

Dairy-Women.

On large dairy farms in this country the milking is of necessity done by men; but on smaller ones it were better, in many cases, that it should be done by women. They seem to understand how to do it almost intuitively, and cows themselves prefer to be milked by them. It is said that they frequently accommodate themselves to women-milkers, while they refuse "to let down" or yield a ready flow to men. It was formerly the case, when the occupations of the dairy-maid were considered among the pleasantest duties which engaged the attention of the daughters of our well-to-do farmers. Milking cows is known to be one of the most healthful of all rural employments. The aversion which girls of the present day have to this branch of dairy work arises in part from the unfavorable conditions under which they are frequently required to perform the service—exposure to storms, untimely hours, filthiness of the stables or barn-yard, long distances to carry the milk, etc. These, where they exist, are valid objections, but they are such as may readily be removed.

It should be the business of the head of the farm to see that the females who attend to the milking are afforded proper helps and conveniences. They should be provided with a dry and clean place to milk; the cows should be placed; and, where the distance is great, the milk should be carried—everything, in fact, but the actual milking and manipulation of the milk should be done by boys or men.

Give the girls a fair chance, and restore to them what fashion or pride has for a time taken from them—an occupation or industry at once pleasant and invigorating, and one which will give bloom to their cheeks and strength and health to their systems. In Holland the milk-maid is accompanied by a boy. The boy tows a little boat along the canal, and the maid with her full blue petticoat and her pink jacket walks beside him. Arriving at the pasture, she brings from the boat her copper milk-pails, as bright as gold, and with a kindly greeting to her cows, sets down her little stool on the grass and begins to milk. The boy, having moored his boat, stands beside her with the special pail which is to hold the last pint from each cow; the creamy pint, which comes last, because it has risen to the top in the udder. Not a drop is left to turn sour and fret the cow. The boy fetches and carries the pails. The girl milks the cow, and the boy does all else. The services of the girl are brought into use again in the dairy-room; but from the lifting and harder kinds of the work she is exempted.—*American Dairyman.*

HOW TO CHOOSE A PLOW.—Plows frequently annoy those who use them in a most mysterious manner. They refuse to run evenly in the ground and refuse to keep to the land as they ought to do. On examining them nothing seems to be wrong. Every properly shaped plow ought to have a slight concavity along the base of the land side, of one-eighth or three-sixteenths of an inch, so that the implement will "suck" into the soil and run steadily. This concavity may be shown by holding a steel square to the bottom of the plow. If this part is convex, as it not unfrequently is, no matter how high a reputation the maker of the plow has, it will not stay in the ground, and will annoy the plowman till the evil is remedied. The land side of the base should also be slightly concave, to the same extent of one eighth of an inch or more, and never ought to be convex or bulging under any circumstances. If these apparently trifling items are properly attended to at the time of selecting a plow, much trouble may be avoided which often seriously perplexes the plowman, and causes him to lose much time which may thus be saved.

HOW I MANAGED THE CURCULIO.—Not having trees big enough to bear last year, I thought I would try good cultivation for one season, and see what the prospects would be for fruit this year. In April my eight young Damsons were full of bloom, but I did not like to apply the smoke, as was recommended by the writer, under the trees, as they were too close to my building. I simply kept the ground clean of weeds and grass under each tree all the season, and have done the same this year. And I make it my business every few days to pick up all the falling fruit and give it to the pigs. In the spring, I dissolved one pound of soda and one pound of salt in two gallons of water, and applied on the ground close around the stem of each tree. The result is, my trees are healthy and loaded with fruit.—*Cincinnati Bulletin Correspondence.*

A REMEDY FOR CHEAT AND COCKLE.—Some years ago my wheat was very much "turned" to cheat and cockle. As I had just as much faith in wheat turning to one as the other, I resolved to sow no more of the seed of either, and took a screen off an old fan, put a rim around it, sat down by my heap of seed wheat, cockle and cheat or ches, and sieved it so long as any cheat, cockle or small grains of wheat would go through. I sowed only what would not pass through. The result was, scarcely a stalk of anything but wheat could be found in 45 acres the next harvest, and what few stalks appeared I presume had been in the manure. I treated my seed the same way the next fall. The following spring, in sowing grass seed over 50 acres, I found but one stalk of cockle; and in harvesting, not a handful of cheat, and no cockle was found—notwithstanding the wheat had been badly winter-killed, and one field near the barn had been run on, tramped and eaten by the lambs and chickens very much.—*Cor. Farmers' Friend.*

There is now in progress of organization in Charleston, S. C., a factory for the manufacture of cotton bagging from jute, which, it is said, will be in operation in less than two months. Jute seed has been distributed by the agricultural society of that state to about sixty planters along the coast, so that it is believed that within a very short time the South will raise, spin and weave jute; not only for its own use, but for other districts. The culture and manufacturing of jute have become very extensive, as a million acres of land in India are devoted to its cultivation, and one factory near Calcutta employs 4,000 workmen, while at Dundee, in Scotland, there are said to be about a hundred jute mills, employing some 20,000 operatives. It is believed that the south can grow jute as successfully as India can, and manufacture it as profitably as it can be done in Dundee, and that it will be done if the import duty on jute be allowed to stand until the Southern plantations and factories are allowed to have a fair start.—*Rural Messenger, Petersburg, Va.*

MOWING STRAWBERRY BEDS.—For several years past I have adopted the practice of mowing my strawberry beds at the period that the plant ceases to put forth new leaves, and the old ones look dry and rusty. The treatment prevents the production of runners to any great extent, the beds being renewed by offshoots from the crowns of the old roots. Usually by fall the plantation will exhibit one mass of fresh-grown leaves. This treatment fails only when a dry and hot spell succeeds the mowing. I have never suffered but once in this way, when the beds were badly burned and thinned out. I did not lose them, however, as they afterwards revived, and though five or six years old, look, this season, like new beds. I am so well satisfied with this system, that I shall always continue it, taking the risk of having the operation defeated by a drouth which, after all, only happens occasionally. With plenty of rain it succeeds perfectly.—*Horticulturist.*

ROOTS AND STRAW.—We take the chaff cutter and the root pulper to be the two bases of the stock-breeder's operations. The moisture which turnips contain, forms, when absorbed by the chaffed straw, hay or pea haulm, a bulky food on which a greater number of stock—of all kinds and ages—can be kept, than by any other treatment; and this material may be used as the basis and vehicle for the profitable consumption of not only bulky, but of concentrated food. Whether for feeding or breeding, and whether for beasts or sheep, there is no form of food with which we are acquainted which will keep going so large a stock as pulped roots and chaffed straw combined.—*Agricultural Gazette.*

In a recent speech in the U. S. House of Representatives, Hon. H. C. Burchard, of Illinois, presented some interesting statistics relative to the commercial condition of the country. He showed by official figures that the increase in all the sources of national wealth in the United States has been greater in the seven years since 1870 than in the ten years between 1860 and 1870. He also cited the astonishing fact that the exports during the past year exceeded the imports in value by more than \$200,000,000, and argued from this that the country is suffering, not from poverty, but from its plethora of everything valuable, combined with a lack of markets for the disposal of the surplus.

HOW TO KILL THE HESSIAN FLY.—A practical farmer writes that, being much afflicted by the Hessian fly in New York State years ago, he "sowed one barrel of salt per acre, immediately after sowing the seed. That made it come in ear all of five or six days earlier, and that saved it from the midge. In 1853, when all crops around me, far and near, were almost ruined, mine gave twenty-nine bushels per acre; salt saved it. I never sowed less than one barrel per acre." He has never been bothered with the midge since. He says salt prevents rust.

PUBLIC SALES OF HORSES.—The *Live Stock Journal* says that horse breeders are beginning to take courage. The active European demand for American horses is already bearing its legitimate fruits, in the increased confidence with which breeders in the country are regarding the business, and the active demand which is apparent for large, stylish, well-bred roadsters, and strong, hardy draft horses. Farmers can now take hold of stock of this kind feeling assured that there can be no loss at present prices, and with every prospect of continued improvement for some time to come.

At a farmers' meeting in Barrie, Mass., a member asked, "Why is it that one-third more seed is required now in planting grain than in former years, before the threshing machine was invented?" Another thought that the germinating power of a large portion of the grain was destroyed by the "lightning speed of the cylinder;" of late years he has used the flail and the result had justified his conclusion. The suggestion was made that there might be other causes, perhaps of an insect origin.

TO GET RID OF CANADA THISTLES.—Mr. Stephen Burrows, after trying for several years to eradicate a patch of Canada thistles on his farm, with very indifferent success, hit upon a plan last fall that he claims finished up the job. The pomace from his cider mill applied to them did the work effectually. Canada thistles, whenever they get a foothold, are a terrible nuisance, and the greatest exertions should be made to subdue them on their first appearance.

One of our exchanges, in speaking of the demand in all our large cities for large, stylish, high-stepping, well-bred horses, says:—"Such horses are wanted to drive on our avenues, in our parks, on our fair grounds, and everywhere. And such horses are not only in demand in double teams for carriages, but for barouches, buggies, or even drays and carts—for such horses fill every bill nearly that a horse can be used for."

Make your farm so valuable by constant improvement, skillful culture, good fruit, ornamental shrubbery and pleasant surroundings that no money will tempt you to leave it. We think it should be the settled purpose of every young man to put down his stakes for life, to make a permanent home which he will never wish to part with till he is called to the better land.

A Bordeaux journal states that a wine grower in the Gironde has discovered a means of getting rid of the phylloxera. He has remarked that a parasite of the strawberry plant carried on a war of extermination against that insect, and that where the strawberry is grown among the vines, they have not been attacked.

It is said that Dr. Chevalier, of Norfolk, Eng., observing some very fertile ears in a crop of barley, separated them from the rest, and, by sowing the grains separately, gradually propagated the variety which goes by his name. Its prolific quality has been tested by the extraordinary fact that 380 stems have issued from a single grain.

RATS IN IOWA.—A leading agriculturist of Iowa has called public attention to the enormous destruction of property by rats in that State. It will surprise most persons to learn that after careful investigation he estimates the loss from this source at not less than \$1,000,000.

SORGHUM SUGAR.—A Nebraska farmer claims to have made 600 pounds of bright sugar and 153 gallons of amber syrup from two acres of cane. The seed planted was of the early amber variety. The sugar was obtained by hanging the thick syrup in coffee sacks after it began to granulate.