

A BARN FOR EVERYTHING.

A Plan for Putting All Farm Departments Under One Roof.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman, from whose pages we re-engrave the illustrations of this article, writes:

Your correspondent L. A. M. wants the "plan of barn for a 100-acre farm-the same roof to cover horses, cows, sheep, pigs, poultry, hay, grain, straw, tools, carts, everything useful where general husbandry is in practice—the building to be alongside a hill twenty feet high, and to cost between \$800 and \$1,200."

As you wisely remark, it would have been better if he had given us the number of each kind of live-stock he wants to keep, and the bulk of hay and grain to be

After making an allowance of twenty acres for wood-lot, waste land and permanent pasture, he probably has eighty acres of good tillable land for raising grain and hay. If so, he will need a bank barn at least fifty by seventy feet, and if he wants a silo, fifty by eighty feet will be none too large. There is nearly said against none too large. There is much said against bank barns-that they are dark, damp, unclean and unhealthful, and no doubt some of them are objectionable on this ac-

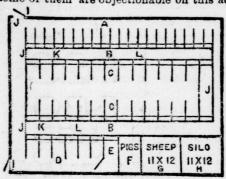
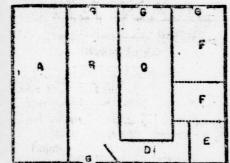


Fig. 1—Plan of Basement, 50 by 70.—A, 20 stalls for young cattle and calves, 3 by 9 feet, including hay box and walk behind; B, feeding passage, 5 feet wide; C, 28 cow and cattle stalls, 4 by 7½; gutter and walk, 3½; D, 5 horse stalls, 5 by 10; E, 1 box stall for horse, 6 by 10; F, pig pen, 6 by 10; G, sheep pen, 11 by 12; H, silo, 11 by 12; I, outside doors; J, gates; K, places where hay and straw fall from above; L, meal, bran and oats are drawn from hoppers suspended below the upper floor with spouts. floor with spouts.

count; but they are not necessarily so, and can be so constructed that they will be as light and dry and can be kept as clean and healthful as a barn entirely above ground. No other way has ever been devised by which so much room can be obtained, and so many conveniences secured at the same cost. A bank barn has the room of two barns under the roof of one, and the stock, if all kept in it, can be taken care of with much less labor than if kept in two. The hill where L. A. M. desires to build is twenty feet high. He should only dig into it far enough to have the bank about 5 feet high on the upper side. This will supply an abundance of earth to make the embankment for the driveway, and leave a space of four feet above the ground for windows. Most of the earth can be removed by the scraper and placed where wanted for the

The basement should be ten feet high on the lower side and nine feet on the upper, o that the drains will carry the water, and if rains should dash in through an open door or window, the water will find its way out. There should be a tile or stone drain with outlet under the foundation walls, and a space of two feet between the bank and walls on three sides filled with broken stones to supply drainage and prevent the frost from crowding the walls inward. The walls on three sides should have a little "batter," or lean towards the bank. Masonry is the most expensive part of a bank barn, but the walls need not be so high as usually built. One foot is



, permanent floor, 50 by 17; C, grain floor, 40 17: D, granary and passage to silo; E.silo, by 12 and 20 high: F, tool rooms, 25 by 18. and 14 by 18; G, outside doors.

enough for the lower side, five feet for the upper, with offsets along the sides just keeping the sills (which rest on these offsets) high enough above ground to prevent decay.

Between the basement sills and the barn floor sills are posts, weather boards and windows. Part of the foundation wall on the side next the driveway must either be built to the floor sill or a short bridge constructed to span the space between the end of the embankment and the floor. The latter will preserve the sill better, and will permit (if desirable) a window or cistern

Sixteen 12-light windows will make the basement light, and when opened in warm weather will supply as good a ventilation as if a horse stood under a shade tree in the field and be much cooler. The four chutes, or places where hay and straw are thrown down from above with the two laticed cupolas on the roof will carry off the foul air when the fresh air is admitted

The plan of the basement will show 20 stalls for young cattle and calves, 3 by 9

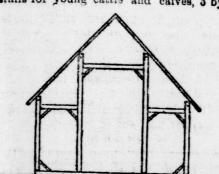


Fig. 3-Plan of Middle Bents, for convenience of using horse-fork.—Posts, 20 feet long; purlin posts, 29 feet long; raise in roof, 20 feet above plates.

feet, including mangers and walks behind; 28 cow or cattle stalls over 4 by 71 feet, with gutters, and a walk behind, 31 feet; 5 horse stalls, 5 by 10 feet; one box stall, 6 by 10; one pig pen, 6 by 10; sheep pen, 11 by 12; silo, 11 by 12. The bank where the sheep pen is located is about 5 feet high, and as sheep should have a separate yard from cattle, there should be an opening in the wall there with door and stairs for sheep and shepherd to go out and in. If no silo is wanted its space in the basement can be used for calves, sheep, or something else, and in the upper story for

The owner can keep his poultry anywhere

in the basement (overhead) he sees fit, by making the perches close up under the floor, and having a wide shelf under them to catch the droppings, which should be high enough to pass under without stooping, and of course cleaned off and droppings carried out as eften as the stables are cleaned, which should be every day. We keep part of our fowls in the basement, and they do well. They are never allowed in the upper story. Their roosts are entirely out of the way. They pick up scattered feed, eat insects and maggots, that become flies if not destroyed, and

make themselves generally useful.

Our pig-pen is in the basement, and is so warm and comfortable in the winter that the pigs grow and fatten as fast as they do in the summer. If cleaned every day, the barn is kept as odorless and agreeable as if no pigs were housed in it.

L. A. M. will hardly be able to build such a barn as he wants for \$800 or \$1,200. Mine (50 by 70) cost over \$1,500.

THE GUINEA FOWL.

Birds Which Deserve More Attention

Than They Now Receive. There are a good many varieties of this bird, all of which are supposed to have originated in Africa. The two kinds most generally known are the speckled, or pearl, and the white, the former being the more common variety. They are prolific layers during the summer season; they mature early, and their flesh is fine and tender. The meat of the white Guinea is white, the skin being yellow; the speckled have dark flesh; both have a gamey flavor.

The birds mate in pairs. They usually commence to lay in May or June. The eggs, though small, are rich in flavor. The shell is very hard, and if the eggs are set under a hen, the nest should be filled with dirt and set in a cool, moist place. The period of incubation is twenty-six days. When young they are delicate, like turkeys, and continue so until they change their coat of soft down for one of feathers. They should be fed and managed like young turkeys, and, like them, will be inclined to seek high roosts, but should not be permitted to do so.

Guinea fowls are very useful as protectors of other young fowls from the attacks of hawks, crows or rats, as they are quick to give the alarm in a loud, shrill cry, most unpleasant to the unwelcome intruder. The only objections to be urged against these birds are their noise and quarrelsome habits. In the poultry yard they are spiteful (especially the cocks) to young chicks, and are, generally speaking, of a very pugnacious disposition.

The young can easily be trained to run



GUINEA FOWLS.

so apt to quarrel with them. When first hatched they are quite wild, but when kindly treated and often fed, they will become sufficiently tame to eat from the hand, and will not wander far from home. The white variety are more tame than the

It is advisible to start keeping guinea fowls by either purchasing eggs and hatching them under domestic hens, or procuring them when young, when they are more likely to localize themselves to their owner's wish than if purchased as older birds. If adult birds be purchased they will require boxing up for three weeks or a month and feeding carefully to tame them, otherwise they are liable to wander off at their

own sweet will, possibly never to return.

But in spite of these disadvantages, as a semi-domesticated bird, it is very profitable upon a farm or anywhere where it can have free range and plenty of liberty, clearing the ground of myriads of insect life, and being a small feeder in comparison with ordinary poultry.

Ontario Dairy Experiments.

Bulletin XCIII, of the Ontario Agricultural College is devoted to giving the results of tests of milk made at the Special Dairy School at the College. The tests were made in two directions, one being to ascertain adulteration with water, or skimming of the cream, and the other to establish a scale by which milk could be bought and paid for according to the fat contained in it. In the first test the lactometer was used in order to find the specific gravity at a temperature of sixty degrees Fah. When the temperature could not readily be fixed at sixty degrees, .1 is added or subtracted from the indication on the lactometer for each degree above or below sixty. The specific gravity of pure milk ranges from 28 to 34, and that of skimmed milk is 23 to 36. This means that if water weighs 1,000, milk weighs 1,028 to 1,034, and when the milk is skimmed (the fat taken out) the milk weighs 1,033 to 1,038, as fat is lighter than water. In order to find the proportion of fat

(butter) in milk, the Babcock tester was used. In this the sample of milk to be tested is put into little bottles at 70 degrees if possible, and a little acid is put into each bottle, which will coagulate the casein and other solids, and leave the fat floating on top, To bring it all to the top of the bottles, they are put into a revolving holder, which whirls them around at the rate of 700 to 1,200 revolutions per minute. The fat being the lighter, accumulates in one end of the bottle, which is graduated in a scale on the outside, showing the percentage of fat and of the skimmed or separated milk. The test should show 3 per cent. or more of fat; 87 to 88 per cent. of water, and 8.5 to 9.5 per cent. of solids not fat. If below 3 per cent. of fat is shown, the milk has been skimmed. Full directions are given in the bulletin for making the tests absolutely correct. The bulletin gives a table showing that 1,000 pounds of milk having 3.7 per cent. of fat is worth \$8.25 when made into butter which sells at 24 cents per pound, while if it contained 4 per cent. of fat it would have been worth \$8.92. Each patron of a factory where the Babcock tester is used, gets pay for his milk according to its

value and not according to its measure. A Few Practical Hints.

Every owner of a home in a farming country or village, says the Cultivator, should aim annually to make some improvement of his surroundings. Buildings were erected years ago in haste, leaving the grounds with more or less of a rough surface. Being now covered with grass, the owner does not wish to have the surface broken and the sod spoiled; but he may make a smooth lawn by gradually filling the depressions with fine earth or sand to a depth of an inch in the hollows. The grass quickly penetrates this thin bed; and by repeating the operation several times during the season, he may with little cost and no breaking of the surface, have made a great improvement

THE BUSY BEE.

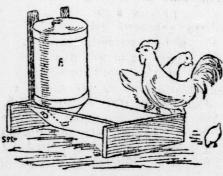
Some Information Concerning the Profitable Insect in Summer.

This promises to be a profitable year for the bee-keeper. The early spring bloom was plentiful and the general rains which are now saturating a parched soil will soon make plentiful the white clover and the other summer blooming plants. In the management of bees a writer in the Epitomist says: In May we left the bees all or nearly all, equalized, so that they were nearly the same strength. We are now drawing very near the surplus season of the north and west, as these are the locations we are giving instructions for; of course, in the south, where bees fly every day in the year, fair weather operations must be commenced earlier in the season. We should now watch to see when the bees commence honey gathering. If we remove the cover to a hive and give the bees a puff of smoke we shall see when they begin to build little bits of white comb at the top of the frames, or begin to build on to lengthen out the cells with white comb. This is just the time to put on our surplus arrangements. Now, if we are to run for extracted honey, we want an empty story filled with empty combs. We first smoke the bees and open the hive by removing the cover, and place a perforated honey-board on the hive. We now place the upper story, containing the empty combs, on top of the other hive, and place the cover on the upper story. This perforated honey-board is made of zinc and is perforated so that the worker bees can readily pass through it, but the queen and drones cannot; so no eggs are laid in the upper story. When the combs are filled with honey in the upper story we are ready to extract the honey. This is done by smoking the bees, removing the frames, shaking off all the bees and uneapping all the cells with a knife made for that purpose. The combs are then placed in the extractor, and, by turning a crank which is attached to a gear, the honey is all thrown out clean by centrifugal force. Then these combs are returned to be filled A better way is to have an extra set of

combs go to the hive to be extracted, and remove the frames, shake off the bees and give them this extra set; then take this set to the honey-house, or wherever the extracting is to be done, and extract the set and use them for the next colony. Some small beekeepers do not extract until the last of the season, preferring to have two or three extra sets of upper stories, with frames, and as soon as one is nearly filled they raise the upper story and put another one under it, thus having a three-story hive and sometimes run it up to four or five stories; then when they have leisure they do the extracting. Sometimes, and very often, large apiaries have to be worked on this plan on account of not having sufficient labor or time in the pressing part of the season. If the honey is kept extracted out of the combs bees very rarely swarm, but all their attention is turned to honey-gathering, so a large crop of honey is the result. If we are to run for comb honey, then the operation depends something on the style of our surplus arrangements. One thing, however, is a settled matter with bee keepers, that is, the honey must be stored in section boxes of some style, and the market of our country calls for a one-pound box and he who uses anything else will find, when he attempts to put his honey on the market, that he has made a mistake. The honey box that may now be called the standard is 41x41x11 inches, and when separators are used, as they always should be when a twenty-eight-pound case is used, they will weigh, when well filled, just about one pound. This is the most common case now in use on the L or simplicity ten frame hive. If brood frames, with seven-eighths inch thick top bar, are used, then we will require a slatted honeyboard to be placed on top of the the frames, and then set the case on top of the honeyboard. This case should contain twentyeight one-pound boxes. We prefer a starter of V-shape, the lower point extending down half the depth of the section, as this is precisely the shape bees begin to build a comb from the start. Thin pieces of wood, called separators, should go between each row of four section boxes; then a quilt should be placed on top of the sections, enameled side down. If the new Root hive is used or a thick top broad frame, then the slatted honey-board can be dispensed with. But the case I like by far the best is a small case, each holding six or seven boxes, and each independent of the other; four cases just cover a hive.

Water Fountain for Chickens.

The illustration presented herewith, reengraved from Orange Judd Farmer, represents a simple method of supplying fowls regularly with pure water. It consists first of an ordinary V-shaped trough B, made from common fence boards. This can be any desired length, but eighteen inches is sufficient. In this at one end invert a five gallon can or jug A, which has been previously filled with pure water. To



FOR WATERING FOWLS.

keep it erect, drive two stakes at the end of the trough and lean the can against them. If further support is necessary, tie it to the stakes. As soon as the water is lowered in the trough below the opening in the top of the can, a little air is admitted and water flows out to take the place of that consumed. By this means water can be kept pure and wholesome and if the vessel be made of earthenware and placed in the shade it will keep cool for a long time. During warm weather possibly as much disease in the poultry yard originates from unclean drinking vessels as from any one source, and a little time used in constructing this fountain will be well spent.

Hardy Vines

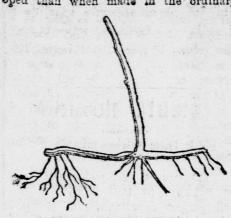
A useful and curious vine is the Dutchman's Pipe, (Aristolochia sapho). This has very large leaves, grows fast, and has flowers which resemble an old style tobacco pipe, from which its name, pipe vine is

There are many miseellaneous vines of great value. The Akebia quinata is one of the best, being a rapid grower, having five-foliate leaves, and bearing sweetscented, plum-colored flowers. Another is the bitter-sweet, Celastrus scandens. This has small, white flowers, of no attraction at all, but when fall comes the blossoms have changed to bright scarlet berries, which hang on the vines all winter long.

ROOTING A GRAPE CUTTING.

Method by Which Vines Can be Successfully Duplicated.

The illustration shows a method of making grape cuttings by which more roots will be formed and greater strength developed than when made in the ordinary



ROOTING GRAPE CUTTINGS.

It often becomes desirable to duplicate choice vines which can be done most successfully by the method herein described. Lay down a branch bearing a shoot and bury it for one summer allowing the shoot to stick out of the ground. Roots will develop from the base of the shoot as well as from the buds on either side of it as shown in the cut. At the end of the year cut away the original branch so as to leave the roots similar to those shown in the illustration. The shoot is then ready to be planted. This will make one of the strongest kinds of new vines. Almost the same result may be obtained by removing the section of the branch before burying taking care to cut it beyond the first bud on either side of the shoot. However, it is likely that the cuttings will not become as strong in such cases as when the branch is buried.—Ohio Farmer.

HOUSE PLANTS.

A Practical Gardener's Hints Upon Their Proper Care.

The four most important requisites for the successful culture of plants are: 1st, proper temperature; 2nd, sufficient light; 3rd, fresh air when practicable; 4th, pro-

per attention to watering.

1st. Temperature.—This will, of course, vary for different plants, but the majority of flowering plants, in common cultivation, will thrive in an average heat of 60 degrees by day and 50 by night. A few degrees over or under will make no very material difference. Coleus, and a few other things will develop better in a higher temperature, and roses and others will take lower, with advantage, but the above will be found about the best medium for general collection.

2nd. Light.-Light is a great desideratum, as but few flowering plants will flourish and bloom satisfactorily without it. In winter, especially, it is necessary to give plants as much sunlight as possible. In summer, when more air can be admitted, it is not necessary. In the hottest time a moderate shade will be found beneficial for almost anything.

3rd. Air. - The rule is to admit air at every possible opportunity, being careful, however, not to chill the plants.

4th. Watering. -This requires a good deal of attention. Many people have the idea that so much water should be applied daily. This is a serious mistake. Many plants which need a quart of water a day in summer, do not need so much in a week in winter. It is better to let the soil in the pot get dry before watering, then soak it thoroughly and do not water it again until dry. At all times the foliage should be washed sufficiently to keep it always in a clean, healthy state.

Insects. -- If taken in time are easily kept under. It is when plants are neglected that vermin become so numerous, as in some cases, to make it almost impossible to get rid of them. The most common insects are the following.

Aphis or Green Fly.—An application of

tobacco, in the form of smoke or tobacco water, will finish them.

Red Spider. - A very minute insect, scarcely to be seen. Its presence may be known by the leaves appearing as if shrivelled. The best remedy is to keep the leaves moist on both sides, as the spider cannot stand moisture. Scale. - Appears clinging to the bark of

Oleanders, and other hard wooded plants. A solution of whale oil soap, or where that cannot be had, strong soft soap will kill them, afterwards washing the bark well will prevent further attacks.

Mealy Bug. -It is a white, downy looking fellow, which occasionally appears. A touch of alcohol on a feather will kill him. The preventive for all insects is to look over your plants occasionally, and, with a small brush, or your hand remove and kill any that may be seen. This is more quickly and easily done than you would think, till you have tried it, and it

Earthworms -- Occasionally get into pots, and loosen the earth around the roots. When signs of them are observed, a little lime-water dislodges them.

The Bark of Fruit Trees. As a general thing healthy trees are able

to get rid of the old bark without any help from the cultivator; but in many cases they are all the better for having a little help from man. In many species of trees, there is an arrangement provided by nature, for helping a plant to get rid of its bark. These are called in scientific language "super cells," that is to say, cork cells. These appear at first on the outer bark, as small brown spots. From year to year, however, they develop, sometimes eating into the bark in longtitudinal lines, and in this way form the cracks which ultimately result in what is known as rough bark. As it is thus the design of nature to get rid of the outer bark, it is good practice to help nature in this work. For this purpose, washes of various kinds are found in practice exremely useful. In fruit culture. soapy solutions have been found very effective and in the unscientific work of successful farmers even lime wash has been found beneficial. In some of the interior counties of Pennsylvania, a farmer would almost as soon think of never cleaning his horses, as letting his orchard trees go without a coating of lime wash once a year. The practical results of this treatment speak for themselves. No healthier trees, or more successful fruit crops can be had than result from this practice. - Meehans' Monthly.

Best and Cheapest.

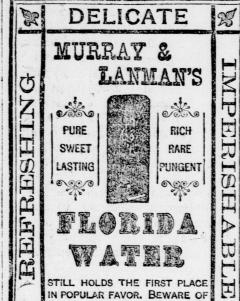
A better or cheaper egg food than the sunflower seed, would be hard to find. It gives a gloss to the feathers and a vigor to the fowl that nothing else will. Grow them in fence corners, spare spots in the garden back yard, and anywhere a seed can "take hold." It is best to feed but once or twice a week—but it counts in an increased number of eggs, every time. Sometimes the fowls have to be taught to eat them, by starving them to it, but when they have once learned the trick they never refuse them thereafter. - Western Rural.

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