

300 Mexicans to attend and herd it; 10,000 beeves are annually sold from the ranch, and 12,000 young calves branded. There is another ranch on the San Antonio river, near Goliad, which grazes 40,000 head of cattle, and brands 11,000 head of calves annually. Mr. O'Connor, the owner of this ranch, sells \$75,000 worth of stock each year, and his herds are constantly increasing. In 1852 he began cattle raising with 1,500 head, and his present enormous herds and wealth are the result of natural increase. On the Gulf, between the Rio Grande and Nueces, is a ranch containing 142,840 acres, and owned by Mr. Robidoux. It is on a peninsula, surrounded on three sides by water, and to enclose the other side has required the building of 31 miles of plank fence. Every three miles along the fence are houses for the herders, and enormous stables and pens for the stock. There are grazed in this enclosure 30,000 head of beef cattle, besides an immense number of other stock. A ranch on the Brazos river contains 50,000 head of cattle, 300 horses, and 50 herders. Jno. Hitson, the owner, drives 10,000 cattle to market annually. Ten years ago he was a poor farmer in Tennessee; but selling his land and going to the Brazos, he succeeded by dint of hard labor in getting together sixty cows and nine brood mares, when he went to raising stock. He has now 50,000 head of cattle, worth \$150,000, and he is still only forty years old. This man is establishing a stock ranch on the South Platte, in Nebraska, where he now has 5,000 head of cattle, and next spring will bring in 10,000 more. The whole number of cattle brought North overland from Texas during the year 1870 did not fall short of 100,000 head. Of these 20,000 went to Montana, 8,000 to Utah, 8,000 to Nevada, 9,000 to Wyoming, 10,000 to California, 11,000 to Idaho, and 30,000 to Colorado and New Mexico. The amount of money handled along the base of the mountains in transferring the stock was over \$1,250,000. At Abilene, the great Kansas cattle market, over 200,000 head were handled. The shipments in September reached 60,000 head, and in October nearly 75,000 head. This immense trade may be estimated when it is stated that it took 111 cars per day to transfer the stock and one bank in Kansas city handled \$2,000,000 cattle money. Texas, the great cattle hive of the country, has during the past year received 300,000 settlers, and already cattle growers there feel that they must soon look elsewhere for untrammelled ranges. A few more years like the past—a few deductions of a million acres of pasture lands in a single season, and Texas will be no more of a grazing State than New York, Pennsylvania or Ohio. Yet, compare these States, and how do they stand now? New York, with her settlements of 250 years old and a population of 4,000,000, has 748,000 oxen and stock cattle; Pennsylvania, with over 3,000,000 people, has 721,000; Ohio, with 3,000,000 people, has 749,000; Texas, with 800,000 people, has 3,800,000 cattle alone.

Farmer's Clubs.

We have often advocated the establishment of Farmer's Clubs over the different sections of the country. Much good would result from them to the farmers, as the various questions discussed at them could be reported through the agricultural and local papers.

We therefore lay before our readers, rules that might be adopted in them; organization, management and duties which are worthy of attention:

"A true Farmers' Club should consist of all the families residing in a small township, so far as they can be induced to attend to it, even though only half their members should be present at any one meeting. It should limit speeches to ten minutes, excepting only those addresses

or essays which eminently qualified persons are requested to specially prepare and read. It should have a President, ready and able to repress all ill-natured personalities, all irrelevant talk, and especially all straying in the forbidden regions of political or theological disputation. At each meeting the subject should be chosen for the next, and not less than four members pledged to make some observations thereon, with liberty to read them if unused to speaking in public. These having been heard, the subject should be open to discussion by all present, the youngest and humblest being especially encouraged to state any facts within their knowledge which they deemed pertinent and cogent. Let every person be thus incited to say something calculated to shed light on the subject, to say this in the fewest words possible, and with the utmost care not to annoy or offend others, and it is hardly possible that any one evening per week devoted to these meetings should not be spent with equal pleasure and profit.

The chief ends to be achieved through such meetings is a development of the faculty and observation, and the habit of reflection. Too many of us pass through life essentially blind and deaf to the wonders and glories manifest to clearer eyes all around us. The magnificent phenomena of the seasons, even the awakening of Nature from death to life in Spring-time, make little impression on their senses, still less on their understandings. There are men who have passed forty miles through a forest, and yet could not name, within a half a dozen, the various species of trees which compose it; and so with everything else to which they are accustomed. They need even more than know an intellectual awakening; and this they could hardly fail to receive from the discussions of an intelligent and earnest Farmers' Club.

A Recording Secretary able to state in the fewest words each important suggestion or fact elicited in the course of an evening's discussion, would be hardly less valuable or less honored than a capable President. A single page would often suffice for all that deserves such record of an evening's discussion, and being transferred to a book and preserved might be consulted with interest and profit through many succeeding years. No other duty should be required of the member who rendered this service, the correspondence of the club being devolved upon another secretary. The habit of bringing grafts, or plants, or seed to club meetings, for gratuitous distribution, has been found to increase the interest, and enlarge the attendance of those formerly indifferent. Almost every good farmer or gardener will sometimes have choice seeds or grafts to spare, which he does not care nor cannot expect to sell, and these being distributed to the club will not only increase its popularity, but give him a right to share when another surplus is in a like manner distributed. If one has choice fruits to give away, the club will afford him an excellent opportunity, but I would rather not attract persons to its meeting by a prospect of having their appetites thus gratified at others' expense. A flower show once in each year, and an exhibition of fruits and other choice products, at an evening meeting in September or October, should suffice for festivals. Let each member consider himself pledged to bring to the exhibition the best material results of his year's efforts, and the aggregate will be satisfactory and instructive.

The organization of a Farmer's Club is its chief difficulty. The large number of those who ought to participate usually prefer to stand back, not committing themselves to the effort until after its success has been assured. To obviate this embarrassment, let a paper be circulated for signatures, pledging each signer to attend the introductory meeting and bring at least a part of his family. When forty have signed such a call, success will be well nigh assured.—*Tribune*.

Cheerfulness in the Household.

Every evening, when the sun sinks in the west, and the light of lamps or gas is needed to enable us to continue our employments, hundreds of thousands of busy men cease from labor and turn their steps homeward. To the women of the family, this return of father, husband or brother, is one of the events of the day; but how diverse the influence these workers bring with them, and how varied the reception with which they are met! If it were possible to lay aside business annoyances with our hats and coats when we enter our homes, how we would rejoice to be within that charmed enclosure! And yet thus it should be. Life is a battle, of course, and those who bear their part in it must expect to give and receive blows; but even professional soldiers do not fight without cessation, and the doughtiest warrior must have some breathing spell when he can lay aside his armor. Home may be made a sanctuary, to which we can flee when sorely pressed by the rude assaults of trouble and disaster, and from which we may issue refreshed and strengthened; but it is too often just the opposite.

When John arrives at home he expects his dinner at once, and a good one too, for has he not been working all day to earn money to pay the bills? As he is tired and hungry, he has no pleasant word for anybody, but if the food is underdone, or overdone, does not suit his taste, or is lacking in quantity, how he does scold! Susan, for her part, has had a hard day of it. The baby kept her awake a good deal last night, and has been very fretful during the day, refusing to be quiet unless on mother's knee. Like many American women, she is excessively nervous, and after such a trying day as she has passed, John's indifference and scolding are a little more than she can stand. So she answers him sharply, word for word, and the result of the angry contest is that each passes a dreary evening, and finally they retire to rest, wondering why the world is so full of trouble, and why they were such fools as to get married.

There are, however, other people who live very differently. Harry means to extract happiness from life and does. He likes a good meal as well as anybody, but he is as reasonable before breakfast as he is after it; and if perchance his dinner is not to his liking, he does not vent his spleen on Jane, his wife. He carries sunshine with him wherever he goes; and as he always tries to make the best of circumstances, he is welcome wherever he goes, and nowhere more so than in his own home. Would there were more like him, so there might be less sad-eyed women, and more cheerful, sweet-tempered wives; that there might be fewer men who prefer the club, the counting-room, or almost any place to their own homes, so called.

It would, perhaps, be unfair to select any class of men or women as particularly neglecting cheerfulness at home, yet we think farmers, as a class, fail to appreciate its importance. They have their fancies and enjoyments to be sure, but the average American farmer is hardly to be called a jolly or even cheerful personage. In the busy season, he rises with the lark, and trudges all day as faithfully, and often more laboriously than his team, so that when night comes, all the snap and spring is out of him. He does not make any effort to interest his wife in conversation at meal times, nor she him; and if, when the day is over, she has any troubles to talk over, he is too tired to be very sympathetic and attentive. So they plod along, living a humdrum sort of life, which their bright children mentally resolve to avoid by going to the city. All farmers, it is true, do not live so, but many of them do, and that is one reason why so many farmers' wives break down. They have too much work and too little cheerfulness, and it is more than they or anybody else can stand.

A cheerful household, however, is peculiar neither to the city nor country. It is found where those who reside beneath the same roof recognize the obligation of each to contribute to the happiness of all the rest, and where love is the ruling spirit. A determined effort, coupled with much forbearance, is necessary to produce this result; but when once it has been attained, it will well repay every effort, and the home thus graced by cheerfulness and love, will ever be cherished as, indeed, "the dearest spot on earth."

An old farmer said to his sons: "Boys, don't you ever wait for summit to turn up. You might just as well go and sit down on a stone in the middle of a meadow, with a pair of atwixt your legs, and wait for a cow to back up to you to be milked."

Effects of Alcohol.

The effects of alcohol have recently been tested in London by experiments upon a healthy soldier. The course of treatment was as follows: For the first six days no alcohol was given; for the next six days from one to eight ounces of alcohol were given in divided doses; for the next six days water alone; and then for three days twelve ounces of brandy, containing forty-eight per cent. of alcohol. The results are reported to be as follows: No appreciable difference was perceived in the weight during the course of the experiments, but the temperature of the body was slightly raised. The pulse was materially affected, rising from 77.5 beats per minute before taking the alcohol to 94.7 after the largest doses.

Estimating the normal daily work of the ventricles of the heart as equivalent to the lifting of 122 tons a foot, it was found that during the alcoholic period the heart was compelled to lift an excess of 15.8 tons, and during the last two days, of 24 tons. The conclusion arrived at was, that alcohol is utterly useless in health, and positively injurious in larger quantities than two ounces daily. There, however, seemed to be indicated an advantage in its use if employed in rousing a feeble appetite or exciting a feeble heart.

COLORS AND DYES.—A German writer informs us that a great variety of colors and dyes can readily be obtained from common plants, the method consisting principally in boiling them in water so as to produce a strong decoction. For instance: the well-known huck-cherry or blueberry, when boiled down, with the addition of a little alum and a solution of copperas, will develop an excellent blue color. The same treatment, with a solution of nut-galls, produces a clean, dark brown tint; while with alum, verdigris, and sal ammoniac, various shades of purple and red can be obtained. The fruit of the elder will also produce a blue color when treated with alum. The privet yields a solution of salt will furnish an excellent color, while the overripe berries yield a scarlet red. The seeds of the common herring-bush, when treated with sal ammoniac, produce a beautiful purple red; while the juice of the currant, pressed out and mixed with a solution of alum, will furnish a bright red color. The bark treated in the same way produces a brown. Yellow can be obtained from the bark of the apple tree, the box, the ash, the buckthorn, the poplar, elm, &c., when boiled in water and treated with alum. A lively green is furnished by the broom corn, and brownish-green by the genista.

THE ONION MAGGOT.—The *Vermont Farmer* says:—The maggot which is so destructive to the onion crop in some places is the larva of the onion fly, (*Anthomyia Ceparum*), which eats into the roots and kills the plants. The parent fly deposits its eggs on the leaves of the onion, close to the earth, and the maggot, when hatched, eats into the heart of the onion. The larvae come to their full growth in about two weeks, turn to pupae in the onion, and come out perfect flies in a fortnight afterward. Burning straw on the surface of the ground where the seed is sown, is said to be an effectual preventative of the attacks of this insect. Soot is used in Danvers, Mass., with good effect. An onion grower in that celebrated onion locality says he divided his onion ground into three parts, all of it having been well prepared by suitable tilling and manuring, and was ready for the seed. One part was covered with wood ashes, another with soot, and the third left as it was. The seed was then sown in drills. It came up very well, and for a time all appeared to thrive equally well. The part sown with the soot, however, soon took the lead; the wood ashes was next, but the onions on the part to which no preventative was applied, were entirely destroyed.

PREVENTING SOIL FROM DRYING.—Thos. Meehan, in *Forney's Weekly Press*, says one of the best ways to prevent soil drying out is to have the surface finely pulverized and pressed firm. The pulverizing is often advised, but the pressing down does not receive the attention he thinks it deserves. While he thinks much good is done by running a cultivator between the corn rows in a dry time, when the surface is baked, he insists that much of the moisture that will still escape might be retained if a small roller could follow the harrow or cultivator after a little time.

ADVICE TO PERSONS MEDITATING LAW.—Keep your own counsel.