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HOME AND FARM.

To the Editor of the Critic:

SIR,—It is a matter of surprise that farmers in this country succeed as well as they generally do, when their usually loose way of conducting the financial portion of their business is considered. Not one in a dozen keeps or pretends to keep a set of books. They raise and sell grain, roots, hay, horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, etc., but very few of them know or appear to care to inform themselves how much the wheat they produce costs them or what profit or loss results from each operation. It is largely owing to this slipshod, happy-go-lucky way of conducting their business that many farmers after a hard year's work are apt to find themselves and their farms impoverished at its close. They actually do not know what any article that they have to sell cost them, and they are, therefore, at the mercy of buyers. No merchant, tradesman, manufacturer or even professional man would or could expect to succeed without keeping an accurate and detailed account of his income and expenditure. Were it not for the inherently profitable nature of a farmer's occupation, universal failure would be the inevitable outcome of the unbusiness-like methods pursued by most of our farmers. A reform in this respect is greatly needed. BUSINESS.

MAKE HOME ATTRACTIVE—Nothing will make your homes so attractive and satisfying to your children as music. There is a charm in it that is found in nothing else. It awakens all the grand impulses of the soul; it harmonizes all the discordant elements in one's nature, and brings out all our better feelings towards humanity. It has been truly said "that a man was never so entirely lost but that a song would redeem him." Then fill your homes with music and song and let the children have books and papers, such as will elevate and instruct rather than demoralize. Their growing minds will not feast on dry sermons, but with the advancement of knowledge and the liberality of the press to-day, there is no lack of interesting and ennobling books and periodicals within the reach of every home. Let each book that you get your child be a milestone that shall point to great possibilities in its future life.

As far as your means will allow you fill your homes with pictures and flowers. If they are ever so simple they are attractive and go far in cultivating a love for the beautiful. A small landscape painting, even though it may be poorly executed, will oft-times create a love for the beauties of nature, and the impressions formed from that little picture may elevate one's thoughts and give one a desire to reproduce on canvass other and lovelier things.

Then give your child paints and brushes. Help them to relieve the dull plainness of your home, for be assured if there is nothing attractive at home they will be attracted elsewhere.—*L. C. in New England Farmer.*

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS—This new breed of fowls, which is gaining rapidly in popular favor, is an offshoot from the barred Plymouth Rocks, which they closely resemble in shape, style and general appearance; in size they are very little larger and in color a pure white. Experience in breeding them proves that they have reached a point where they breed truer to feather, shape, size and markings than the brood from which they sprung. They are good eaters, very fond of vegetables, and great foragers when given a chance; hence they are a strong, vigorous fowl, little liable to diseases. They lay a good sized egg of a deep brown color, and are showing themselves to be great layers, which qualities are sufficient to account for their popularity, outside and independent of their great beauty.—*New England Farmer.*

The British markets for cattle have been well maintained, and the general tone has been firm. The cable had a firmer tone and quoted values rather better, on account of light offerings. The local market has continued active under a good demand from shippers, and an active export trade has been transacted, but the feeling has been somewhat weaker owing to heavy receipts. Exporters have been buying more freely and all the offerings have been taken. The shipments of cattle from Montreal this season have shown good profits and exporters so far have been making money. In the ocean freight market there has been a firm feeling and the rates have been well maintained owing to the active demand for space, the bulk of which has been taken up to the 10th of July.

CURRYING COWS.—Every experienced dairyman knows that a cow taken to a strange place will not usually work up to average for months thereafter.

It is a common remark that such cows do a great deal better the second year than the first. The reason for this is found in the restored mental contentment of the cow. In the language of the farm she has been "wonted." Here is another proof of the "nervous theory" and every wise dairyman takes into full account the effect of nervous or mental disturbance on the production of cows. An excellent way to make a strange cow feel "wonted" or contented as possible—and there is money in this to the dairyman—is the daily use of the card and brush. Such use promotes her comfort, and very quickly causes her to feel contented with her new master and home.—*Howard's Dairyman.*

SET TIMES FOR PLANTING.—A correspondent of the *World* writes: I have transplanted trees at all hours of the day and in different ages of the moon, also at night, but without discovering any of the advantages so many people think belong to certain set times for seeding and planting. As far as the moon's influence is concerned I know of nothing that justifies my belief in it; but for transplanting, and especially for tender varieties, it