

The *Breeder's Gazette* says that any one who knows anything about a steer knows that he prefers whole corn to corn meal and ear corn to either. It costs an eighth of the corn to grind it and another eighth to take it to and from the mill. Why not feed ear corn at once to the cattle, even if a fourth of it does nothing but find its way into the manure heap? But no such loss need be incurred. With hogs to follow, ear corn can be fed with actual economy besides the saving in labor, and experiments carefully conducted show this. Probably meal will finish up a steer better than ear corn, but for the bulk of the feeding there are no trials to which we can point that show in favor of meal over whole corn. A step still further in the right direction is to feed unhusked corn-fodder and all to the cattle.

NEXT to warming water for stock is to keep the stock water warm, and below we give the outline of a tank which shows how this may be largely accomplished:—



The dotted line represents a partition in the tank reaching to within a few inches of the bottom, and at a distance of say three feet from one end. A cover should be laid on the main part of the tank, and then pack that end of it on all sides with chaff or other non-conducting material. It will be seen that when cattle begin to drink at the open end—which should have a hinged cover—the water flows in from the bottom of the reserve supply. We believe that this cold-shut-off is of great value and we call especial attention to it.—*Farm Stock and Home.*

Reserve Power in Milk-Giving.

THE following interesting article in the *American Agriculturist* is written by Mr. John Gould, Ohio:—

The plan of feeding grain to milch cows at all seasons, if intelligently carried out, is one of the most profitable methods in the dairy. The usual argument is that it maintains the flow of milk, increases its value for commercial purposes, and enriches the farm by giving back in manure two-thirds or more of the original market price of the feed. These are good reasons, but I apprehend that there is more than this to warrant feeding the cow a fair ration of nitrogenous food each day that she contributes toward the products of the dairy. It pays to feed a cow a generously-heaped dish of bran every day for at least a month before she calves. The production of milk is now generally conceded to be almost wholly a draught upon the blood, the larger number of elements in milk having corresponding components in the blood. Hence, foods for the purpose of milk production are the best possible supports for forming blood and building up bone, muscle, and nerve. Any food that has direct influence upon these must, in the nature of things, be adapted to present, or not remote, milk supply. By this we contribute toward a reserve power to prolong profitable milk-giving, and get a return for food consumed, which at the time did not appear. It is now shown that the cow which is fed bran and shorts, or even oatmeal, through the early summer months, will give more milk and hold out better than one that subsisted during that period on grass alone, and had her grain ration added as the maturing grass and August heats began to tell upon the milk flow.

There seems to be a draught upon the system of the cow in these early months that she is only just able to respond to, so that she has no chance to fortify her system for the long effort that the dairy cow is now expected to make. The latent power she should store up is not secured, and later on when nature calls for maternal duties, a greater exertion is necessary to digest the food. At last, when the grain does come, too much of it is taken to repair the previous demand upon the system. She lacks the reserve power stored away in well stocked nerve and muscle, by means of which fully charged blood tells in the milk pail and the churn.

Cows are not now required to be hardy. They

are asked to have constitutional vigor and power of consuming and assimilating food and turning it in right channels. The grain-fed cow has had every want of the system fully supplied, while the other has had to do a work of subdividing; and when the flush feed does come, she may put it all into the milk pail; but is more likely to build up her system and make good the credit account where she has from her own flesh and blood contributed to make up a balanced milk ration out of grass. The other cow has nothing to make up, but that reserve power later on comes into play, and the farmer sees that the early fed grain pays in the end. It is not the strength of the few quarts of oats eaten at sunrise which carries the race horse under the wire a winner; but it was the reserve or latent power stored up in the past, not expended in trying to find here and there a scanty subsistence just sufficient to fairly support life, but the result of unused but appropriated food, which, when wanted, could be called upon to win the race. The cow is asked to give milk; and her nervous system must be the power. If she uses all the strength of her food to fight cold, warm barnyards, melt snow from her back, and warm falling clouds of water, besides hunting her own food, we can expect little latent power to be stored up to help us win the amount of milk that is secured the last months of her dairy season that now alone make the cow a profitable animal. She must now give milk 310 days of the 365, and to do this, she must first by breeding and feeding be the type of a dairy cow, and by habit, care, and protection, aided by generosity of rations, reach the goal now set for all good cows, 7,750 pounds of good milk per year.

The Poultry Yard.

If you want to make all the money you possibly can out of poultry you should grow your own feed.

Don't keep too many "dead-head roosters." If you want the eggs for hatching, one to every dozen hens is enough, and if you want eggs for market, you need no rooster at all. You can materially lessen your expenses by attending to this hint.—*Poultry Monthly.*

The *Poultry Bulletin* says:—"Feeding for eggs is the principal thing for winter laying, no matter what breed you keep. Mashed-potatoes in the soft feed are very desirable and greatly relished two or three times a week. Vegetables are necessary as well as grain, and animal food for the full development of the laying capacity of any breed of poultry."

An ingenious chicken raiser near Pomona, Cal., has devised a way of preventing chickens from scratching up his garden. He crosses the long-legged brahmas with the short-legged bantams, and the result is a new breed of fowls with one long leg and one short leg. When they raise either leg to scratch they lose their balance and come to grief. After a few demoralizing attempts they desist.—*Ex.*

THE following breeds are recognized by most writers and fanciers to be the best flesh producers: for weight, Cochins, Brahmas, Langshans, LeFlech, and Creves; for delicacy and flavor of meat, Game, Houdans, Dorkings, Malays, Langshans, LeFlech, and Creves; the Spanish breeds are wildish but hardy, so are Leghorns and Brahmas; Dumpies, or American Creepers, Dorkings, and Dilkies are the best mothers. The latter lay early, quite as pullets, and after about a dozen eggs they sit.

Don't rely upon Providence to run the poultry yard; if you do you will surely get left. Roll up your sleeves and go to work, if you would succeed. After you have done this it is all right to leave the result with Providence. But don't go around depending solely upon Providence for assistance. You will soon come to the conclusion that the whole system is a failure, and that you must take the other tack if you want to succeed. They only succeed who earn success.—*Poultry Monthly.*

WHEN an agricultural editor finds nothing else to write about, he recommends farmers to raise ducks or geese. What possesses him to write such drivel, unless it be the lack of something else to fill up, we

never could understand. Ducks might be tolerated if peace could be kept in the family no other way, but a divorce suit would be almost preferable to a demand from the better half for room on the farm for a flock of geese. The only goose we ever heard of that could be endured on a farm was the mythical one that laid the golden eggs. From gosling to aged gander the goose is an unmitigated nuisance. It defiles everything it touches. Three geese will tread down and defile almost as much pasture as a cow. Its eggs are coarse eating and its flesh not much better. Even the feather beds, which are the good wife's excuse for demanding geese on the farm, are unhealthy and an abomination to any one not in the most vigorous health. We advise farmers to draw the line at the duck, and if they have to yield to make a determined stand between the duck and the goose.—*Live Stock and Western Farm Journal.*

THERE have been many suggestions given as to the best mode of breaking up "the sitting hens," in order to compel them to desist from incubation and begin laying again. If a hen begins to sit it is usually when she is in good condition, and as a rule she is fat. If she is prevented from carrying out her intention of sitting, by being broken up, she will lay only a few eggs and begin sitting again. Now, we will give an excellent plan which will save time and give more eggs after the hen is broken up. In the first place let her stay on the nest a week, giving her no food the first three days, and only one meal the next two days, and one the next two, which completes the week, but let her have all the water she desires. She will then fall off in flesh, and should be taken from the nest and placed in a lath box, with open sides and open bottom, with no nest or anywhere for her to sit, giving only one meal a day, which should be stale bread soaked in milk and a little chopped clover. Keep her in the box two or three days, and then let her be placed with the other fowls. She will then be in good laying condition, not too fat, and will lay on, and not attempt to hatch another brood for quite a length of time.—*Mirror and Farmer.*

Pithily Put Pickings.

COMMENCE the new year on the farm by paying for everything as you go. Enormous bills cause trouble and inconvenience.—*Agricultural Epitome.*

"How lucky some men are!" is the almost envious comment of the hap-hazard farmer and stockman as he contemplates the success of his wide-awake, thorough-going neighbor.—*Breeders' Gazette.*

NO MAN'S experience can teach him all that is worth knowing; therefore read, and get the experience of others. . . . The best profit is in the best products. An afternoon visit to market will find the best meat, butter, vegetables and fruits all sold.—*Vermont Watchman.*

THE most solemn joke in all the world is farming just for fun. . . . Russia is a sort of semi-barbarous land, but blinders are never put on horses there. . . . Politeness pays in the cow stable. A gentle man gets more milk than a harsh one.—*Farm Stock and Home.*

It is almost work thrown away to set trees, shrubs, and flowers, and then leave them to take care of themselves. . . . In the management of a farm, as well as with all other pursuits, attending to details has done more to assure success than anything else.—*Maryland Farmer.*

It is not what we produce but what we utilize that makes the profit. . . . On the farm as elsewhere, misfortune is the shadow of carelessness. . . . Many a boy has been driven from the farm by being compelled to do chores while the men were mooning under the trees.—*Selected.*

If you made any bad mistakes last year, tell your fellow farmers about them so that they may avoid a similar pitfall. . . . "The pen is mightier than the sword," but the lead pencil is mightier than the pen on the farm in winter when plans are being made for the next season's farming operations.—*Western Plowman.*

THE country home that was complete has scarcely yet been found. There is always some addition that may be made to add to its beauty and attractiveness. . . . The farmer whose home is comfortable and whose stock are well provided for is happy whether the wind blows and the storm beats or it is bright and sunny.—*Rocky Mountain Husbandman.*

CONSIDER the fact that in every working season there are 50 or 60 working days so rainy or disagreeable that a man cannot do full work out of doors. The farmer who plans for profitable work indoors on these days is an economist in the true sense of the word. . . . Teach your daughter that good butter is better than poor music. . . . The "scrub" farmer will always have scrub cattle, no matter in what herd book they are recorded.—*Rural New Yorker.*

A CALF born in fall or winter is worth two born in the spring for profit. . . . To attempt to improve scrub stock by selecting and breeding is poor economy. You can purchase improved stock and secure the benefit of the work of others cheaper than you can do the same work yourself. . . . The greater the number of persons contributing milk or cream to the factory, the less uniform will be the product unless the operator or owner carefully inspects the herds' stables and dairy houses of the patrons.—*Dairy World.*