

HOME AND FARM.

We are favored by the "Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty," with an exceedingly well printed and illustrated pamphlet entitled, "How to Kill Animals Humanely," written by Dr. D. D. Stoddard, Professor of Applied Zoology, of Harvard University. There is much virtue in such a connection in the word "applied." Zoology itself is far less understood than it should be, but it would be well if we "applied" more generally to the welfare of our dumb fellow-creatures what little we do know.

The avocation of the farmer naturally disposes him to a certain sense of humanitarianism, which will probably further incline him to give his attention to the recommendations of this excellent little pamphlet, which, we think, every farmer ought to have in his possession. Meantime, we shall, from time to time, furnish our readers with some extracts from it, beginning with the sensible introduction with which it opens.

This essay is intended to give instruction to those who desire to terminate the existence of animals in the most speedy and humane manner, whether such animals are intended for food, or whether they have become useless through age, sickness or other cause. When we reflect upon the vast number of animals which are put to death in our own country alone for food, estimated at more than fifty millions every year, not to speak of the thousands that are destroyed for other reasons; and when we bear in mind that a great proportion of these animals are put to death, often with the most needless cruelty, simply through ignorance of the proper method of producing speedy death,—it will be readily admitted that an attempt to enlighten the public in this respect may at least serve to diminish the amount of such cruelty, and indirectly lead to other equally satisfactory results. While we write more especially for the farmer, who is from circumstances obliged to slaughter his own animals, and for those who are called upon reluctantly to rid themselves of some fond but disabled pet, we also desire to call the attention of those who pursue the slaughtering of animals as a business to the great necessity of doing their work in the most humane manner possible. To this end there are certain measures of importance to be kept in view, and to be carried into practice.

We have pleasure in extracting from the *Wolfville Acadian* of the 30th ult., the subjoined paragraph as an indication, not only of the steady increase, but of the increasing independence and self-reliance of this great branch of Nova Scotia industry:—

"The arrival of the steamer *Belair* at Kingsport to load apples direct for the English market, and the delivery of her cargo in good order, marks a new era in the apple trade. A prediction of such an event a few years ago, would have received no more credence than a prophecy of the early completion of the Kingsport railway would now. That apple culture is to be the business of this valley is now an undisputed fact, and this season will probably see more trees planted in this valley than any one season in its history. Small fruits are very well for a few, and potatoes have, like the present, an occasional good year; but the apple has come to stay."

OLD TURKEYS AND GESE.—An experienced poultry raiser advises people to reduce the stock of fowls as soon as the year's hatch is well provided for, but to hold on to old turkeys and geese, as they get used to the ways of the farm, and are worth much more as breeders than young ones. Ducks are also good until three years. A turkey is in her prime at five, and a goose at twenty years of age.

WINTERING TOO MUCH STOCK.—Many farmers habitually carry too much stock through the winter, to their great loss. A farm ought to be fully stocked, but never over-stocked. Yet it seems to be difficult to induce some men to reduce their herds and flocks. They seem to be governed in the matter by some such delusion as people have to thinning fruit. But everybody knows what sheer folly it is to have more cattle or sheep than can be well fed and cared for. At such a time as this, when prices are very low, it will be harder than ever for some farmers to screw their courage up to the sticking-point of reduction. But better make the sacrifice. Look the situation in the face; see how many head you can bring through, and get rid of the rest to the best advantage, but get rid of them.

KEEP THE PRIME PULLETS.—Keep a sharp eye on those nice pullets, and do not let any itinerant dealer carry them off in his waggon just because they are fat and plump, and he offers a good price. Better sell the cockerels and the pullets that are not so nice at a loss price. The best are none too good to keep for laying and breeding. Farmers should breed fowls with the same care they breed horses, cattle and swine.

KEEP THE COWS WARM.—We are reminded in these days of cold, disagreeable weather, of the necessity of fire to keep us warm. Indeed most of us have already started the little fire. The most disagreeable part of the year is the time when the cold fall days come. We seem to feel the cold more at this time than we do when the thermometer is below zero. This susceptibility on our part to the first cool weather of fall, should be sufficient to remind us that the cows are in danger of being chilled also, and if they do become chilled the flow of milk is permanently lessened. It is wisdom therefore to pay particular attention to the protection of our dairy stock; and we ought not to let this care cease with the coming of the winter. The cows should be warmly housed, not shut up in a tight, unventilated stable, but a stable that is well ventilated and yet with no unnecessary cracks and holes in it. Some barns in winter remind us of the North Pole itself. It is as cold inside of them as it is outside, and instead of making them warmer at a little expense for boards and nails, we sometimes leave the holes

and cracks open, and then feed high priced food to counteract the effect the cold that comes through the cracks and holes.

THE WINTER DAIRY.—The dairy in winter, to be profitable, must be carefully managed. The dairy will never manage itself, and whoever thinks that all there is to do to be a successful dairyman is to get a cow or a creamer, will soon be hopping about complaining of his ill success as a dairyman. It is hard work to conduct a dairy. Some men whom we know have gone out of the business, simply because the work was too hard. But it is hard work to achieve success in any honest line of business. In winter the price of butter is good, at least good as compared with other seasons of the year. The market is ready for us, and all we need to have is the butter to sell. This we shall not have, unless our cows are comfortably cared for and well fed. As so often said, a cow cannot produce butter on nothing. In addition to good hay, etc., the cow ought to be fed well on equal parts of cornmeal, oats and bran. No better ratio need be sought. Oil meal is always good for the milk cow, but it need not be fed while the food we have recommended is at hand. With good cows, and this food, and modern dairy appliances, we can make the winter dairy pay.

Scituate has the following sensible remarks on the sound and wholesome character of the agricultural life:—"It is a common complaint that the farmer is not appreciated by our people. We long for the more elegant pursuits or the ways and fashions of the town. But the farmer has the most steady and natural occupation, and ought to find life sweeter, if less highly seasoned, than any other. He alone, strictly speaking, has a home. How can a man take root and thrive without land? He writes his history upon his fields. How many ties, how many resources he has; his friendship with his cattle, his team, his dog, his trees, the satisfaction in his grown crops, in his improved fields; his intimacy with nature, with bird and bee, and with the quicker and elemental forces; his co-operation with the clouds, the sun, the seasons, heat, wind, rain, frost. Nothing will take the various social distempers, which the city and artificial life breed, out of a man by farming, like direct and loving contact with the soil. It draws out the poison. It humbles him; teaches him patience and reverence, and restores the proper tone to the system. Cling to the farm; make much of it, so that it shall savor of you and radiate your virtues after your day's work is done."

OUR COSY CORNER:

So long as tailor-made costumes remain in favor with fashionable women the tea-gown, the matinée and petticoat, and other essentially indoor toilet will be admired.

The lady who receives visitors one afternoon each week, or even during one month of a fashionable season, awaits her guests in a handsome tea-gown, or a petticoat and short gown. The latter, however, is not made of those serviceable materials our grandmothers wore, but of Surah, Bengaline, China and India silks, with laces and ribbons in fine and plentiful array.

Winter tea-gowns for afternoon at-homes are almost as rich as the most ceremonious toilettes. Ladies of refined tastes wear home gowns of fine, soft woollens, *dunasse* or plain, with garnishings of fanciful goods that suit their ages, complexions, and purses.

Tailor-made costumes, with or without vests in Eton, hussar, or even double-breasted style, have the skirts either draped deeply or in short pan-fashions. These two styles distribute themselves with amazing equality, considering the partizanship usually manifested by women in these matters.

Fur borderings are always in good taste upon winter top-garments, and never were these trimmings more popular or more easily procured than now. The contrast between the material and the fur is especially noticeable upon handsome wraps, but a harmony between the two is achieved by the lining glimpses of which are sure to be seen, even when the garment is fastened to the throat.

Ladies of slight figure are wearing an open jacket with rolled front, handsomely faced, and the vest is overlaid with silver or gold lace, braided or embroidered or, perhaps, is made of a rich brocade of a harmonizing shade.

Small jet buttons will complete vests arranged upon upright plaitings of *crêpe de Chine*, which are fashionable for street and house dresses. Vest-plush, otter, seal, Astrakhan, lamb's-wool and other wintry materials are liked. Sometimes cream-white *crêpe* folds will alternate with Bengaline: shade of the costume, the buttons being covered with silk or velvet of a costume tint.

For the house a vest of white *crêpe de Chine* in combination with alternating *picot* and feather-edged ribbon the shawl of the dress is admired. The ribbon is usually divided through its centre, thus lessening the quantity required by one-half. With plaided or striped costumes, alternation of material and color is effective for both house and street wear. Touches of the vest color or colors are included in the ornamentation of hats and bonnets worn with street toilettes. The fashionable gloves are the tint of the dress or long wrap, and the four-button length is preferred. Tan colored *Suede* gloves are also worn.

Dark green, steel-gray, golden-brown, *Madeira* and *café au lait* plush and velvets are made into skirts to wear beneath woollen draperies or *biques* of the same color. These costumes are fashionable for visiting afternoons and morning receptions, concerts and theatres, and the bonnet is usually *en suite* as to color. A fancy bonnet may be fashionably worn at entertainments, but the costume bonnet is equally good for us.