

the shells—"tell that to marines; sailors won't believe it."

The steward had strict orders to bring aft, and report every bad egg he should find. During the voyage he brought three—not absolutely spoiled; but a little old like. All the others, or what was left of them, were as fresh when we came in the Capes, the other day, as they were when I packed them away on New Year's day.

I made a discovery—new to me, however. Perhaps it may be to others—possibly worth something. *Quien sabe?*

Ever since we began to have fancy fowls and *buff* eggs, I had noticed that the first to fail were the new color, and finally that where an egg was spoiled, the yolk has settled through the albumen, and adhered to the shell. So, on this voyage, I have been experimenting. The result is, I have found the density of the albumen in the white shelled egg always considerably greater than in the buff ones, while the specific gravity of the yolk was several per cent. less.—So the conclusion was, and is, that the yolk of a yellow egg settles soonest through the albumen, comes in contact with the shell, and consequently the air, and the buff egg soonest spoils.—*Country Gentleman.*

RECREATION AND AMUSEMENT OF FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN WINTER.

FARMERS, as a general thing, labor more, with less relaxation, than is for their own comfort. Many of them toil early and late, summer and winter, and by a proper arrangement of their work, have as much to do on a rainy day as any other. As a bow always bent, loses its elasticity, so a laborer whose system is always exerted to its utmost capacity will become prematurely old, and will be worn out with toil when he should be in his prime. If a man is dependent for his living on the work of each particular day, if he is compelled to work one day to procure food for the next, he *must* labor more unremittingly than he who has enough of property to be comfortable, and labors more to increase it than to enjoy it.

But what recreation shall the farmer take? In the summer, when his fields require his attention, little time can be spared for amusement, although a day's relaxation occasionally is refreshing. But in the winter, when his crops are gathered, and comparatively but little to do, he should relax his exertions, and recruit for the next

season's work. A change of employment is oftentimes a relief, and so the farmer will find after a few days' hard work, to take a few tools and make a feeding trough, or a cattle rack, or other useful and ornamental articles, will afford as much pleasure as to spend the day in total idleness. Let him keep a record of his operations during the summer of his crops and the labor bestowed on them, and study it over during the winter evenings, and arrange it in a form convenient for preservation and future reference. Let him write his experience to his agricultural paper, and meet and discuss his views with his neighbors. A farmer's club should be established in every neighborhood, and should have meetings at least weekly during the winter evenings. Let each one prepare a paper to read at the meeting, on any particular subject. It will afford both pleasure and profit. Let the relative profits of the different productions of the farm, the best modes of culture, the best manner of keeping fodder, fencing, draining, and a dozen other topics be discussed.

The writer derived much satisfaction from attending the meetings of a debating society the past winter. Such a one might be established almost anywhere. It gives those who are unaccustomed to speak in public a chance to overcome a natural diffidence, and to all an opportunity to improve in oratory. Let plain questions be selected, such as any farmer can advance something for or against; and every one connected with it do the best he can, and some benefit will accrue.

The family of the farmer should also have some provision made for their pleasure. If the horses are put to the sleigh, and a ride taken occasionally, they will be none the worse for it. Let them visit their neighbor, and spend an evening in cheerful conversation, or a few amusing games, or other amusements; have their neighbors visit them, and thus by friendly intercourse keep up a spirit of mutual friendship throughout the neighborhood. Take a load of the young folks to the singing school at the neighboring church or school-house; it does one good to hear and take part in such exercises.

The lot of the farmer, if he chooses so to make it, is the most delightful of all pursuits, while on the other hand it may be made the most tiresome, and almost disgusting to the unfortunate agriculturist. By a proper use of the faculties with which