

FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

For the Cook.

ICE CREAM.—Two quarts of good cream, half pint of milk, fourteen ounces of white sugar, two eggs; beat the eggs and sugar together, as for cake, before mixing with the cream; flavor to suit the taste. Place the can in the freezer and put in alternate layers of pounded ice and salt; use plenty of salt to make cream freeze quickly; stir immediately and constantly—rapidly as it begins to freeze, to make it perfectly smooth, and slower as it gets pretty stiff. As the ice melts draw off the water and fill up with fresh layers.

BONED CHICKEN FOR PICNICS.—Bone two chickens, lay upon the table and spread first with a layer of boiled tongue in slice, then with nicely seasoned veal forcemeat, and lastly with slices of boiled ham. Roll each up firmly, tie round with tape and simmer on the back of the stove in a deep saucepan with the chicken bones, some herbs, onion, carrot, etc., for flavoring, and enough water to cover. When tender take out the chickens and let the well seasoned gravy simmer longer until reduced to a pint; then add to it an ounce of dissolved gelatine; and when the gravy is nearly set into jelly pour it over the chickens. These must have been previously unboned and cut into slices ready for serving, but still retaining their shape. Garnish the platter with parsley sprigs and sliced lemon.

A GOOD AUGUST SOUP.—Boil a chicken ready for the table; keep in the warming oven covered with parsley and butter till wanted. Add to the hot liquor 12 ears of corn that has been grated from the cob, and boiling on the stove in milk, a little butter rolled in flour, parsley, salt and pepper, and, if liked, a finely shred onion. Boil half an hour and serve.

A PLEASANT APPLE PUDDING.—Take three teaspoonfuls of bread crumbs, three teaspoonfuls of chopped tart apples, and sugar to taste, half a pound of raisins and a little flavoring of any favorite kind, (nutmeg is good). Pour a pint of scalded milk over the bread crumbs, add two beaten eggs, after stirring, and then the other ingredients. Butter a pan and pour in, bake half an hour in a hot oven, and serve with sweet sauce.

Selected Agricultural Miscellany.

The causes of sickness among farmers are summarized in the Massachusetts Health Report to the following effect: "1. Overwork and exposure, the women being more frequently overworked. 2. Improper and improperly cooked food. 3. Damp location of dwellings. 4. Want of cleanliness about their houses, especially in reference to drains, cellars and proximity to barnyards and hog-pens. 5. Impure drinking water, largely due to the preceding cause. 6. Bedrooms imperfectly ventilated and on the ground floor, with too general use of feather beds. 7. Insufficient recreation."

Cabbages for winter use are usually pushed ahead too fast according to Seed-Time and Harvest. That is, they are set out too early, and consequently ripen off too early, so early in many cases, that they will not keep till January. Cabbage plants set out the last of June on good rich soil will make much better keepers than if set out the first of June. To be truly valuable, the garden must produce something for all seasons of the year—a constant and plentiful supply. This cannot be done by sowing the garden all at one time, as too many do rather than have any after trouble with it.

It is a common opinion among horse-breeders that the smell of blood will cause a mare to lose her colt. There is no doubt some truth in this general belief. Something like it is frequently noticed among cows, which are generally affected through the whole herd when one cow loses her calf prematurely. The reason is that the nervous system is excited, the uterus, which is abundantly supplied with nerves, is contracted, and the fetus is expelled. Abortion is much more easily prevented at the first than cured afterward, when it has appeared in a herd or stable, and the greatest care should be exercised in the treatment of pregnant animals; more especially to avoid contact with dead matter, of which animals have a strong instinctive dislike.

There has been not a little speculation as to the incidental and compensating effects of the late spring frosts. For instance, to what extent, if at all, was it destructive of insects? As to this point the Elmira Club member noticed that tent caterpillars, present on his cherry and apple trees "in usual numbers" just before the cold wave, were not seen after it had passed, and for this riddance he confidently credits the freeze. The president related a similar agreeable experience. So, if our eyes were not holden, and we might see all the facts, it would likely enough appear that what was considered a severe visitation was really, like most other trials of life, a "blessing in disguise."

Rams should be selected with reference to the ewes. Short-wooled ewes, with heavy oily fleeces, should be bred to long-wooled rams with drier fleece, and vice versa; and the long legs of either sex should be let down in the same way; but the flockmaster should always bear in mind that the greatest

improvement at the least expense is made in the choice of good rams. High feeding and forced growth in rams has a tendency to barrenness and sterility. Such pampered rams as are sold sometimes for large prices are in many instances a disappointment, because not so strong and robust as others from rams of slower growth and with more bone and muscle.—(Carlos Mason, Lake Co., O.)

A correspondent of the Iowa Homestead says that "the only true way of improving corn is by selection and cultivation. After once procuring a pure early variety of Dent corn, make an effort to keep it pure. In selecting seed always take ears from large, well-developed stalks. Choose those that have long, deep kernels and small cobs, do not reject the seed from the tip or small end of the ear; the seed from the whole ear should be planted. In shelling off and rejecting the seed from the tip or small end of the ear, you make the corn later. This fact has been established beyond a doubt. Above all, procure seed of a pure-bred early variety or northern origin if possible."

The Poultry World says that the difference between an egg laid by a plump, healthy hen, fed with good, fresh food daily, and an egg laid by a thin, poorly-fed hen is as great as the difference between good beef and poor. A fowl fed on garbage and weak slops, with very little grain of any kind, may lay eggs, to be sure, but when these eggs are broken, to be used for cakes, pies, etc., they will spread in a weak, watery way over your dish or look a milky white, instead of having a rich, slightly yellow tinge. A "rich egg," retains its shape as far as possible, and yields to the beating of a knife or spoon with more resistance, and gives you the conviction that you are really beating something thicker than water or diluted milk.

Crab-Apple Preserves.

I remember as if it were a treat of yesterday the delicious crab-apple preserves which with a slice of grandmother's bread and butter, made up a lunch of great merit for the children. I found out last summer just how she preserved this sometimes despised fruit. After looking the apples over to see that no wormy ones were put in, and also to pick off the remains of the blossoms, she rinsed them off. Then, leaving the stems on, she weighed them, and to one pound of fruit allowed three-quarters of a pound of sugar. The apples were put into a preserving kettle with enough water nearly to cover them. When the skin was tender so that it could be pierced with no effort, the apples were taken out and a syrup made with this same water and sugar. When the syrup reached the boiling point the apples were put back into the kettle and the whole allowed to simmer until the apples were thoroughly cooked and looked clear. In grandmother's day this was put into jars, but the canning process so universal in our time is a vast improvement, for, although the fruit would "keep," more or less thought must be given to it to insure its not working.

The Bang Out of Date.

The decadence of the bang is announced. A few years ago a young lady without bangs would have been as obsolete as a three-cent postage-stamp. Now one who wears bangs is looked at askance, as much so as if she appeared in a dashing jockey costume. The bang is out of date. It has served its purpose, and must go. The new style is the Saratoga wave and the Grecian coil. The Saratoga wave is a revival in a modified form of custom which prevailed twenty-five years ago, when ladies were wont to part their hair in the middle and bring it down in two semi-circles from the center of the forehead, covering the ears, and fastening it at the back of the head. The new style makes the curve toward the back of the head begin at the temples. The effect is to bring out the attractive features of the face and conceal bulging foreheads and creased temples. The Grecian coil is a skillful twisting of the hair at the back of the head. It has a very charming effect, and makes a pretty woman perfectly irresistible when she turns her back.

Keep the Jewel Bright.

How many hopeful young hearts, in the beautiful season just past, have gone out from the homes of their childhood, to made new homes of their own; homes whose influences for good or evil shall reach to eternity! Oh, dear young husband and wife, preserve and cultivate the pure and holy love God has implanted in your beings. Once lost, it can never be recovered. Guard the tender blossom as a priceless treasure; nourish it with loving words; water it with the gentle dew of sympathy. Avoid the first difference, which is apt to be followed by ugly looks and stinging words; and while you may forgive each other, and think you have forgotten, too, they leave a scar, which has somewhat defaced the pure surface, and it is much easier to have the second disagreement. Then bear with each other's faults; be thoughtful and considerate, lighten the cares of daily life by loving acts and kind words.—Rural New Yorker.

Simple Treatment of Insomnia.

Dr. Legare has communicated to the South Carolina Medical Association his

few simple and successful rules in the treatment of insomnia, as follows: First, retire early to bed, two hours sound sleep before midnight being of more benefit to the body than double the number of hours in the day; second, eat little, and always some hours before going to bed, and cold food only to be taken for supper; third, the cares and burdens of the mind must be put aside—none to be carried to bed—and no reading or studying there; fourth, the bed-chamber should contain pure, sound air, be roomy and high if possible, and the windows be always kept open, except in the night time; fifth, when in bed, endeavor to lie horizontally, with the head slightly raised, avoiding any forced or constrained posture that makes the body form an angle, as by this means the circulation in the stomach is checked.

Peonies in Fashion.

The Gardeners' Chronicle asserts that peonies are again attracting the attention of horticulturists in England. If they are borne on a popular wave in Europe, we may soon expect that, that wave will reach this country. Peonies possess true merits, especially in the fact that, while they are choice and showy, they may be grown by those who are not professional gardeners. The mass of people will always like them, and if horticulturists lead the way, there is no reason why they may not much increase in numbers. Over twenty showy species of peonies are now known. If judicious culture and intercrossing be applied to these species, many beautiful horticultural varieties will soon result. Double peonies are easily got, and being so large they are excelled by few flowers for a clump or a back-ground.—The American Cultivator.

Weights of Sheep.

From the Farm, Field and Fireside. But few farmers are aware of the heavy weights sometimes attained by the large breeds of sheep. Some of the breeds, as managed in England, exceed 300 pounds. The average weights of 10-months' lambs, at Smithfield, Eng., in 1884, show that the growth of those lambs from the special breeds is very rapid. The lambs of the Hampshire and Wiltshire Downs averaged 204 pounds; cross breeds, 188 pounds; Oxfordshires, 178 pounds; Cotswolds, 175 pounds; Shropshire, 153 pounds; Southdowns, 161 pounds; Leicesters, 129 pounds. At the age of 21 months, the weights were as follows: Hampshire and Wiltshire Downs, 293 pounds; Oxford, 292 pounds; Lincoln, 283 pounds; Cotswolds, 283 pounds; cross breeds, 270 pounds; Kentish, 253 pounds; Leicesters, 244 pounds; Shropshires, 239 pounds; Southdowns, 216 pounds. Here we notice that the Southdowns fell but little below the Leicesters at 21 months. The above showing is a creditable one for the Southdowns, and confirms their position as one of the best breeds that can be used for improvement.

Strawberries for Home Use.

Mr. Edmund Hersey, who has furnished his household with strawberries for thirty-five years, reports an actual season's yield of "100 quarts from fifty plants, mostly Hovey's and Cutter's Seedlings, on two rods of land and with four hours of labor." He urges all farmers and rural residents with "no matter how small gardens," to raise their own supply, declaring that those who depend upon the open market never can buy the best fruit, "indeed they have little conception of the luxury of a dish of good, well-ripened strawberries." His ideas as to culture, based on long experience from the amateur's point of view, are given as follows in The Massachusetts Ploughman:

"One of the great mistakes that many make who attempt to grow strawberries in their gardens, is in trying to get more than one crop of fruit from a set of vines. The easiest and best way is to set new vines every year, keep them well cultivated until October, then omit cultivation until the fruit is all ripe and gathered, when the vines should be ploughed under and the land set with cabbage or sown to turnips, thus getting another crop and at the same time keeping the ground free from weeds and grass. If an attempt be made to carry the bed over another year, it will take twice as long to clean the bed of grass, weeds and surplus vines, as it would to set a new bed, and keep it clean the entire season; but once cleaning will not be enough, it must be weeded out several times during the season, and even then will not yield as much as a new bed."

"Many set in August, but this is not the best time; if the weather be dry it will be necessary to water the plants, and then the next spring they must be kept clean of weeds and grass, and then mulched to keep the fruit clean. If the plants do well they will not bear half as much fruit as if set in spring. After trying different seasons I have settled down to the last week in April as the best time to set a new bed. Then the ground is wet, and before the season gets dry and hot the plants have time to get well established, so the plants require no care, except to keep the weeds and grass out. If one is short of garden space the vines may be set in rows four feet apart, and a row of early peas, radishes or lettuce may be plant-

ed, thus utilizing all of the land, but if one has plenty of land it is quite as well to set the plants in rows three and one half feet apart, and give them the whole land until the fruit is gathered." In conclusion Mr. Hersey cautions against "listening to market gardeners when selecting varieties, or to those who are always looking for something new." Get, he says, some of the old established sorts with flavor known to be good and of a form that permits of "hulling easily when picked from the vine."

Bad Seeds.

Prof. Beal states in one of his public addresses that it was estimated a few years ago there were 20,000 bushels of bad turnip seed mixed and sown with good seed in Germany in a single year. Mills in that country are employed to grind up quartz, sift it to the size of clover-seed, and color it to resemble the seed of red clover. He also stated that in England there exists an organized agreement to adulterate seeds to a certain extent. Pure, fresh seed they quote as "net seed," and dead seed as "three knocks." Among the frauds is the use of the seeds of weeds which resemble good sorts in appearance. These are killed by boiling or baking, so as not to come up and tell the fraud, and they are then mixed with good seeds. The practice of purchasing seeds in market, for testing at experiment stations, an unknown third person making the purchase, is likely to lessen the fraud committed, some of which pass through the hands of innocent dealers, who will thus be induced to take greater care in buying of others. The worst frauds are found in imported grass seeds. In making these statements it must not be forgotten that the failure of seeds to germinate does not always prove them to be bad, for such failures often result from planting too deep, or in covering with dry or cloddy soil, or from omitting to press the earth sufficiently over them, or from ill-treatment; the fact that when the same seeds are properly planted in fine, mellow soil, and at a moderate depth, they germinate finely, proving their good quality.—Country Gentleman.

Personal Gossip.

Captain Hoxie, of the United States army, the husband of Vinnie Ream, the sculptor, has been ordered to Montgomery, Ala., to take charge of the river and harbor improvements in that locality. The order has caused quite a sensation in Washington society, where Captain and Mrs. Hoxie are favorites.

Senator John Sherman is just completing one of the finest country residences in Ohio at his home in Mansfield. It is a dark red brick of two stories and a mansard roof, finished out with a tower and many corners. It has roomy porches at the front and side, giving shady seats and beautiful views at all hours of the day. The interior is very elegant.

An old German had frequently stated that he was going to give his daughter \$20,000 after she was married. Although she was as homely as a stone fence and the shady side of 35, she had lovers three times three, and finally she gathered in a good-looking reprobate. After they had been married about a month it occurred to the young member that a motion to take up the appropriation bill would be in order. When he had succeeded in making his solid old father-in-law comprehend the situation, the old gentleman ostentatiously shelled out a dollar. The young husband still lingered as if he was waiting for the performance to go on, but the old man rang down the curtain by saying, "Ya, I give dot \$20,000, but not all at once—I pays \$1 every year."—Texas Sittings.

William H. Chadwick, cashier of the Pacific Bank, at Bar Harbor, Me., says the Boston Transcript, has lately been making large purchases of lands in different parts of the island and of a cottage in the town. The bank directors grew curious, out Mr. Chadwick told them that he thought his purchases did not concern them. Since this it has leaked out that Mr. Chadwick discovered some time since, in the cellar of his old house, five barrels of gold and silver. In fixing the foot of his stairs he had occasion to remove a flat stone there, and discovered the first barrel, and on digging deeper found four more. Mr. Chadwick is quite impervious to all questions in regard to the matter.

One year ago, Aug. 7, 1883, the venerable Mrs. Lucinda Sheldon Howard, of North Reading, celebrated her one hundredth birthday, and a large company, drawn from many of the surrounding towns, assembled to do her honor. It had been the custom for years to observe her birthday anniversary, and on this, the crowning one of all, special pains were taken to make the occasion a memorable one. When the company broke up, the feeling was general that it was the last time those present should ever be called together for a like purpose. But days and months went on, and when the full year came round, marking the one hundred and first milestone in her earthly pathway, the aged lady seemed brighter and her hold upon life even stronger than the year before. Of course the occasion did not pass without proper observance, although the preparations for the celebration were hardly so extensive as those of last year.

Things in General.

The mayor of Boston lately sent two packages of exactly the same size and weight, one to Paris, France, and the other to Worcester, Mass. The former went 3,000 miles and the postage was 25 cents and the latter went 40 miles and the postage was 28 cents.

At the office of the American bank note company in New York there is used a stamp with a clock attachment, so arranged as to stamp on any paper or package a dial indicating the exact time of day when the impression was made. This precise record of the time of any given transaction, made in connection with other memoranda; which are recorded by the stamp at the same time, is found a great aid in accuracy and clearness in the company's accounts.

The arms company in Hartford are just finishing the last six of the forty-one Gatling guns for the United States army, which, with the recent order for the navy, will make fifty-one guns in all thus far ordered.

According to Lord Shaftesbury, one of the social necessities of the time in England is said to be the emigration of half a million of surplus women. The recent report of the Women's Emigration Society declares that in three years the society has sent to the colonies 350 women. "Three hundred and fifty!" exclaims the Pall Mall Gazette, "is it not trying to empty the Atlantic with a teaspoon?"

The late New York Legislature enacted a law punishing railroad baggage-smashers with a fine of \$50 for each trunk destroyed, in addition to the liability of the railroad company for the value of the property.

The Garfield Memorial Hospital at Washington was opened to patients June 16. The first patient admitted was a woman, a lady clerk in the Treasury Department; the first operation performed by Dr. Swan Burnett, oculist, on a colored veteran, a diseased eye, resulting from a wound received in the war for emancipation. The first funeral, last week, was that of a full-blooded Pawnee Indian, attired in buckskin leggings and hunting shirt.

While a proper regard to etiquette should always be paid during waking hours, it is equally proper that people should conduct themselves in a decorous manner while asleep. A Catskill lady dreamed the other night that she saw her husband kissing a neighbor's wife. The correct etiquette in this case was for the lady to continue her dream and apply for a divorce in the land of Nod. Instead of so doing she awoke and struck her slumbering spouse on the face, breaking his nose. Nothing could be more unladylike or uncalled for.

Twins Astonish Judge and Jury.

From the Augusta (Me.) Journal. At a trial in Augusta the other day, before Judge Whitehouse, the case being a family quarrel between disgruntled heirs, among the witnesses for the defense were twins. They were not ordinary twins. They had hair of the brightest auburn, eyebrows the color of flax, pink and white complexions, and dresses exactly alike, even to the least important bow. Their names were exactly alike, with the single exception that an "a" appeared in one of their names instead of an "o." When the first appeared on the stand the jury, Judge, and lawyers regarded her attentively; she gave her testimony in a modest manner and stepped down. Another name was called; it was that of her twin sister. As her counterfeit presentment quietly took the stand there was a hush in the court room. Judge, jury, lawyers and spectators sat transfixed, and gazed first at the witness in the box and then at the place where her sister had taken her seat. They could hardly believe their eyes; it seemed as if the last witness had returned to the box without being recalled. The lawyer conducting the cross examination put the usual questions; the name and residence were, to all appearances the same in the case of her double just on the stand, and the voice precisely the same in tone and inflection. The jury looked at each other and seemed ready to match coppers as to whether they were awake or not. Then the lawyer asked the witness if she had been on the stand before during the trial, and received a quiet answer in the negative. This satisfied the court, although if her twin sister had not sat in plain view at the other end of the court room it is by no means certain that she would not have been indicted for perjury.

The known dangers of arctic exploration have no power to daunt those with the genuine explorers' spirit. When Sir John Franklin was preparing for his last expedition, objections had been offered to his going because he had reached the age of 60 years. His friend, Sir Edward Parry, replied: "He is the ablest man I know, and if you do not send him he will certainly die of despair." Said Franklin himself when asked to repose on his laurels: "My Lord, I am but 59." It is related that "he appeared as jealous of a few months of his age, when it was a question of exposure to great danger, or of executing a work of difficulty or suffering, as a woman would be if thought older than the parish register showed."