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's... J. B. COYLE, Manager Portland.

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's... W. BRIGGELL, Gen. Sup.

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...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.

A STORY OF AN APPLE. Little Tommy and Peter and Archy and Bob were walking one day when they found an apple; 'twas a melon and rosy and red, and lying alone on the ground. Said Tommy, 'I'll have it.' Said Peter, 'Tis mine.' Said Archy, 'I've got it; so there.' Said Bobby, 'Now let us divide in four parts, and each of us boys have a share.'

THE FARM.

Regular Feeding for Poultry. Early feeding is one of the most important rules on a poultry farm, especially with young stock. The best time to give breakfast to both old and young is just after break of day. Especially is this important during the winter season. A young chicken, above all other young stock, needs early food for protection. It comes into this world with little or no protection from the cold, and must depend upon food for comfort and support. The food secretes the requisite supply for feathers as well as for bone and muscle. And when the young are fledging is when good and frequent feeding is of vital importance. For them to fast until eight or nine o'clock in the morning is too great a strain upon them, and they show it in their growth and health. Feed the old stock next and then throw open the doors and windows and let in the pure fresh air. Where it is impossible to feed the youngsters shortly after sunrise it is a good plan to put a quantity of cracked grain in their house at night, so that they can get it themselves the first thing in the morning.—Mirror and Farm.

Cure for Cracked Hoofs. I cut a notch with a sharp pointed knife each side of the crack, then I use a drill made from a shank of a quarter bit (which we always have on hand by reason of broken bits). The drill should be about two-sixteenths, and long enough to reach through the hoof, although I always bore from both ways, meeting in the centre, just deep enough in shell of hoof to secure a good hold. Then I make a plaster of paris and lime, as possible, and heat hot and pass quickly through the drilled hole. The reason for doing this is to make a clear passage; also it is less liable to break or split. Also, if in drilling the hole the drill should pass near the quarter, there would be danger of lameness, but if iron would wear over and prevent any trouble from this quarter. Then cut with a sharp chisel across the top of the crack, so that it will grain down square across and so grain or split. After having made the hole properly I then make a nail that will drive in snug, with a head large enough and properly shaped so it will fit the notch when I clinch on the opposite side. I have cured a good many split hoofs in this way.—Correspondence of Blacksmith Wheelwright.

Age of Usefulness in Cows. "I doubt if it pays to keep a cow after eight years unless it be for calves, for the milking qualities certainly degenerate at that age, when the hair becomes coarser. But as the calves are an important part of the income of a cow it may pay to keep the best of the old cows on this account, although my experience has been that old cows do not retain their yield of milk so long as the young ones." It is the custom in Holland to dispose of all cows at the end of eight years. This is because they are yet good for beef, which seems to be the destiny of all bovine animals in that country. So far as milk and butter are concerned, most well kept cows are good until they are twelve years old, and often do well until fourteen. But this, of course, greatly detracts from their value for beef. In Chicago, and probably elsewhere, there is a demand for this poor, old cow beef to can. It is less trouble to separate it from the fat, which is not desirable for canning purposes, and it can be bought cheaper than young beef. Extra cooking makes it tender. It may be just as nutritious and clean as young beef, but it would not sell well from the butcher's block.—Practical Farmer.

Gizzard Surgery. Fowls kept in close quarters, especially in the winter, will often develop an abnormal appetite, taking into their crops a variety of indigestible substances, such as straws, feathers, hay, straw, etc. These, especially if soft feed forms a part of their ration, will roll up into a ball and the passage into the gizzard becomes stopped. The birds, of course, ravenously hungry, as everything it eats never reaches the stomach, but adds to the size of the ever growing ball in its crop, until that member almost drags upon the ground. Unless the difficulty is removed, the bird will starve to death in the midst of abundant food. I have seen it recommended to pour sweet oil melted hard down its throat, manipulating the bill carefully to break it up that it may pass on through the gizzard and stomach. I never could make that remedy work, but have been compelled to perform a surgical operation. I tied the patient down on a table, so it could not struggle. Then with scissors out away some of the feathers over the crop and made an incision about an inch and a half long through the outer skin and inner membrane of the crop. In one case I found a hard ball of feathers, strings, dirt and feed. It was a dreadfully offensive mess. After it was all cleaned out, I carefully sponged the crop with warm water and ran my little finger (the nail being pared close) down the passage connecting with the gizzard. Then sewed the inner membrane and also the outer skin with a fine needle and silk thread. Kept the bird by himself a week, feeding bread-crumbs moistened with milk a little at a time, at first, giving no drink or other food. Last winter I threw out in the shed for the fowls to scratch out in their shed. They soon scratched the straw into short pieces. One cockerel got a large ball of straw in his crop, and I had to perform a surgical operation to remove it. I have learned that the litter should be removed frequently and fresh substituted. They soon get it filthy, and then there is danger of sickness in the flock. One winter I lost a dozen by having a chicken cholera, all through getting filthy litter in their crops.

Educate the Farmer Boy. The old idea that a farmer does not need any special education for his business has changed. The farmer and the country long enough. Agriculture is being organized on the basis of intelligent brains very rapidly, and there is a great demand for young men who are students of their business. Look at the way the business is organized. To successfully manage a creamery or cheese factory with modern methods like the Babcock test requires that the manager have a mind that is dressed with knowledge, not stark naked in ignorance.

One Reason for Good Roads. If our roads generally were kept in the excellent condition that they are in England and France, and in the suburbs of Boston and some other large cities, the pleasure travel, by carriage and by bicycle or tricycle, would much of it be diverted from the railways and steamboats, to the greatly increased enjoyment and health of our people. The only obstacle to the rapid increase of the popularity of bicycling and tricycling is the uncertainty of finding more than ten miles of good road upon a stretch; our climate in summer is, indeed, rather hot for all-day riding, but one need only ride five or six hours in early morning or evening upon a good road to cover fifty miles, if he is a strong rider, and almost any lady or old gentleman can easily ride twenty or thirty miles in four or five hours on a good road, with vastly more pleasure and healthy enjoyment than is possible in the noise, dust and lightning speed of the express train.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Cruelty in Stables. If your horse is not in prime condition, quiet and gentle, investigate his stable. Then I make a plaster of paris and lime, as possible, and heat hot and pass quickly through the drilled hole. The reason for doing this is to make a clear passage; also it is less liable to break or split. Also, if in drilling the hole the drill should pass near the quarter, there would be danger of lameness, but if iron would wear over and prevent any trouble from this quarter.

Guarding Against Exposure. More farmers' wives suffer from exposure in winter than any other class. The residents of our towns and villages have nice woodlands adjoining their kitchens and see to it that they are filled at the beginning of winter, and the good housewife or the hired help who has to do the cooking and keep up the fires has plenty of nice dry fuel always at hand, and never complains of being when engaged in the duties of the household. But on the farm too often, we are sorry to say, the good housewife has to go to the woodpile and get the wood, gather kindling out of the snow, and never complains of being when engaged in the duties of the household. But on the farm too often, we are sorry to say, the good housewife has to go to the woodpile and get the wood, gather kindling out of the snow, and never complains of being when engaged in the duties of the household.

Hints for Butter Makers. 1. We do not consider that we know everything about butter making, as something new is being discovered every month. Not only from our own work are we continual learning, but also from the observation and research of others. 2. We do not keep a cow that makes less than 200 pounds of butter in a year. 3. Nor put the dry cow on starvation ration. 4. Nor expect a cow to make something out of nothing. 5. Nor keep our cows in an ice-house, hog-pen or dungeon. 6. Nor allow them to go a whole year without calving or breeding them. 7. Nor depend upon pasture alone for a supply of summer feed. 8. We do not allow the milk to stand very long in the stable to absorb foul odors. 9. We do not neglect to strain the milk at once after milking. 10. Nor set the milk in deep cans in well water without changing the water at least twice, or without ice. 11. Nor mix sweet cream with cream that has turned, or allow it to perform before churning (the cream is ripened in one vessel which holds the cream for a whole churning). 12. Nor add salting water to the cream; nor guess at the temperature of the milk; nor take two or three hours to churn. 13. Nor gather the butter until the

"dasher stands on top" and then dip it out of the butter milk. 14. Nor add coarse salt by guess; nor work the butter into grease. 15. And, finally, we do not send our butter to market wrapped in old rags that may have seen other service in the home.—Experiment Station (Ontario) Agricultural College.

Smoky Chimneys. A smoky chimney can cause more trouble than almost any other inanimate thing. As a rule, such chimneys are badly constructed, built in such a manner as to make them practically useless for the purpose for which they are designed. The flue of a chimney should be very nearly of equal dimensions from top to bottom, except at the very top, where it should be slightly narrower to diminish the volume of descending currents and cause the smoke to be ejected forcibly.

A frequent cause of smokiness in chimneys is their lacking requisite height. In such a case they can be slightly lengthened by adding a metal cap, or by adding the needed length in brick. It is necessary in all cases that the chimney should be carried up as high as the ridgepole, in order to make draught what it should be. A tree protruding over the top of the chimney will frequently cause it to smoke, or high building adjoining will have the same effect. In these cases the remedy is simple. The limbs of the tree must be cut off, or the chimney built up to the attitude of the adjoining building. It is positively necessary in order to secure a perfect draught that there shall be not one opening into a flue. Where several fires depend on one chimney there must be a distinct flue for each fire. Any other arrangement is disastrous because it tends to prevent the good collecting and resting against the flat brickwork.

"When your heart is bad, and your head is bad, and you are bad clean through, what is needed?" asked a Sunday-school teacher of her class. "I know—Ayer's Sarsaparilla!" spoke up a little girl, whose mother had recently been restored to health by that medicine.

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