

that a stalk of grass cut when it is full of juice containing sugar, gum and protein compounds, and cured thus, must be more nutritious than if left standing until a part of these constituents have changed into woody fibre. Feeding hay not cut until it is thoroughly ripe, is giving the animals that which is in part only so much wood. The practical lesson is, make a good ready well in advance, now, and have the barns, mows, stacking arrangements, mowers, scythes, horse and other rakes, forks, wagon racks, in short, all things in perfect order—and the work planned, so as not to let any hayfield get into the fully ripe condition. Head work beforehand will save hard work and worry, and secure better hay.

Abuse of Barn Cellars.

A great change has come over the farm during the last thirty years, in all our thrifty farming districts, in the general use of barn cellars. Formerly such an arrangement of the barn was a novelty, and farmers have slowly learned its great advantages—the greater comfort of cattle, the cheaper cleaning of stables, the more convenient watering of stock, the larger use of peat, muck and headlands in the compost heap, and the greater value of the manure made under cover. Now the cry is raised of damage to fodder and stock from the barn cellar. Almost any good thing can be perverted and become a nuisance, and it were strange if men who do not read much and think less, could not abuse the barn cellar, which is the stomach of the farm. The same kind of men not infrequently abuse their own stomachs, and suffer grievously in consequence. "If you make your barn cellar tight, carbonic acid gas and ammonia are thrown off and injure the quality of hay stored in the rooms above, and the health of the cattle in the stables. If you turn your pigs into the cellar to make compost, and keep them from the air and the light, they become diseased, and you put bad meat into your barrel to breed disease in your family." These are not uncommon complaints, circulating in our agricultural journals. Well, suppose we admit these things to be true, what of it? Is there any necessity for having a barn cellar without ventilation? If you leave one end open towards the south, you certainly have ventilation enough—and the gases that are evolved from fermenting manure are not going through two-inch stable plank and the tight siding of the barn when they have the wind to carry them off. If a barn cellar is properly managed, and seasonably furnished with absorbents, the ammonia will be absorbed as fast as it is formed. There will

be no odor of ammonia that the nostrils can detect. If the pigs do not do the mixing fast enough, the shovel and the fork, the plow and the harrow can be added. The making of compost under the barn is nice work for rainy days in winter, and is more likely to pay than any work exposed to the storm. The keeping of pigs under the barn is a question of two sides, and however we may decide it, barn cellars will stand upon their own merits. Any farmer who makes a business of raising pork for the market will find a well-appointed pig-sty, with conveniences for storing and cooking food, a paying investment. If he sees fit to utilize the labor of his pigs by making compost in a well-ventilated barn cellar, their health is not likely to suffer from the wholesome exercise, or that of his family from the use of the flesh. Swine, furnished with a dry sleeping-apartment and plenty of litter for a bed, will keep comfortably clean, and not suffer from overwork in the compost heap. If anything is settled in the experience of the last thirty years, it is the economy of the barn cellar. Our most intelligent farmers, who can command the capital, invest in them. A nice appendage to them is a watering trough fed by a spring or a large cistern in the embankment, to catch all the water, and bring it out by a faucet upon the stable floor above. This works admirably.

Crows and Scarecrows.

Probably there is no point upon which a gathering of half a dozen farmers will have more positive opinions than as to the relations of the crow to agriculture. It is likely that five of these will regard the bird as totally bad, while the minority of one will claim that he is all good. As usual, the truth lies between the extremes. There is no doubt that the crow loves corn, and knows that at the base of the tender shoot there is a soft, sweet knernel. But the black-bird is not altogether a vegetarian. The days in which he can pull young corn are few, but the larger part of the year he is really the friend of the farmer. One of the worst insects pests with which the farmer, fruit-grower, or other cultivator has to contend is the "White Crab," the larva of the "May Beetle," "June Bug," or "Dor Bug." It is as well established as any fact can be, that the crow is able to detect this grub while it is at its work upon the roots of grass in meadows and lawns, and will find and grub it out. For this service alone the crow should be everywhere not only spared, but encouraged. We are apt to judge by appearances; when a crow is seen busy in a field, it is assumed that it is doing mischief, and by a constant war-

It is the Inside of a Cream Separator that Counts.



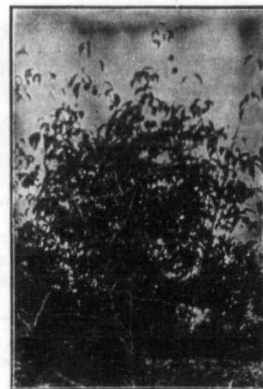
The poor Cream Separator with its slim stand nicely painted is able to stand up because screwed down to the floor, "but the worm gearing," well, ask an honest mechanic, he'll tell you it may skim all right for a time, but sooner or later it is bound to give trouble, and that trouble comes on your busiest days when you can least afford to have a break-down and right here is where the value of the strong, square gear MAGNET works come in. It is made right and can be depended upon at all times. You never lose time, temper or profit when you own a MAGNET. Why? Because the Magnet has square gears, cut from solid blanks, a skimmer in one piece, easy to clean, a large bowl supported at both ends (Magnet patent). So easy to turn, children operate it. A perfect brake, stops in eight seconds preventing wear. Look at the

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