

## Miscellaneous.

### How to Pluck Poultry.

That farmer whose poultry is not troubled with the gapes, that has not been visited with the chicken cholera, knows what it is to prepare forty or fifty fowls for market, since the practice of scalding has been vetoed by the buyers. I have known persons on market day to go out and kill a dozen or fifteen at a time, and bring them into a room where there would be half a dozen women and boys pulling a few feathers at a time, between thumb and forefinger to prevent taring them. Now, for the benefit of such, I give our plan.—Hang the foot by the feet by a small cord; then with a small knife give one cut across the upper jaw, opposite the corners of the mouth; after the blood has stopped running a stream, place the point of the knife in the groove in the upper part of the mouth, run the blade up into the back part of the throat, which will cause a quivering and start him of the muscles; now repeat the operation for every feather as it falls as if by magic, and there is no more of tearing the most tender parts, before he attempts to flap, you can have him as bare as the day he came out of the egg. The wise ones may discuss the reason—I only know the effects.—*Can. N.Y. Tribune.*

### Sound Ideas on Farming.

The following views on farming were thrown out in a lecture at Baltimore, and they so entirely covered the ground of successful culture, that we give them a place for the benefit of our readers:

1. That the area of cultivation should be within the limits of the capital and labor employed, or, in other words, that an impoverished land should not be cultivated more land than he can manure with manure and fertilizers, be it one acre or twenty.
2. That there should be a law compelling every man to prevent his stock from depredating on his neighbors' fields.
3. That green soil is more economical than horse pasture.
4. That deep tillage is essential to good farming.
5. That the manure heap is the farmer's bank, and that everything should be sold that will enlarge it, and increase at the same time the fertilizing properties.
6. That no farmer or planter should depend upon one staple alone, but should seek to secure himself against serious loss in bad seasons by diversity in products.—*Baltimore's Anti-Slavery.*

### The Brain During Sleep.

The experiment is made in this manner: A part of the bony covering of an animal's skull is carefully removed, and the brain laid bare, so as to study the circulation at the surface of the surface. Then chloroform is administered to produce insensibility. In the first exciting stage of the action of the chloroform, the brain is observed to grow congested and to lap over at the edges; but as soon as the stage of anæsthetic sleep is reached, the substance of the brain sinks in and grows paler, presenting a languid movement of capillary circulation, which lasts as long as the state of sleep or cerebral rest continues. For the study of the brain in natural sleep, a circular trepan is made on a dog's head, and the piece of bone removed is replaced by a watch-glass carefully adjusted to the exact opening so as to prevent the irritating action of the air. The animal subjected to the operation survives it; and observations on their brain through this sort of window, while awake and when asleep, prove that when the dog made in the brain is always paler, and that a fresh afflux of blood is regularly noticed on his awakening, when the functions of the brain resume their activity. Facts analogous to those observed in animals have been studied directly in the human brain. Upon a person injured by a frightful railroad accident, the effect of a considerable loss of brain-substance was examined. The brain was visible over a surface of three by six inches. The patient suffered frequent and severe attacks of epilepsy and coma, during which the brain invariably expanded. Sleep succeeded these attacks, and the cerebral hernia gradually subsided. When the patient awoke, the brain again projected and rose to the level of the surface of the external bony table. In the case of another person, injured in consequence of a fracture of the skull, the cerebral circulation was studied during the administration of anaesthetics. With the first inhalations, the surface of the brain became brassy and filled with blood; the flow of

blood and throbbing of the brain increased, and then, at the instant of sleep, its surface subsided by degrees below the opening, while at the same time growing relatively paler and bloodless. Briefly, then, the brain is governed by the common law that controls blood-circulation in all the organs. By virtue of this law, when the organs are at rest and their action suspended, the circulation in them grows languid; and it increases, on the contrary, as soon as activity is resumed.—*Charles Bernard.*

### About Wool.

Hon. T. C. Peters who is now in the United States Custom House at New York city, writes to the *Rural Home* about sheep and wool:

I met a member of a leading wool house to-day, and he said to me, "why don't your western New York farmers change their sheep husbandry? We have large consignments of their best Merino wool, which I am holding at 65c, and can get no offer, and yet I am selling English-bleed (good combing) at 85c. Is there an active demand, and I could sell all that could be sent to us at that or at better prices?" In a wool circular from a Liverpool wool house received lately, I read, "the supply of combing wool will be excellent, but high prices are expected, as the requirements of the trade are known to be large." The demand for cheap mutton food at all the consuming centres is so constantly increasing that a good mutton sheep is in demand at mounting prices, especially for early lambs or well fed sheep in the late winter or early spring, while the difference in price of wool, is in favor of coarser or medium grades. The demand for fine wool sheep decreases as the population of the country increases. Those farmers will be wise who govern their lives accordingly.—*this Farmer.*

### Profits of Sheep Farming.

For profit to the small farmer who farms high and pays every personal attention to his stock, there is nothing likely to prove so remunerative as sheep bred with the object of furnishing mutton to easily accessible markets. Meat is now at a high price, and likely to remain so for some years to come; and with the great increase in the tendency to breed sheep of the mutton type, it is also observable that mutton of a superior quality to what was formerly obtained from the same stock is becoming better known and appreciated as wholesome food, and is at a fast driving even the farmers themselves to abandon pork as a diet. No class of stock that is kept on the farm can be made more profitable, by judicious management, than sheep. Unlike other stock, they give a triple return. First they yield fleeces of wool that always find a ready market; second, if of the mutton type, their carcasses come early to maturity, and can readily be sold to the butcher at any age between three months and five years, as the market may determine; lastly they are great improvers of the soil, through the manure they yield. The poorest land that ever was put under the plow can be readily and cheaply improved, and brought to a high state of fertility, by means of clover and sheep. Witness the domain of Mr. Coke, afterwards created Earl of Leicester, who reclaimed 20,000 acres of rabbit warren in North Leicestershire, with clover and sheep, and turnips afterwards, and formed an estate that is counted among the best farming lands in England.

It is a very inferior type of sheep that will not yield a fleece of wool that will amply repay the farmer for the food consumed each year. But the profit to the farmer who cannot keep a large enough flock to make it an object either to breed for ram sales, or for wool alone, is to be found in turning over his capital invested as often and quickly as he can. Hence to succeed, he must depend more upon feeding and attention to markets than upon breeding to sell again for breeding stock. For him cross bred animals are as good as any—in fact better for his purposes than any one pure breed. Cross bred animals usually have this advantage: Being of two separate strains of blood, with no affinity, they are stronger, healthier, and possess better constitutions, and less liability to fluctuation than pure blood.

Take for instance a flock of ewes of mixed Leicester and Cotswold, or Merino and Southdown blood; select from these the animals having the largest frames full of flesh and full of character, good nurses and easily kept. Breed these to a pure-blooded Southdown or Leicester ram of high character, and the lambs resulting will be just such as will bring the greatest profit to feed for the butcher. As breeding stock, they would not sell high, nor would their wool command as high a price as that of a pure Merino, Cotswold or Lincoln, but it will bring as much if not more than either Leicester or Southdown wool.

The ram lambs can be made into hoggets, the best ewe lambs reserved for breeding to a ram of a different breed from their sire, say a Southdown, if their sire is a Leicester, or vice versa. The main object here is to keep up the flock to a certain standard as regards profits to be made by rapid development. At the same time it must be understood that no deterioration should be allowed and the sire should always be selected from good breeding flocks, and be of higher quality each year than the ewes to which they are bred. If it should happen that the season was very favorable for turning the whole flock over to the butcher after shearing time, another flock of ewes can be got together late in summer and bred up in the same way.—*Can. N.Y. Tribune.*

### Healthful Education.

In reviewing a lecture recently delivered by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, *Appleton's Journal* remarks: "If we hope to make general education contribute to the welfare of the people and advance the public interests, we must engrain upon this elementary formula an industrial department. The public can never be concerned in producing government schools a merely literary culture. We should make a fatal mistake if our course of education should widely, as it does now partially, simply stimulate fastidious tastes and precocious dilettantism, filling the young minds with unrest and a host of discontents, and opening up impracticable ambitions. Our schools at present serve to fill the ranks of the lawyers, the doctors, the brokers, the politicians, but pretty nearly empty the workshops. What we need in the great popular mass is honesty, healthful ambition in the avenue of honest toil, and such culture as shall elevate and sweeten, rather than fill with inquietude. There is much good sense in all this. It is difficult to estimate what the country owes to the Common School system, but there is reason to fear that of late years many of the teachers in these schools have lost sight of the practical in striving after the purely ornamental. Unmistakably the education is wrong which teaches the rustic youth to despise the farm, or the village lad to look with contempt upon the workshop. Our cities are overcrowded with young men in search of situation, whose labor the country stands much in need of. It is all very well to point to Horace Greeley as an illustration of what a rustic boy from the dull atmosphere of the farm can accomplish in the busy walks of the city, but it would be a sad thing for agriculture if all farm boys should decide to follow in the footsteps of the distinguished man who was laid in his grave last week. Town life has its fascinations but towns cannot live without the country. There must be producers before we can have traders; and without production and trade we could not lay up that wealth which is the foundation of ease and the creator of literature and art. Let us take care that we do not demoralize the masses and unfit them for work in practical fields of industry, by filling their minds with that wild ambition which breeds unrest and leads to discontent.

**THE SCARCITY OF GRAIN.**—"In sight," in the States and Canada, on the first of the present month, was 23,627,523 bushels, embracing 7,124,135 bushels of wheat, 11,104,700 bushels of corn, 3,848,000 bushels of oats, and 1,650,683 bushels of barley.

**VALUE OF CHAFF.**—Chaff is worth for food twice as much as straw. Oat-chaff stands first, wheat next, and corn will very readily eat and thrive on it when wetted and sprinkled with meal. The chaff should be husbanded with care.

A Cincinnati seamstress uses a grey squirrel as a motive power for running her machine, and well he does his work—not only sewing straight seams, but hemming and gathering a ruffle as neatly as could be done by human hands.

**FATAL CATTLE DISEASE.**—An epidemic is raging amongst the cattle in the vicinity of Lawrenceburg, Ind., with fatal results in most cases. In the past the Louisville distillery forty-nine out of a lot of sixty-two have died in two days, and numbers have died since. What the disease is has not yet been determined.

**OTTO OR ROSE.**—Fill a large glazed earthen jar with rose leaves, carefully separated from the cups, pour upon them spring water, just sufficient to cover them, and set the jar with its contents in the sun for three or four days, taking it under cover at night. At the end of the third or fourth day, small particles of yellow oil will be seen on the surface of the water, and which in the course of a few weeks will have increased to a thin scum. The scum is the otto of roses—take it up with a little cotton tied to the end of a stick, and squeeze it into a vial.—*Journal.*