



Agricultural Department.

POULTRY-KEEPING BY BOYS.

It is one of the most promising indications of character when boys show a disposition to earn something. This desire to hold something in fee simple is the very opposite of *trampism*. Among boys, the enjoyment of owning, buying, and selling is very keen, and is often gratified in the getting of knives, old watches and trinkets, and making exchanges with each other. Who does not remember the wonderful bicker and trade of his boyhood?

It was only the beginning of a development or, rather, a self-education. This matter should not be permitted to go without some guidance. Parents and guardians should take an interest in it; not exercising a meddling interference, but inspiring confidence, so as to be able to co-operate, plan, and watch the result.

Now comes a scheme that is just right. How can we teach a boy business habits better, than by giving him an opportunity to "run" a henry? The accounts must be accurately kept; there must be buying and selling; there must be bartering: there ought to be profit! A miniature *business* springs up. Inasmuch as it is *real*, why is it not as good as a business college? It may be better; for it may prevent spending time in the streets or away from home, perhaps among questionable companions. A love of home is fostered by the ownership of flowers, small fruits, and poultry. A fondness for the finest things produced by our climate—to cultivate them, if belonging to the animal—is not only a source of keen enjoyment, but indicates good traits and a certain elevation of character above that which is brutish. Young people should be deftly guided, step by step, through pleasant paths, with here and there a little job of earnest work, made easy by social frolic and recreation, which come after in their proper place. With a little encouragement, boys may become quite familiar with the points of excellence in high-class poultry, pigeons, and other pets, and learn the best methods of breeding and management.

They may learn when and where to purchase supplies to the best advantage, and how to sell the surplus products, so as to give the most profit with the least expense. A pleasant self-reliance and good business habits may be growing, and at the same time a love for Nature, for refinement and humanity.—*The Poultry World*.

SMALL THINGS.

A farmer, more than any one else, should drive his work, and never allow the work to drive him. If a farmer's mind is made up in advance as to what crops shall be grown on each piece of land; if his calculations are made as to the manure on hand and to be bought, so that it may be distributed where it will do the utmost good; and if ample allowance is made for rainy, bad weather, a memorandum may be taken of about the time to start the work, as well as the time required to do each part of it. Then the work may be done with so much of system that the farmer may be able to gain something on his calculations, and be more or less ahead of his work at all times. By this method too much will never be undertaken, and the undertaking of too much is a serious drawback to many a farmer's prosperity. Go where we will, all over the country, we shall see too frequent evidence of the lack of systematic calculation in farm life. Here, a frame for a building that has never been covered; there, the material for a fence rotting on the ground, for want of energy or time to build it; and almost everywhere unmistakable evidence of work laid out haphazard and left unfinished. In the season after work has been begun and needs doing, then is the time to look well after odd minutes, the little things in a farmer's life, as if each one were dollars. Now, when work is not pressing, is a good time to think the matter over and make a definite plan to follow. If you would be thrifty and forehanded, take care of the minutes, which if wasted are of small account to any one, but if used judiciously may be gathered together into golden hours of profit. It is wisely ordered that we can neither sow nor reap without trouble; but the greatest of all trouble must be nothing to do. It is only the lazy ne'er-do-well who carelessly glides along, taking his comfort, as he calls it, at every possible opportunity, with no plan to guide him and no future to beckon him on. He spends all odd moments in shiftless idleness, unmindful of little duties, until driven by necessity to give them immediate attention. Then the

minutes that would have been sufficient here and there have grown to hours, that have to be used at the expense of more important work. A stitch in time saves nine as well for the farmer as for the farmer's wife; and so the little things, though they seem petty and trivial in themselves, if left to congregate, will surely prove a loss. There are very many things in doing which odd moments may be employed, greatly to the increase of the farmer's profit. Here is a gate broken, and the first odd moment will make it whole again; there a stray board has fallen from some barn or outbuilding, and nailed back to its place again at the first odd moment will keep the building in repair; and even the nails may be kept from rusting and their time of holding fast doubled if an odd moment is taken to heat them and drop them in oil while hot. Too many a farmer has no other fastening to his barn-door than a rock rolled against it, when a few odd moments would make a durable and convenient bolt or latch. It is well known by every farmer that pastures yield more feed and of a better quality if they are kept clear and free from brush, and odd moments, of which there are a plenty between the harvesting of the grain and corn crops, may be well employed in using the briar-scythe or grubbing-hoe for this purpose. Rainy days are odd moments on a larger scale, and they may be so well employed that when the sun shines every hour may be given to out-door work and nothing be hurried or neglected. In short, if all the odd moments are accounted for in looking after everything that needs attention, it will be found to add greatly to the farmer's comfort, as well as to his gains. It is to the careful, systematic farmer, who uses both hand and head, finding something to do in rain or shine, winter or summer, and employing all spare moments to his own advantage, that the greatest profit comes at the end of the year. We do not mean by this all work and no play, for a day given to pleasure now and then will help to make life more enjoyable; but the more careful and systematic the man the easier it will be for him to gain the time for proper amusement, and, if a careful plan for every season is made and adhered to, many if not all things will be found to work together for the farmer's good.—*N. Y. Independent*.

VALUE OF A BARN CELLAR.

Not long ago one of our best and most thoughtful young farmers gave us an account of his method of making fertilizing material upon his own farm, which is well worth repeating here in brief. He said that before he built a new barn under which is a barn cellar, he made about fifty ordinary ox cart loads of manure in a year. And he was not wasteful in the matter, but practiced the best economy with the means at his command. A year or two since he built a new barn, having a manure receptacle in the basement, and with just about the same amount of stock, he last spring hauled from his cellar one hundred and fifty loads of manure, or about seventy-five cords, used on the cultivated crops; and last fall "scraped up" about [the cellar thirty-nine loads, which was hauled to the fields, where it will be wanted early in spring. This, it is true, was not done without close attention and some extra work—but why should not the farmer give close attention and put out some extra work on the details of his business whereby money may be saved? The merchant looks out that the cents and dimes do not constantly waste and leak out from his money drawer—but the washings and leachings and exposure of the voidings of farm animals, carries right out of the farmer's pocket, not dimes but dollars—dollars worth of plant food which he cannot afford to lose. In the instances above referred to, muck and roadside scrapings were used as absorbents, the kitchen and house slops were all saved, the piggery deposits were attended to—the whole forming a compost of rich fertilizing material. During the summer the cattle were housed every night that their voidings might be composted with muck, and every part of both solid and liquid prevented from going to waste. This is the way to farm economically; this is the method all should adopt in order to keep up the fertility of their farms and avoid the heavy expenses consequent upon purchasing commercial manures. In short, one of the chief things in the farmer's business should be the business of making and saving the home fertilizers.—*Maine Farmer*.

THE DAIRY TRADE.

Mr. J. H. Reall, a leading butter and cheese dealer of New York, gave an address before the American Dairymen's Association on the past, present and future of the butter and cheese trade. It was quite hopeful in tone as to the future of the dairy business in this country, but reflected severely upon the course of many of the cheese-makers, especially of Ohio, in that they had lowered the standard of quality of their cheese for the sake of a little temporary gain, by resorting to

skimming the milk so generally for butter, then making a second-rate cheese, not suited for the foreign markets, and at the same time discouraging home consumption. He urged the cheese-makers to skim less, or none at all, and also to use all the best appliances and knowledge for the purpose of improving the quality of their cheese. He said there was a gradual increase of the foreign demand for good cheese, and he was sure the home consumption would also increase if a good and wholesome article was generally furnished. He said: "If consumers of all classes understood that cheese at any price under double the cost of meat, was a third the cheaper while much more wholesome and nutritious, treble the quantity would be used in this country. Unfortunately, through avarice, we have always given the most inferior cheese we produce to the home trade, going so far as to practice this short-sighted policy with the very people who furnish milk from which the cheese is made—hence it is only from sheer compulsion that our own nation eat any cheese at all. If we gave them the best, by the way, the foreign consumer gets as cheaply as our own people do the rejections, we should soon have such a demand for cheese in America, that we should not depend so largely upon the foreign trade for a market. Our people like fine, full-cream cheese as well as do our English cousins, and they should no longer be put off with skimmed and half skimmed goods."—*N. Y. Observer*.

OUR BIRDS—LEGISLATION NEEDED.—Entomologists, those versed in knowledge of insects, assure us that there are thirty-nine different species of insects that prey upon corn, sixty-one kinds that attack and devour wheat, rye and oats, twenty-eight that prey upon the potato, thirty-eight different kinds that attack fruit and fruit trees, and sixty-four kinds that prey upon and destroy garden vegetables. These countless hordes of insects swarm in the air and burrow in the earth, too small to be seen, too offensive to be touched, and too winged to be caught by man. Their increasing numbers and depredations threaten to deprive us of the luxuries of the garden and the fruit tree. The birds are their natural enemies, and our only protection. But it is seen everywhere that the murderous propensities of boys and the sure aim of the heartless sportsmen are rapidly destroying these birds, and there goes up from the hearts alike of the merciful and the selfish, one earnest, strong prayer for legislation that shall stop this cowardly and ruinous slaughter. We demand legislation that will prohibit the taking or destruction of insectivorous birds; that will prohibit the taking or killing of grain-feeding birds between March 1 and September 15; to forbid the use of nets or snares for the capture of birds; to prohibit the taking of eggs or young of birds, or the molestation of their nests, and to prohibit the exposure for sale of any insectivorous birds, dead or alive. Will not our legislators give their protection to these helpful workers, yet things of beauty and fitting fragments of the rainbow, flooding with melody our homes, lawns, and groves?—*J. Orville Taylor, in New Brunswick Freeman*.

FARMYARD MANURE.—It has been ascertained that farmyard manure does not lose as much by simple exposure to air, heat, and light as has heretofore been imagined. The deterioration of badly-exposed manure-heaps is due principally to losses by drainage. It has been found, through careful experiment, that 100 loads of manure exposed to the weather were reduced at the end of 81 days to 73.3 loads, at the end of 285 days to 64.4 loads, 384 days to 62.5 loads, while at the end of 499 days the original 100 loads were reduced to 47.2 loads, sustaining a loss of 52.8 loads. The dark-colored liquid made by the wash of the rain, and which was found to be the principal loss, was very rich in nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, and these constitute the most valuable portion of the manure, what was left being mainly carbonaceous matter and poor in all the elements of fertility.

In many dairy districts calves are killed when only a few hours old, in order to save the milk they would require if raised. Except the small amount received for the skin, this brings nothing to the owner. Calves will grow almost as well upon hay-tea, with a little skimmed milk, as upon fresh new milk. Fifty years ago Sir James Stewart Denham, of Scotland, experimented in raising calves with hay-tea. These calves were taken from their mothers when only three days old and fed with the following liquid: Two pounds of hay were steeped in twenty quarts of water, and then boiled down one half, and to this was added a quart of skimmed milk. In some instances molasses was added also, to give sweetness. And the calves not only thrived upon this diet, but preferred it to fresh milk.

YE THISTLE, AVANT.—A Maryland farmer thinks he has found a "sure cure" for Canada thistles. It consists in sowing the land infested by them with buckwheat early in the spring, allowing it to grow till it is in full

blossom, turning it under and again reseeding with the same grain. The last crop is harvested when ripe.

DOMESTIC.

A BIT OF MARRIED EXPERIENCE.

I married my wife about thirty-five years ago. The ceremony was performed about seven o'clock in the morning. Before retiring that evening we had a good talk with each other, and the result has sweetened our entire lives. We agreed that each should always be watchful and careful never, by word or act, to hurt the feelings of the other. We were both young, both hot-tempered, both positive in our likes and dislikes, and both somewhat exacting and inflexible—just the material for a life of conjugal warfare. Well, for a few years, we found it hard work to always live by our agreement. Occasionally (not often) a word or look would slip off the tongue or face before it could be caught or suppressed; but we never allowed "the sun to go down upon our wrath." Before retiring at night, on such occasions, there was always confession and forgiveness, and the culprit would become more careful in future.

Our tempers and dispositions became gradually more congenial, so that after a few years we came to be one in reality, as the marital ceremony had pronounced us nominally. In thinking back we find that for more than twenty years our little agreement has been unbroken and there has been no occasion for confession and forgiveness. In business we have had adversity and prosperity, failure and success. We raised a family of children, and now have our grandchildren about us; and we are simple enough to believe that we have better children, and better grandchildren, because of our little agreement. Under such a contract religiously kept, no ill-natured children will be reared, and no boys will find the streets and bar-rooms more pleasant than home. To make a good wife or a good husband, requires the co-operation of both.—*The Morning*.

DEFORMED BABIES.—The beautiful ideal of the fond mother often seems to be a fat baby, or one of an unnatural superabundance of one form of waste and impure matter, as all fat must be regarded. Now, let it be understood that excessive fatness, as well as leanness, are both indications of disease, the one as much as the other. Leanness generally results from a deficient nourishment, from one cause or another, often caused by some form of disease calculated to prevent the proper action of some or all of the organs of digestion; while the fatness of the brutes and of human beings will result from indolence, too little escape of the waste and poisonous matters of the body, or from the use of too much of the fattening nourishment, more than the system can possibly appropriate. In both of these conditions the system is deranged, not acting in a natural way, not doing its natural work, and of course is diseased. Such a fat baby, with unnaturally full cheeks, its eyes almost surrounded or covered with fat, its body cumbrous and its limbs enormously enlarged, is really a monstrosity, a malformation, a deformed child, filled with the germs of disease, germs waiting only for some irritating cause to develop them into activity. The more usual forms of disease will be inflammation of the throat and lungs, croup, diphtheria, malignant sore throat, derangement of the digestive organs, cholera infantum, etc. And here it may be remarked that the too free use of oily substances, the sweets, and such starchy food as fine flour, corn starch, tapioca, sago, with pastry promotes this excessive fat, especially when too much sleep and ease are indulged in, with the free use of drink, which tends to bloat. These fat babies are not only uncomfortable, a burden to themselves, but too heavy for the care of the mother, especially if as delicate as most are in civilized life.—*Exchange*.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.—What neat housekeeper is not annoyed when she sees on the spotless woodwork of her doors or windows those long dark scratches which reveal that some one has tried to light a match by drawing it across the paint? Now this is sometimes our experience, for servants will be forgetful or careless, and the tell-tale scratches greet our eyes in most unlooked-for quarters. But we have found a remedy for the marks, which, as every one knows, quite defy soap and water. Cut a sour orange or lemon in half, apply the cut half to the marks, rubbing for a moment quite hard; then wash off with a clean rag, dipped first in water to moisten it, and then in whiting. Rub well with this rag, dry thoroughly, and nine times out of ten the ugly marks will vanish. Of course, sometimes they are burned in so deeply that they cannot be quite eradicated. All finger marks on painted walls, etc., should be rubbed off with a little damp whiting in the same way, and never washed with soap-suds, which destroys the paint.—*Christian Intelligencer*.