

The matter which this page contains is carefully selected from various sources, and we guarantee that, to any intelligent farmer or housewife, the contents of this single page, from week to week during the year, will be worth several times the subscription price of the paper.

SAFE.

BY MISS H. F. BEAUCH.

Gently close the baby's eyes From the light of morning skies. Dawn for him a fairer day Where evening shadows stray. Cloud and storm and stress and strife, All that darkens earthly life— Weary toil and anxious care, Blighted hopes or dull despair, Pain and grief and stain of sin, Foes that lurk about within, None, to him, shall ever come, Safe within that Happy Home.

THE HOME.

The responsibility of giving the best of one's self to the home does not devolve solely upon the parents but upon the other children as well. A daughter has no right to be full of animation when invited to tea at a friend's house and to indulge only in monosyllables at the home table whenever she happens "not to feel like talking." She is bound to contribute something to the pleasure of the family circle, those whom she really loves better than anybody in the wide world, but for whose pleasure she is too indolent, or thoughtless, to bestir herself. There are boys who are the "life" of social gatherings yet who never deign to entertain father and mother, or brothers and sisters, with an account of their good times. Only by dint of persistent questioning can the lips of these mutes at home be unsealed. They never proffer any racy recital of experiences to the household. They neglect to say "good night" or "good morning." They do not think it "worth while" to show any affection to other members of the family. The parents are not always to blame for this unocial spirit. Perhaps they are making great sacrifices to win a son or daughter to express more love and interest for the home. The matter should be laid upon the conscience of the older boys and girls. They must bring themselves out of this essentially selfish attitude.

The Beginning of the Day.

A good beginning is always desirable in a day of work or pleasure. A few cheerful words count for more now than at any other time, for they often serve as a keynote for the whole day. It depends largely upon the mother of a family whether home is a sunny resting-place or merely a habitation of complaint and contention. Unhappy indeed is the household that begins the morning with domestic clouds. There are some heads of families who seem to consider it due to their dignity that they should perpetually wear a severe aspect, and who are never sterner or more unrelenting than at the breakfast-table. The family leaves for their respective daily tasks with a sensation of chilliness, that requires the most cheerful surroundings to overcome.

There are mothers who begin the new day with recounting all the minor vexations of the day before. The husband and sons who are hurrying off to business are compelled to listen to the grievances with servants and other petty afflictions which the mistress may allude to as she goes to her kitchen and deftly straightens out with a few touches of her own the tangled skein of work which she may find there accomplishes more by a few well-chosen words of encouragement than she will by a score of complaints. Consideration and kindness often do wonders with even the most stupid and obdurate of servants. It shows great selfishness for the head of the family or for the mother to make other members of the household bear the burden of their individual trials and grievances at the breakfast-table. Each one has a right to a cheerful beginning of his day's work.—N. Y. Tribune.

The Season of Flies.

The coming of warm weather brings with it the necessity for refrigerators, wire screens and all the paraphernalia of the store-closet and the kitchen, used as a protection against heat and flies. Before the summer begins every precaution which cleanliness and care can give should be taken to remove all debris of decaying vegetation or animal matter, not only from the precincts of the cellar and kitchen, but from the yard and the vicinity of the house. If proper precautions are observed, even in the hottest weather there will be little trouble from flies. The fly is a useful scavenger, who performs with absolute faithfulness his thankless task of trying to save careless and thoughtless people from the legitimate effects of their own negligence. The year when there is a scarcity of flies is marked by fevers and pestilence. If you are troubled with a superabundance of flies, yet exercise every care and precaution in your power, you may be sure there is some cause for them which you have not discerned. The farmers who insist on living for convenience in close proximity to the stable and chicken yards will be troubled with flies, no matter what precautions are exercised in the house, for the reason that these wise little creatures are

at work destroying the animal effluvia which might otherwise be dangerous to human life. Never allow flies to appear suddenly in a house without looking about to detect a reason for their coming. They may mean a neglected garbage-pail, a forgotten cesspool, which has become dangerously choked up. They always mean something. Instead of attempting to kill them with fly-paper, look about for the reason. Like all other vermin, they are one of nature's warnings that you are not living in the right way, or that a near neighbor is not, which unfortunately means the same thing to you.

It is doubly necessary in summer that the tables be cleared and the floors be swept as rapidly as possible after meals. For the least debris of food left in a corner will fester in the warm atmosphere in a few hours, and attract a little horde of scavengers. If the tables are quickly cleared, and the rooms neatly swept and darkened during the heat of the day, there should be little trouble with flies. If there is any reason for the presence of flies near your house, it may be necessary to use fly screens. Do not resort to powders and poisons, but remember that an ounce of prevention in this case, as in all others, is worth a pound of cure, and that the same amount of energy applied to keep the premises strictly clean will accomplish more than if directed to the destruction of the fly, who simply comes to remind us, in a very disagreeable way, it is true, that we have been derelict or living in unwholesome surroundings.—Tribune.

Some cake.

To those housewives who keep cake constantly on hand, who get tired of the common kinds, baked over and over again, and who do not care for or cannot afford rich cooking, raised cake may present a gratifying change. It keeps moist longer than the other kind (except the very rich cakes, which always keep well), is more easily freshened, and is quite as appetizing, besides being much more digestible by the average stomach. The following excellent and many-times tried recipe deserves a trial.

DELICIOUS RAISED CAKE.—Three pounds of flour, one and one-half pounds of sugar, twelve ounces of butter, seven ounces of lard, one and one-half pints of milk, one coffee-cupful of yeast, two nutmegs, a tablespoonful of mace, three eggs, one pound of raisins, four ounces of citron and a teaspoonful of salt. Scald the milk, lard and a pint of sugar together. When cool, stir in the flour and add the yeast. Set in a warm place until light. Then add the butter and sugar beaten to a cream, eggs, fruit, and spice. Let it rise a second time. Then divide and put into pans, and after setting it in a warm place for half an hour, bake slowly for an hour. This makes quite a quantity, and if desired the recipe may be halved, or thirdded, but the cake will keep a long time—indeed, it improves by keeping, and is most convenient for unexpected company. It will be found much more delicious if old-fashioned hot yeast is used, although the proper proportion of a yeast cake may be used as a substitute.

RAISED CAKE.—One cupful of raised dough, one cupful of molasses, one cupful of sugar, one-half cupful of butter, one cupful of sour milk, a little grated nutmeg, a cupful of raisins, a level teaspoonful of soda, two teaspoonfuls of cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful of mace, one teaspoonful of cloves, three and one-half cupfuls of flour. Bake slowly.

Practical Sayings.

—For fruit stains, dip the spots several times in hot milk. —Keep flowers fresh by putting a pinch of soda in the water. —Keep a small box filled with lime in your pantry and cellar; it will keep the air dry and pure. —Prick potatoes before baking, so that the air can escape; this will prevent their bursting in the oven. —Soda is the best thing for cleaning tinware; apply it with a damp cloth and rub well, then wipe dry. —For sore throat, beat the white of an egg stiff, with all the sugar it will hold, and the juice of one lemon.—Good Housekeeping.

THE FARM.

Bird Friends.

At this season of the year, when birds are beginning to build their nests, it is wise to call attention to the wisdom of protecting them. If one does not delight in their presence for its own sake, for the pleasure of their song and their marvellous beauty and grace, as a mere question of expediency, they should be protected as the farmers' best ally against all grubs and worms injurious to vegetation. Though there is a law protecting feathered songsters in most states, it is quite likely to become a dead letter if individuals do not give it their hearty support and defend the birds as far as they can from boys who rob their nests, as well as from sportsmen with guns and from all their other natural and invertebrate enemies. The presence of superfluous cats or any other animals about the premises should be done away with if you wish to encourage the presence of feathered songsters. One good domestic family cat is as useful as any creature about the house, earning far more than her board and care by keeping away rats and mice. Stray cats and tramp cats should be disposed of. In some humane manner whenever they appear. An intelligent well-fed and well-bred cat can be taught to respect the rights of even feathered creatures; though this takes patience and time, and it is not wise ever to trust too far to her sense of honor in this matter. There are few birds which do not more than compensate for any patry injury they may do to fruit or vegetables by their services as grub hunters at this season. The little English sparrow is probably the only exception to this rule. This bird seems, according to our best authorities on the subject to be an unmixt evil, which we have imported. It drives away the swallows, robins, thrushes, and other birds which are active insect feeders, and all the return it makes is to collect insects for its young. The full-grown sparrows prefer for themselves a diet on or near fresh fruit which they can get.

Let there be no more sentiment about this ruffianly bird. The London Queen, speaking from years of experience, says: "The sparrow has been described by one practical naturalist as an avian rat, that lives exclusively on the property of man. It is an equal nuisance in the flower garden, the vegetable garden and the poultry yard. In the first it destroys our crocuses and other early spring flowers; in the latter it takes the seeds from the seed beds, eats the early peas as they germinate, destroys our fruit, and neglecting its original habit of nesting in trees, chokes the gutters of our roofs and stops the funnels of our waterpipes by its untidy nests."

Owls are hunted and teased remorselessly by boys whenever they are found, though the owl should be as carefully protected as any domestic birds. These birds are all destroyers of rats and mice, and very useful about the barnyard. Their melancholy little hooting cry, said by naturalists to be the love-call of the bird, is not at all disagreeable to a cultured ear, but like the whippoorwill's call of the night, it is a most annoying sound. It seems in harmony with the time of "darkness visible." The president of the British Ornithological Union speaks thus forcibly on the destruction of these birds: "The destroyer of owls I can only look upon as a man bereft of the reasoning faculty whose proper out-of-door sphere would be the farm or garden apartment of an idiot asylum."

It would be a great blessing to boys and girls, especially to those residing in the country, if the actual ignorance of the habits of familiar animals, birds and insects. Certainly every one ought to know enough to recognize intelligently his friends and enemies in the natural world. As it is, the actual ignorance of hunters who fail to distinguish between the rowdy, thievish English sparrow and other innocent brown birds gives it comparative immunity in many parts of the country while the useful little owl is driven to the woods by persecution. The valuable little coccinella or lady bug, the lady bird of English nursery rhymes, is too often carelessly killed in this country for a noxious insect when it is itself the most rapacious hunter of noxious insects there is.

Rapid Planting.

It makes a Western farmer smile to read the correspondent's statement that he would rather pay a man \$2 a day to drop corn and cover it with a hoe than to have the use of a planter free. The planter used here in Ohio do much better work than I ever saw done by hand. They drop more accurately, both as to the number of grains to a hill and in straight rows, and cover at a more uniform depth and without clods, and a man and team can plant from twelve to twenty acres a day—the latter when he has rows 100 rods or more in length and no stumps or obstructions. A man cannot by the old hand plan plant two acres a day. I would as soon think of going back to the cradle, sickle and scythe to harvest grain and hay as to go back to hand planting of corn. I planted by hand many years and now have used a planter long enough to compare the two methods. With the rapidity with which we can put the crop in with the modern planter, we can afford to wait until the weather and land are warm and settled, and plant our crop so that it will come up quickly and start at once into vigorous growth.—Oxford.

Pens for Table and Pen.

I never raised pigs largely for food, but for our own Northern market. I have fed them to hogs, and repeatedly purchased them for that purpose; I would rather have them, pound for pound, for fattening hogs than any corn. I have a furnace, and two large pot-stoves, that will hold 15 to 20 bushels, and I never had hogs fatten so rapidly, or make nicer pork, than when fed boiled peas and water sufficient to make the mass into a thick soup. Sown in time, and covered with a few inches of straw, they will yield a large crop, and that, too, on almost any kind of land, from a stiff, heavy clay to a light, sandy soil. They should be sown early, to do their best. They will endure more frost and still hold their own than any other crop grown. We get a successful crop on light, sandy soil, as we often do, we like to have them covered three or four inches deep. They will thus stand drought better than if covered only an inch deep. I have never seen that a corn crop has thrived so successfully with peas when sown late in spring, but can hardly recall a failure when sown early and properly cared for.—Wisconsin Farmer.

Wise Expenditure of Wealth.

A rich man put a piece of land, previously in bad condition, into first-class shape, at an expense of \$20,000, and his own pocket was the beneficiary to the world. If one desires to do good with money in a public way, there is no more promising field than to use it for such permanent improvement. Judiciously expended, a good building would be done without extraordinary outlay, and the effects would be much more apparent and real than is seen from money usually left for benevolent purposes. It would do much to make the country those who would add to the attractiveness of rural life, and do something to prevent country towns from becoming depopulated, which is an important matter.—Practical Farmer.

Suggestive Brevelities.

—On the average a mass of hay 7x7x7 ft. or 343 cubic ft., will weigh about a ton. If at the bottom of the mow and laid there a long time, the mass will weigh somewhat more; if near the top it will weigh less. —There is one way to make a bull perfectly safe—by the same method that subdues other animals, namely, incite an instinctive fear of a man. No cruelty is involved in this, for the bull will only consent to treat the bull once or twice a week with a sharp rawhide, used smartly. Several bulls so schooled at different times never exhibited the least approach to inobedience; but when in the yard, as the first word, and a night of the ready rawhide, went at once to the pen. The rawhide is not for punishment, but for discipline, and must be used at regular and frequent intervals. —One sharp cut on the muzzle will cow (expressive word) any bull.

Some experienced gardeners prefer to plant cabbage seed where the plants are to mature, instead of sowing in beds and then transplanting. Three or four seeds are put in a hill and the plants thinned after. Soot has been found a good preventive of ravages of flea beetle.

Where potatoes are replanted in drills in a garden plot that cannot well be furrowed out with a plough, it is difficult to make the necessary holes with a hoe, because as the earth is being taken out one it is apt to partially fill up the one back of it. Make holes with a sharpened stick, drop in the seed and tread the earth down with the foot.

Radishes grow fastest and do best under a liberal application of wood ashes. Apply soon as the seed is sown; if the ashes are loosed cover the bed half an inch thick; if unleached much less is required. If the flea beetle troubles, dust on dry ashes. This vegetable is very liable to attack by various kinds of worms. Ashes prevent this after the first rain upon them.

After all the scientific experiments, no one knows the best way of cutting seed potatoes—or if there be any "best way." I have grown potatoes with whole seed, large and small; half tubers; quarters; with eyes 3, 2, 1, and even from thick parings; but have not yet determined which is best. It seems to be a matter of culture and convenience solely, and as against the whole tubers a matter of economy. The best method, I think, is to make cuttings with 3 eyes and plant them 1 foot apart in the drill. The trench system of planting, with repeated earthing up, I am convinced is the best way of planting.—Kartoffel.

An Indiana correspondent communicates, through the Practical Farmer, a suggestion based on successful experience for getting rid of the larvae of the potato-beetle without use of the abominable poisons: "Go ahead of the plough or cultivator, and with a bunch of bushes brush the slugs into the space between the rows. The cultivator will bury most of them where they will not get out. A few days later, as some of the slugs are left, and have established themselves on the vines, repeat the same operation. On sandy soil most of the slugs can be killed by brushing off on the hot sand during the middle of the day. The heat cooks them before they can get back to the plants."

Climate fixes the limit of the growth of plants, and as there is close analogy between plants and animals, it also limits the extent of raising certain live stock profitably. On this principle is explained the fact that the large English breeds of sheep fail to do as well here as in their native country. There they have a warm, cool, climate which encourages the growth of the wool, and in a few months become more abundant of what they wear, with dry, harsh breezes, and utterly woebegone faces, expressive, as no animal face but a sheep's can be, of misery.

A Scotch veterinarian of twenty years' experience in a dairy district where there are many herds of Ayrshire cows and milk-fewer is consequently prevalent, respectfully submits that "the immediate cause is in almost every case, if not in all, to be found in the sudden and total emptying of the udder by hand at long intervals." Hence the following prevention is suggested, through The Journal of Comparative Pathology and Therapeutics: "Allow plenty of exercise before milking; feed naturally and somewhat sparingly, both before and after; allow the calf to run with and suck the dam for two or three days; but where this cannot be done, then imitate as closely as possible the calf's method of emptying the udder, by frequently taking a little, but never nearly all, at a time for a like period."

TEMPERANCE.

Why the Saloon Should Go. 1. It has no useful place in society—that is, it fills no necessity. There is no demand for the saloon which society for its own good is morally bound to recognize. 2. It produces nothing which has a market value. The kind of work the saloon does is not the kind we want done. It adds nothing to the prosperity of the nation. 3. It is responsible for untold waste. Not only does the saloon cost a great deal of money, but a fearful waste of time, strength and energy. The money, time and strength spent in the saloon would be much better used elsewhere. 4. It is responsible for an enormous tax upon the people. This tax is paid in such an indirect way for the support of the police, prisons, almshouses, court-houses, asylums, hospitals, etc., that the people do not realize its enormity. If the tax collectors should call at our doors every three months to collect our individual share of what it costs the government to maintain saloons, the people would rise up in just rebellion. 5. It ruins thousands of individuals every year. Men who would never become drunkards, if the saloon were not in existence, are drawn into this trap of the devil to be ruined in fortunes, body and soul. 6. It brings misery and suffering to thousands of innocent men, women and children. If the drunkard, or the drinker himself only, suffered the penalty of his wrongdoing, it would not be as bad as it is, but it is not innocent and helpless are made in many ways to feel the terrible results of the sin. 7. Because of the encouragement it gives to crime. Many of the darkest deeds have been hatched out in the saloon. Many of the worst crimes have been committed by men under the influence of liquor. The saloon is necessary in order to inflame the passions of men and women who support our lotteries, brothels, gambling-houses, and dance-houses. 8. Because of the tremendous power for evil which the saloon exerts in the political life. Corrupt politicians would find it much more difficult to get into office if it were not for the influence of the saloon. 9. Because the saloon is opposed to every moral, political and social good. —Was troubled with continual headache and loss of appetite, but before I had taken many doses of B. B. B. appetite and health returned. J. B. THOMPSON, Bethesda, Ont.

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