

AGRICULTURAL.

A Movable Hennyery.

In stubble fields there is often a good deal of food which if the fowls could be allowed to forage sufficiently would amount to a considerable quantity of feed. In some countries the young, growing fowls are kept in a small, lightly constructed house on wheels, of a weight not too heavy for a horse to draw, and of a size to accommodate from 50 to 70 chickens. The



MOVING THE POULTRY HOUSE.

They are quartered in it and drawn to the place where they are fed once or twice a day to accustom them to it. Then they are supplied with plenty of water and turned upon the stubble, changing them about to fresh forage as often as they seem to require new ground. If the house be built of half-inch matched boards, it will be found light enough to be moved easily, and will prove quite a saving in feed from year to year. During the winter months, when other more important work is not pressing, time may be put to good advantage by constructing such a movable poultry house.

On Raising Calves.

The finest calves are produced by allowing them to get the food from their mothers in the natural way, but there is little to prove that these calves make better cows than those raised on skim milk and less expensive foods. If the cow is quiet, leave the calf with her for two days. If she is excitable and frets for her calf when taken away, the sooner they are separated the better for both. Put the calf in a warm, dry place, where it cannot be seen or heard by the mother. If it has not suckled give it two pints of warm milk from a bottle. In 12 hours take a pail of milk, freshly drawn from its mother, and teach the calf to drink by letting it suck the fingers. As soon as it begins to relish the food gradually withdraw the fingers from its mouth until it drinks, keeping the hand on its nose. Then take the hand away and the calf quickly learns that its food is in the pail and not in the hand. A calf will learn in from one to four lessons according to its intelligence.

Scarcely any two calves will do equally well on the same amount of food. Take two of the same breed, one will thrive on five quarts at a feed while the other cannot digest more than half as much. Experience will teach the amount each should have. When this is learned, measure each calf's ration and avoid sudden changes in amount. When two weeks old begin to gradually change the ration from whole milk to skim milk. At the same time add a little shelled corn and wheat bran. Stick a bunch of fine mixed hay where the calf can reach it and see how soon it will learn to eat it. The bran, corn and hay are necessary to restore the skim milk to the nutritive ratio of whole milk. The nutritive ratio of milk is one of flesh and tissue forming to four of heat-producing properties. Fat and sugar are the principal heat-producing elements in milk. These are taken off with the cream, leaving skim milk a narrower or colder ration than nature provided. To this narrow ration many add oil meal with a nutritive ratio of 1:1, making a very cold ration. Is it any wonder that so many calves die of scours when robbed in this way of the heat-producing elements absolutely necessary to life?

The nutritive ratio of wheat bran is the same as that of milk, while those of corn and hay are enough wider to restore skim-milk to the ratio of whole milk. The calf will soon learn to eat the corn and bran dry from a trough and pick the hay from a manger. When a month old give no more whole milk. It will grow well on its new ration. Warm all its drinks to a temperature of 90° F. Gradually increase the other feed as soon as the calf has learned to eat it and it will not hurt to continue warming its drinks until spring pasture comes. With a feed of bran once a day and good pasture let it grow until winter comes again. Feed it a balanced ration in winter and good grass in summer until it becomes a cow.

Dairy Notes.

The failure of many of our public creameries, and the disrepute into which a great deal of creamery butter has fallen, have all worked together to produce a healthful and lasting revival of interest in the farm dairy. With modern improvements the farmer can now make the best butter in his own dairy.

The wail that keeping cows is a poor business often comes from the man who compels his cows to seek their living on the dusty roadside, or upon scant, barren pastures, with a short water supply all summer long, and at the side of a straw stack in winter, without proper shelter from cold storms, or suitable food with which to make proper paying returns.

Don't get discouraged and give up dairying—if you are doing the best you know how—for something that pays better. There is no branch of farming that pays so well as dairying, and as for selling the farm and going into business in the city—don't. Go talk with those now engaged in business in the city, ask their advice; if they are honest they will all say "Don't."

It is not the amount of food that is eaten, but the amount that is digested and assimilated that makes the gain and growth, and in feeding stock of any kind it will be found quite an item to prepare the feed so that it can be readily digested. In this may be seen the advantage of ensilage and madder for cows and fattening cattle and soaking corn for hogs. One great point of advantage in dairy farming over almost all other specialties, says a

recent writer, is that on the dairy farm the work is better divided. The grain harvest comes so close to haying that it often gets mixed up with it, to the detriment of both; but where corn is grown and put into the silo for dairy feed, and not so much or no grain raised, the harvests are several weeks apart.

The quickest way to shrink cow's milk is to have a cross, surly milker, who gives her a slap instead of a caress, and never speaks to her except to scold or swear at her; but it does not matter if he speaks never a word and is as dumb as an oyster, if he is cross and glum the cow knows it as soon as he comes near her or touches her. It does not need sound or hearing for instinct to size a man up.

In summer shade should be provided in the pasture fields to protect against the bristle-making influence of July and August suns. In all the management of cows such conditions should be provided for and care given as will insure excellent health and apparent contentment. Feed should be supplied regularly; and, when practicable, milking should be done by the same person and with regularity as to time.

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

When Japanese oranges have the skins removed the sections fall apart naturally. The Greeks have two places of worship in New York city, where the service is carried on in the Greek tongue.

A French newspaper, in an article on the influenza, says there is hardly a family in Paris which has not suffered.

Nova Scotia, or New Scotland, was named by Sir William Alexander, who received the grant in 1621.

The number of women employed at the collieries in South Staffordshire, England, has fallen since 1875 from 1,221 to 166.

It is calculated that in large ocean steamers more than 3,000 articles of glass and china are broken on every voyage.

The Chinese government levies a regular tax on beggars, and gives them in return the privilege of begging in a certain district.

A traveler who has been as far south as Patagonia, and as far north as Iceland says that mosquitoes are to be met with everywhere.

An adult has ordinarily twenty-eight pounds of blood, and at each pulsation the heart sends ten pounds through the veins and arteries.

The king of the Belgians offers a prize of £1,000 for the best plan of supplying Brussels with drinking water. The competition is open to all the world.

More than 100,000 muskrat skins are brought in New York every winter to supply the demand for imitation sealskin trimmings, caps, etc., as no other fur so closely resembles seal.

The ashes of coal from the mines of the Transvaal Coal Trust and other companies in South Africa have been analysed recently and found to contain nine pennyweights of gold to the ton.

A new imitation of gold is made of ninety-four parts of copper and six of antimony with a little magnesium and carbonate of lime added while it is melted. It is said that it preserves its color, is an almost exact imitation of gold, and that it costs only twenty-five cents a pound to make it.

Greater New York, a topographical statistician points out, will cover an area of 317 square miles; three times the size of London and twelve times that of Paris. Rome, Babylon and Memphis are not to be mentioned in the comparison.

A new kind of cloth is being made in Lyons from the down of hens, ducks and geese. Seven hundred and fifty grains of feathers make rather more than a square yard of light and very warm water-proof cloth.

Were it not for the multitude of storks that throng Egypt every winter there would be no living in some parts of the country, for after every inundation frogs appear in devastating swarms.

Roman lamps were of many sizes, but most of them very closely resembled what is at present denominated a sauce or gravy boat. At one end there was a ring through which the finger was passed when the light was carried; the body of the vessel was filled with oil, and at the other end there was a small tube through which a rag wick was passed.

Of the few genuine relics of Shakespeare preserved in his native town, the most interesting are his signet ring, with the initials "W. S." on it, and the desk at which he sat in the grammar school at Stratford. The average number of visitors to the poet's home and church is 23,000 a year, of whom 6,000 are Americans.

Among the Turks bath money forms an item in every marriage contract, the husband engaging to allow his wife a certain sum for bathing purposes. If it be withheld, she has only to go before the cad and turn her slipper upside down. If the complaint be not then redressed it is ground for divorce.

A Cat Who Played With a Cobra.

A correspondent who has spent some time in India writes with reference to a favorite Tom cat, which he had whilst living there. Tom had the unpleasant habit of bringing in snakes and other reptiles, both alive and dead, from the bushes, which surrounded our bungalow, and then playing with them and, strange to say, pussy was never bitten.

Early one morning we (my wife and myself) were aroused from our slumbers by a familiar hissing noise of a cobra. The cat and the cobra were at the foot of the bed. The cobra's hood was extended, and it made several plunges at the cat, who was playing and sporting with the tail of the cobra, and seemed highly amused with the deadly snake. Imagine our horror and fright. I had nothing in bed to kill it with. I managed, with the greatest caution, to creep out of bed without disturbing either snake or cat. It was not long before I got my revolver to bear on the object of our fear. With a careful aim, I sent a bullet right through the neck of the cobra, which killed it on the spot.

SPRING SMILES.

Strawber—"Was her father willing to help you out?" Singler—"That's the way he acted."

"Tom, who did you say our friend Lawley married?" "Well he married £40,000. I forget her other name."

"Do you think the new boarder is permanent?" "Yes, indeed! He threatens continually to leave."

"Oh, doctor, how do you do? You look killing this evening." "Thank you; but I'm not; I'm off duty, you know."

"Is your editor a man of letters?" "Don't know, stranger, but you kin find out by axin' the postman."

Applicant—"Please, mum, the lady wot washes the steps for that woman which lives opposite sees as you wants a girl."

Tommy Asker—"Now, if you was to git to be a artist, what would you like to draw?" Andy Quick—"A check on the bank."

Squidig—"He's a great criminal lawyer, isn't he?" McSwilligen—"Well I believe he always stops short of actual criminality."

First boarder—"What's that star boarder making all that hubbub about over that berry pie?" Second boarder—"I guess he found the berry."

Mrs. Jackson—"Do you call this sponge cake? Why, it is as hard as stone." Cook—"Yes, mum, that's the way a sponge is before it is wet. Soak it in your tea."

Figgs—"My! but isn't that a picture?" Fogg—"Quite stylish. But what is it? Looks rather large for a piano lamp, and rather too small for a woman."

"Oh, my dear Mrs.—, how glad I am to see you. It is four years since we met, and you recognized me immediately." "Oh, yes, I recognized the hat."

Professor (to his wife)—"Elsie, I have promised to deliver an address to-morrow evening on the rational exercise of the memory. Don't let me forget about it."

Sbe—"I know I'm cross at times, John, but if I had my life to live over again I should marry you just the same." He—"I have my doubts about that, my dear."

The lady arrives a little late at the sewing circle. Servant—"Excuse me, madam, but I'd advise you to wait a few minutes. Just now they are talking about you!"

Gussy—"Why do you so persistently wear the hair of another woman on your head?" Beatrice—"For the same reason that you wear the skin of another calf on your feet."

Artist—"I'm half distracted trying to think up a subject for my picture, 'The Queen of May.'" Practical friend—"Why not paint a picture of a servant girl taking up carpets?"

Goutran burst like a whirlwind in upon his friend Gaston. "Will you be my witness?" "Going to fight?" "No, to get married." Gaston (after a pause)—"Can't you apologize?"

"Here comes the carriage, Maud! I fancy having to give and pay calls in such weather! It's enough to go one's death of cold!" "Worse than that, mother! Everybody's sure to be in!"

Dick—"What! Out of a job again? I thought you had a permanent place?" Tom—"So did I. They said the building was fireproof; but confound it, I was fired in less than a fortnight."

Johnny fools his parents—
It's very sad to state—
They think he's making garden
When he's only digging bait.

"Fact is," said the one man, "I married because I was lonely, as much as for any other reason. To put it tersely, I married for sympathy." "Well," said the other man, "you have mine."

Nurse—"Sure, ma'am, the twins have been making a fuss all day, ma'am." Mrs. Olive Branch—"What about?" Nurse—"It's because they can't have a birthday a-piece, like the Dawson children next door."

Sweet girl—"Papa says you can't afford to marry." Ardent youth—"Nonsense! I can get a preacher to perform the ceremony for two dollars." Sweet girl—"Can you? How foolish papa is."

"Louis—Marie had a lovely wedding, but what made the bride and groom go up the aisle hand-in-hand?" Blanche—"Why don't you know? Her sleeves were so long she couldn't take his arm."

Harry—"Don't you know, Carrie, it always seems to me that it must be an awfully awkward thing for a lady to carry a muff." Carrie—"Oh, it is not such a difficult thing when you get your hand in."

She—"Why do you look so unhappy, George? Don't you know we are one now?" George—"Yes, darling, I know that; but judging from the hotel bill I've just had handed me, the manager doesn't seem to think so."

Father—"I'm getting tired of having that young Roller coming here, and want it stopped." Daughter—"I'm sure, father, I do all I can to discourage his visits." Father—"Nonsense. I haven't heard you sing to him once."

Adam Dunn—"Good morning, Mr. Wunt; I have called to collect that little bill." Willy Wunt—"And so you are a collector, too! I have no doubt I have one of yours among my collection. What do you care to pay for it?"

Nell—"Do you know, I was all alone in the conservatory for ten minutes with that fascinating Charlie Fullerton last evening, and I was so afraid." Belle—"So afraid of what? Afraid he was going to propose to you?" Nell—"No; afraid he wasn't."

The postmaster's boy and the professor's boy were playing together. A question of precedence arose, and the professor's boy exclaimed: "You ought to let me go first! My father's an A. M." "Huh!" replied his companion. "That's nothing. My father's a P. M."

His Aversion to Work.

I say, Raggy, de papers says dere's m'clobes in bank bills.

Yes; dat's why I don't go to work. If I did anything dey'd pay me in bills, an' then I'd ketch suthin'.

Regrets.

A kiss I took and a backward look,
And my heart was like to smother
To think of what a fool I was—
I might have had another.

HEALTH.

Specks Before the Eyes.

Specks before the eyes, or muscae volitantes, are of common occurrence in connection with megrim, or sick headache. They often occur, however, without any accompanying headache. Their great characteristic, according to the Family Physician, is their incessant movement, for by no effort of the will can they be quiet even for a moment. They come into the field of vision, traverse it, and then suddenly disappear. Sometimes they are black, and at others quite bright, like little specks of light. They are seen quite as distinctly when the eyes are closed as when they are open.

They may occur at any age, but are most common in those who have passed the meridian of life, and often enough they are associated with short-sightedness. Sometimes they depend on an abnormal preception of particles of dust floating in the fluid which moistens the eyes, at others, they are due to little particles floating about in the interior of the eye itself. They are usually most troublesome when the eyes are intensified by worry and anxiety, or by anything that overtaxes the brain or lowers the health. They do no harm, and as a rule cause no inconvenience. They may last for years, and then, perhaps, from some change in occupation or mode of life, take their departure.

If they are persistent and cause much uneasiness, it would be as well to have the eyes examined by an ophthalmic surgeon, to see if they are sound. Should no fault be detected, the patient cannot do better than live quietly and steadily, keep in as good health as possible, and ignore them. They should not be looked for. Plain glasses of neutral tint or dark cobalt-blue may render them less apparent.

When there is anæmia, iron will often effect a cure. In other cases belladonna may prove useful. Sometimes we meet with specks before the eyes which, instead of being in constant movement, are quite stationary. These are of more serious import, and may be the precursor of cataract or other organic disease of the eye. They are often associated with impairment of vision. In these cases an ophthalmic surgeon should be consulted.

Fats as Food.

Fats, including all palatable oils, are valuable as foods, and under favorable conditions may be digested and absorbed in considerable quantities by a healthy adult.

A study of physiology shows that nature has bestowed great attention upon the means for the digestion, absorption and assimilation of fatty substances by the human body. This fact may be taken as an indication that fat is naturally a beneficial food. Yet it is a popular supposition that fat is unwholesome; and in many cases the eating of fat does cause discomfort and stomach disorder.

To live naturally, everyone should spend a part of the day in physical exercise, preferably in the open air. Exercise is requisite for the digestion of fat. Lack of exercise is one reason why, in many cases, fats "disagree" with the eater.

The digestibility of different fats varies. Butter and cod-liver oil are in the front rank as regards ease of digestion.

It is not easy to overestimate the value of cod-liver oil as a tonic for a child born with an inclination to consumption, as indicated by coughs, lameness, or curvature of the spine. The value of good butter in the same connection is not widely enough recognized.

The writer was recently asked by the anxious mother of a young girl of consumptive tendencies whether her fondness for butter was not unnatural and harmful. To such a person the taste for fatty foods is a natural craving for a perfectly proper and wholesome food. The craving should not be discouraged at all; but plentiful indulgence in out-door air and exercise should be insisted upon as a necessary condition of digesting the fats; otherwise symptoms of stomach disorder will appear; blotches and pimples will often occur upon the face, and general ill health will result.

Fatty, heat-producing foods are especially called for in winter. Chemistry demonstrates it, and it is proved also by the wide use of fat in cold regions, both by animals and by men.

A dressing of olive oil greatly increases the food value of the common potato, and at the same time adds much to its palatability.

The Irritable Heart.

In many supposed cases of heart-disease the sufferers exhibit symptoms sufficient to alarm those who are unaccustomed to the true disorder.

It has been said by one who has given his life to the study of disease of the heart, that a sufferer from heart disease is rarely cognizant of the fact; a statement which is true, if we except those acute attacks which of course point out their own diagnosis. Chronic disorders are almost invariably insidious in their workings, or at any rate give no symptoms which point the patient directly to the seat of the trouble.

There is a disorder of the heart, however, which is marked by every symptom of which that organ, and which is almost always confused with the graver forms of heart-disease, but which, if properly and early treated, ends in recovery.

Palpitation of the heart, or irritable heart, as the disorder to which we refer is called in text-books, is undoubtedly of a nervous origin. It is characterized by more or less irregularity of the rhythm of the heart's action, generally with a tendency to increasing frequency of its movements.

The trouble is caused by excesses in eating, drinking or working, by grief, anxiety or fear, or by any disease or sudden strain which imposes an extra amount of work upon the heart.

Usually palpitation of the heart

comes on suddenly, as a result of one of the causes mentioned, the symptoms presented being oppression over the heart, pain, rapid and tumultuous breathing, dizziness and faintness. The sufferer also experiences a choking sensation, which is aggravated by lying down. The attacks are usually sudden, and are followed by a feeling of extreme exhaustion and even total insensibility.

As we have already said, the disease need have no terrors if the proper treatment is early applied and properly carried out. Of course the first step is to remove whatever may seem to be the exciting cause, and to remove as far as possible every source of irritation. Tea, coffee, tobacco, alcohol, etc., should be entirely prohibited.

A course of tonics should be prescribed by the family physician, who should also be permitted, by a thorough examination, to establish an exact diagnosis of the case.

GETTING TIPSY ON TEA.

A Crusade Against This Intemperate Habit Among the Needs of the Day.

No longer, it appears, may we speak of tea as the cup which cheers, but not inebriates. It may, indeed, still cheer. It certainly does not inebriate with most deplorable effects; ranking, as an intoxicant, a good second to alcohol itself. Many lay observers have long suspected that such was the case. Their suspicions are now confirmed by professional authorities in a manner so startling as to make it seem desirable that concerted action should be taken to check the evil. To some perhaps the idea of a temperance crusade against the teapot will appear grotesque. Yet, in all seriousness, that very thing is urgently needed.

According to statistics recently furnished to the Medical News by Dr. James Wood, of Brooklyn, of all the patients applying for treatment at the chief dispensary of that city, no less than 10 per cent. are tea-drunkards. They are not aware of the fact. No one asks to be cured of what we may call theamania. But the symptoms of their cases point unmistakably to

OVER INDULGENCE IN TEA.

and that presumption, on inquiry, is confirmed by their confessions. They suffer from headache, vertigo, insomnia, palpitation of the heart, mental confusion, nightmare, nausea, hallucinations, morbid depression of spirits, and sometimes from suicidal impulses, surely a formidable list of symptoms. These patients are of both sexes and all ages, and confess drinking from a pint and a half to fifteen pints of tea each day. Another interesting fact is that nearly one-third of them are of Irish birth, and it is safe to assume that of the nearly two-thirds of American birth, a large proportion are of Irish parentage. For in Ireland itself tea-poisoning has long been recognized as a widely prevalent evil, contributing largely to the number of inmates of insane asylums; and here, as most housekeepers know, the most inveterate and inordinate tea drinkers are the domestic servants of Irish origin. It is an interesting question, worthy of investigation, whether this prevalence of tea intoxication among that race is because they use tea more freely than other people, or because their nervous temperament is more susceptible to its effects.

The evil of tea drinking is due, however, not only to the amount consumed, but also to the manner in which it is prepared. An unmeasured quantity of the leaves, says Dr. Wood, is thrown into the teapot, and an unmeasured quantity of boiling water added. In any time from ten to thirty minutes this infusion is used. Then new leaves are thrown in with the old, which have been left to soak, and more water is added, and so on. Sometimes leaves are thus kept soaking for

A DAY OR MORE.

The result is that the decoction is loaded, not only with thein, but with from 7 to 17 per cent. of tannin, and with other even more deleterious substances. This form of preparation is almost universal among kitchen servants and among shop and factory girls, who also are great tea drinkers, and is too often practised among other people of small means, who do not wish to waste a single leaf as long as there is any "strength" in it.

Against this particular phase of the evil a crusade may well be directed. Tea drinkers should be taught how to prepare the beverage properly, so that it will be comparatively innocuous, and should be warned that such decoctions as they have been making are nothing else than rank poisons. Physicians doubtless give such advice to their patients whom they find suffering from tea intoxication. But the mistress of the household should give it to her domestics, and enforce it upon them, too; the city missionary and dispenser of charity among the poor should make the same facts known to all whom they visit. This is no light matter. There is serious reason to believe that many cases of suicide and insanity are directly due to tea poisoning, while the number of chronic invalids from the same cause in this city alone is to be reckoned by thousands. It is high time for the evil to be recognized and checked.

Stern-Wheeler in Canada.

John T. Fuller, of Savanna, Ill., is having a new boat constructed at Kingston for use among the Thousand Islands, which will be something of a novelty on the St. Lawrence. It is to be built after the style of the Mississippi River boats, be 45 feet in length, 12 feet breadth of beam and will draw one foot of water. It will have a stern paddle wheel, which will be run by two 5 by 20 modern engines, with balance valve and link motion. It is estimated that it will make nine or ten miles an hour. The light draught will enable it to run in bays, over weed beds and in shallow places, where ordinary steam yachts cannot go.

Acquired Dumbness.

Jaggs—Is Biobbe dumb in his own house

Laggs—Practically so.

Jaggs—What's the matter?

Laggs—He promised his wife he would always listen when she talked.