

The Farm.

BEES AND ALFALFA HAY.

Some of the cattle raisers and ranchmen claim we should not keep bees, as they take for every pound of honey gathered from the alfalfa bloom just that many pounds of fat off their beef cattle.

The claim is most silly and absurd. Show them a copy of the A B C book, and refer them to the article on fruit blossoms, where there is any amount of proof to show that bees do a great deal of good in the setting and perfecting of most fruit. If they are of value to fruit they certainly would by, to say the least, not harmful to the growth of alfalfa hay. But here is a fact, and it stands uncontradicted: The first seed crop of red clover is usually not nearly as good as the second one, for the simple reason that the bees do not get at the blossoms of the first crop. Here is another fact: The farmers of Australia were not able to grow red clover seed until they imported bees. When they did so they could grow seed as well as we can here in America. It should be remembered that red clover and alfalfa are very near relatives. If the bees were taken away from the alfalfa fields entirely, you can tell your ranchman that they would not be able to do very much in the way of growing alfalfa seed.—(Gleanings in Bee Culture.

TO PREVENT POTATO SCAB.

Scabby potatoes won't pass in a critical market. In fact, the hired man hardly wants to eat them at home, and the hired girl objects to peeling them.

It is a good thing not to have scabby potatoes.

Potato scab may be prevented by very simple means, according to Bulletin No. 85 of the Vermont Experiment Station, just now being distributed. Professor Jones says that potatoes should not be planted in soils where scab has been prevalent in previous years. Changing the potato patch to another field is a good preventive measure in such cases.

Scab is often brought in on the seed potatoes, however, and one of the most important means of prevention lies in the disinfection of the seed. This is accomplished by soaking in corrosive sublimate or formalin.

To treat potatoes with corrosive sublimate make up a solution of one ounce of the chemical in seven gallons of water, and soak the seed potatoes one and a half hours in this. This solution is more poisonous than town agency whiskey, and must be handled with care. It is best to put the potatoes in a loose gunny sack and let them down into the solution by this means.

To treat potatoes with formalin (or formaldehyde, as it is sometimes called), put a half pint of the chemical (which is liquid) into fifteen gallons of water. Soak the potato seed two hours in this.

Take the potatoes out of either of these solutions, dry them, and plant as usual. The solutions kill the germs of the scab disease, and practically prevent its occurrence unless fresh germs happen to be present in the soil from the scabby potatoes.

TRANSFORMATIONS.

Curious Results When Coffee Drinking is Abandoned.

It is almost as hard for an old coffee toper to quit the use of coffee as it is for a whiskey or tobacco fiend to break off, except that the coffee user can quit coffee and take up Postum Food Coffee without any feeling of a loss of the morning beverage, for when Postum is well boiled and served with cream, it is really better in point of flavor than most of the coffee served nowadays, and to the taste of the connoisseur it is like the flavor of fine Java.

A great transformation takes place in the body within ten days or two weeks after coffee is left off and Postum Food Coffee used, for the reason that the poison to the nerves has been discontinued and in its place is taken a liquid that contains the most powerful elements of nourishment.

It is easy to make this test and prove these statements by changing from coffee to Postum Food Coffee.

formerly grown on the same ground.—(Massachusetts Ploughman.

COWS THAT DON'T PAY.

Four years ago we secured a herd of twenty-five cows. None of these cows having records, they were purchased on the judgment of the men who selected them. A committee of Jersey breeders set us four Jerseys. In the same way three Guernseys and four Ayrshires were selected. The remainder of the herd were grades. Some were raised on the farm and others purchased. An accurate record was kept of this herd. Each individual cow was charged with the food she consumed at market price, and in addition with the cost of labor expended in her case. Credit was given for the butter produced and for the skim milk. The variation in the individuality of these cows was shown by the year's record. In the production of milk the range was from 8,558 pounds to 3,141 pounds; in butter, from 509 pounds to 165 pounds; in net profit from \$42.26 profit to \$18.63 loss. The six poorest cows were kept at a money loss of \$67.47, and the six most profitable at a profit of \$148.78.

It is a rule scarcely without exception that when records of individuals in a herd are kept for the first time, some animals are found running the dairyman in debt and others yielding very little profit. It is a conservative estimate, I believe, that 25 per cent of dairy cows are kept at a loss, 15 to 20 per cent at little or no profit, while the remainder only yield a profit sufficient to make up the loss of the unprofitable ones and leave a small resulting profit.—(Old Dairyman, in American Agriculturist.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FARM BUILDINGS.

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued Farmers' Bulletin No. 126, entitled "Practical Suggestions for Farm Buildings." It was prepared by George G. Hill, of Falls Church, Va., and contains plans and specifications for inexpensive farm buildings, both dwellings and barns, and a number of suggestions relating thereto which it is believed will be helpful to a large number of persons. The bulletin was prepared with the hope that it would be of service to all persons who have to build farm homes, but particularly to those who have neither the time nor the funds to build such structures as they may desire and must therefore begin in a very modest way. The questions of comfort, convenience, economy, location of buildings and title of property are all considered.

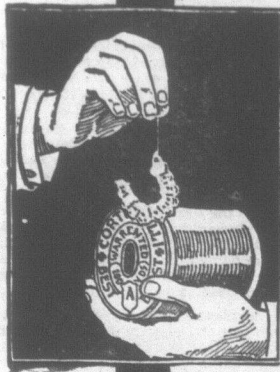
Plans are given for a \$600 farmhouse, with \$500 in addition, a \$1,000 house, and a \$275 and \$450 barn, together with bills of materials showing the cost of each and every article which enters into the construction of the buildings. Suggestions are offered which cover every detail of construction, from the digging of the foundation to the putting on of the roof and the interior and exterior of the buildings.

The bulletin contains twenty-eight illustrations. It is for free distribution, and may be obtained on application to Senators, Representatives and Delegates in Congress, or to the Secretary of Agriculture.—Bx.

Besides, no man is fit to rise up and labor until he is made willing to lie still and suffer as long as his Master pleases.—Edward Payson.

An Intercepted Letter.—"Dear Mr. Carlsberg I see you are giving away Monny for Librarians and I want to tell you that us Kids has Fixed up a Lair in a Cave with We Bilt Ourselves and we would like you to send us Either the Monny or a Series of the 6 fingered Ike stories and the Noosboy Detective Series if you dont mind the Trouble. Your cinere friend Johnny."—Indianapolis Press.

"I have called," began Mr. Forchen Hunt, "to speak to you about your daughter.



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ter. You must have noticed that there is something between us."

"No," replied Mr. Goldrox, "but I'm sure there will be pretty soon."

"Ah!"
"It will be the Atlantic Ocean. I'm going to send her abroad till she learns a little sense."

Miles—There is a man over in that museum who has lived for forty days on water.

Giles—Fahaw; that's nothing. I have an uncle who has lived for nearly forty years on water.

Miles—Impossible!
Giles—Not at all; he's a sea captain.
—Chicago Daily News.

A lawyer was cross-questioning an Irish woman, the point under inquiry being the relative positions of the doors, windows, and so forth in a house in which a certain transaction had occurred.

"And, now, my good woman," the lawyer said, "will you be good enough to tell the court how the stairs run in your house?"

"How do the stairs run?" the witness replied. "Shure, when I am upstairs they run down, and when I am downstairs they run up."

Mathematical Prodigy

The claim is now made that Arthur Griffith, the Indiana mathematical prodigy, excels in his work Buxton, the Englishman.

Griffith now has eight different methods of his own for addition, ten for division, and sixty-four for multiplication. He can take any number, it is said, between 970 and 1,000, and raise it to the fifth power in 39 seconds without the use of either pencil or paper.

Griffith can add mentally three columns at a time, it is asserted; divide any set of figures or multiply any set of figures in from one to 40 seconds, and extract square and cube roots in from three to fifteen seconds. He remembers every problem that he works.

The hardest test which he has yet been given, so he claims, is to stand and see a freight train pass with 20 or 30 cars, and then tell the number of each car in their order and specify to what road each belonged.

Commandant Kritzinger's commando is being very closely followed by the British. The main body, estimated to five hundred, was engaged by Colonel Crew's column near Gelegfontein and is being driven towards the Orange River.