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The Farm.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

The tug of farm work begins this month. First comes the care of the fences. These should be kept in thorough order, that there may be no danger of unruly cattle breaking in upon the growing crops. It is a good plan to renew a portion of the fencing of a farm year by year, so that it may all undergo a constant process of renovation. Every rod of it should answer to the quaint but forcible description of a good farm fence, "man high, bull strong, and pig tight." A common evil in early spring is letting cattle and horses upon meadows and pastures, while the ground is wet and springy. Avoid this by all means. It injures the roots of grass, and while there is but little feed, only tantalizes the stock, and makes dry fodder distasteful. As soon as the meadows are tolerably dry, loose and projecting stones should be picked off, and the land rolled. In these days of moving machines, it is desirable to get meadows as clean and smooth as possible. Stumps should be got rid of, brush exterminated, and small hillocks levelled down. Let bare spots be re-seeded, and the whole top dressed with fine well-rotted manure, unless indeed this was done last fall,—the preferable plan. Put in force Old Richard's advice this month: "Plough deep while sluggards sleep" Of all operations on the farm, ploughing most needs to be done well. Eschew all slovenly, skim-surface work, and be thorough about it. Let teams be well cared for, as to feed, grooming and attention generally. They should be gradually brought to hard work, so as to harden to it. Horses are very apt to get collar and harness galls in the spring; guard against this. A Dutch collar is often very useful, to change the bearing and prevent wounds.

Clover may still be sown, either alone or on winter grain. Give it a dressing of plaster. Various crops as oats, barley, potatoes, are much affected by the time at which the seed is got into the ground. Sow as early as the state of the land will permit. Pull out red root and cockle from among wheat. New milch cows and their calves will require attention. To rear calves they must be kept clean and

comfortable, fed regularly with nutritious diet, and sudden changes of food avoided. They do best if weaned early. Lambs must be cared for, and all needless exposure guarded against. The yearling ewes must not be neglected; they frequently require extra looking after. Manure heaps should be turned over, compost arrangement made, and any well-rotted dung that may be on hand, carted out. Orchard and shade trees may be planted as soon as the weather and land are favourable. Trees heeled in last fall may be delayed longer than trees left in the ground till the buds are swollen. Rainy days this month should be improved in cleaning out cellars, putting tools in order, greasing waggons, oiling harness, preparing seed, squaring up accounts, and reviewing plans for the busy season. In the garden, as well as on the farm, there will be enough to do this month. Early potatoes and peas should be planted so soon as the ground is free from frost. Rake off the coarse litter from asparagus beds, fork in fine manure, and give a dressing of salt. The beginning of April is early enough to start the hot-bed for family gardens in this climate. Cold frames and hand glasses will be found useful in starting and protecting tender plants. Remove the covering from strawberries, raspberries, grapes, and plant out cuttings of currants, gooseberries, &c. Early in spring is the best time for setting out strawberries. If properly done they will bear a little the same season. Draining, manuring, path-making, pruning, and transplanting, should all be attended to as early as possible. In the garden as well as on the farm, it is wisdom to take time by the forelock, and never put off until to-morrow what can be done to-day. The poultry-yard should present a lively scene this month. Egg-production should be in full blast, and the noisy cackle of the hen resound through the farmstead. Judicious coupling and early hatching are necessary to secure fine fall chickens. In the apiary also, everything will now be astir, especially if the weather should be, as it sometimes is, prematurely sultry. Observe the directions given in the last number about successful bee-keeping. Provide for any stocks that may be queenless. Watch against robbing. Build up stocks and get them strong by the working season, that there may be myriads of busy foragers to collect honey, while the short harvest lasts.