauties will pale before the gorgeous colors which lit up the ocean, heaven, and mountain. In half an hour the sun had swung up perceptibly, the colors changed to those of morning, a fresh breeze rippled over the flood, one songster after another piped up in the grove behind us; we had slid into another day."

EXPANDING THE LUNGS.—Step out into the purest air you can find, stand perfectly erect, with head and shoulders back, and then fixing the lips as if you were going to whistle, draw the air through the lips into the lungs. When the chest is about half full, gradually raise the arms, keeping them extended, with the palms of the hands down, as you suck in the air, so as to bring them over the head just as the lungs are quite full. Then drop the thumbs inward, and after forcing the arms backward and the chest open, reverse the process by which you draw your breath, until the lungs are empty. This process should be repeated immediately after bathing, and several times during the day. It is impossible to describe, to one who has never tried it, the glorious sense of vigor which follows this exercise.—*Dr. Pane.*

THE WOOD SAWING CLUB.—The Lockport *Journal* contains the following practical suggestion:

"Now that the croquet and base ball season will ere long be over, we would suggest, in order that the muscle developing process may not stop, or that the amount developed by the summer's exercise may not lie dormant during the long winter months, that the base ball athletes turn their attention to sawing up the wood piles of widows and sick folks during the winter. The exercise is fully as healthful, is not so violent, dangerous nor tiresome as base ball, and we are sure the results will gratify a curious public fully as much, and we would prefer to give the 'score of a wood sawing class to that of a base ball club, in our columns. What say you gents? Physicians recommend young ladies to form walking clubs. This is a matter in which steps should be taken."

CONSUMPTION AND CLIMATE.—The following sensible advice is the closing paragraph of an elaborate article on consumption and climate by Dr. Hall: "We have long considered it one of the inhumanities of man to man, in so glibly advising persons to go from home to distant places, involving, many times, ruinous expenses especially when it is given as a last resort — advice often given when everything possible has been done and tried without efficacy, merely on the ground that possibly it might make some change for the better, while the overshadowing possibilities are that death will be the result anyhow. Any man who is considered by an intelligent physician to have actual consumption, ought by all means to stay at home."

If posts or rails are needed for service during the winter, the trees may be cut while in full leaf. Allowed to lie as the trees are cut, the evaporation from the leaves will drain the timber nearly dry, when a short exposure afterward will very effectually season it. The economy of using posts and rails peeled is very great: the loose bark retains moisture between it and the wood, and the sap-wood soon rots. When peeled, the sap-wood dries, and will last many years longer.—*Hearth and Home.*

MESSENGER ALMANACK.

NOVEMBER, 1871.

Last Quarter, Nov. 5th, 8h. 41m. morning.
New Moon, " 12th, 0h. 54m. afternoon.
First Quarter, " 19 h, 4h. 32m. morning
Full Moon, " 26th, 4h. 39m. afternoon.

D M	Day Wk	SUN. Ris	SUN. Sets	MOON. Rises	MOON. South	MOON. Sets	High Tide at Halifax
1	W..	6 41	4 47	7 48	2 45	10 25	9 19
2	Th.	6 42	4 45	8 37	3 34	11 20	10 18
3	F..	6 44	4 44	9 32	4 42	A. 11	10 53
4	Sa..	6 45	4 42	10 32	5 13	0 54	11 34
5	SU.	6 46	4 41	11 30	6 2	1 32	A. 18
6	M..	6 48	4 40	mor	6 50	2 5	1 18
7	Tu.	6 49	4 38	0 42	7 38	2 34	2 47
8	W..	6 51	4 37	1 50	8 24	2 58	4 6
9	Th..	6 52	4 36	3 0	9 11	3 22	5 12
10	F...	6 54	4 35	4 11	9 59	3 47	6 1
11	Sa..	6 55	4 34	5 26	10 50	4 14	6 43
12	SU.	6 56	4 33	6 44	11 44	4 44	7 22
13	M..	6 57	4 32	8 4	A 42	5 20	8 2
14	Tu.	6 59	4 30	9 22	1 43	6 4	8 43
15	W..	7 0	4 29	10 34	2 46	6 58	9 26
16	Th.	7 2	4 28	11 36	3 50	8 4	10 11
17	F..	7 3	4 27	A 25	4 50	9 15	11 3
18	Sa.	7 4	4 26	1 7	5 47	10 27	11 59
19	SU.	7 5	4 26	1 40	6 40	11 40	morn
20	M..	7 7	4 25	2 5	7 26	morn	1 3
21	Tu..	7 8	4 24	2 28	8 12	0 47	2 24
22	W..	7 10	4 23	2 51	8 56	1 56	3 42
23	Th.	7 11	4 22	3 13	9 39	3 1	4 54
24	F..	7 12	4 22	3 35	10 22	4 5	5 48
25	Sa.	7 14	4 21	4 0	11 6	5 8	6 32
26	SU.	7 15	4 21	4 31	11 53	6 12	7 11
27	M..	7 16	4 20	5 4	morn	7 15	7 48
28	Tu	7 18	4 19	5 44	0 40	8 16	8 23
29	W..	7 19	4 19	6 30	1 29	9 14	8 55
30	Th..	7 20	4 19	7 24	2 18	10 6	9 27

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southing gives the time of high water at Parrsboro', Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine, 2 hours and 11 minutes *later* than at Halifax At Annapolis, St John, N. B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 25 minutes *later*, and at St. John's, Newfoundland 20 minutes *earlier*, than at Halifax. At Charlottetown, 2 hours 56 minutes *later*. At Westport, 2 hours 54 minutes *later*. At Yarmouth, 2 hours 20 minutes *later*.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning

A. V. P. B.

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May 20 GORDON & KEITH

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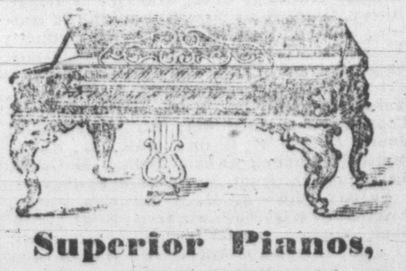

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