

HOME AND FARM.

Farmers should bear in mind that a free, but not too irritating, use of the curry comb, with no stint in that of the brush, will save much troublesome treatment of, if not a Vet's bill for, a diseased skin. In summer time, when the teams are worked hard, it is indispensable to their welfare. The skin of an animal is one of the most active excretory organs, and is furnished with an enormous number of pores, through which passes a constant stream of moisture that is charged with waste and offensive matter from the blood. Besides these there are thousands of minute glands in every square inch, which secrete an oily fluid, which keeps the skin soft and pliable; and in addition, every hair on the skin is rooted in a follicle or gland, which supplies the special nutriment required for it. Moreover, the surface of the skin is continually wearing away as it is renewed by the new growth, and this waste dry matter scales off, and needs to be removed by the curry-comb and brush. When a horse is working, the excretion from the skin is profuse, and pours from it in the form of perspiration. When this dries on the skin it leaves a quantity of impure matter adhering to it, which is apt to close the pores and prevent the escape of the perspiration. This produces disorder, in the form of congestion of the myriads of capillary vessels, which form a close net-work near the surface of the body, and the excretion and secretions being stopped, the skin becomes harsh, dry, contracted, and diseased. The impure matter—being unable to escape—gathers in places and forms pimples, blotches, or tumors, and, if it is not removed, there is danger of poisoning the blood, and with the appearance of farcy and glanders, finally death. All this may be prevented by habitual attention to grooming.

The Antigonish *Eastern Echo* publishes an excellent paper on the "Humane Treatment of Domestic Animals," read by the Rev. A. C. MacDonald before the N. S. Dairymen's Association at its annual meeting at New Glasgow on the 14th instant. It ought to be in every farmer's hands.

An exchange has the following pertinent remarks:—

The effort of the English Government to punish the sale of Canadian meat when offered as British meat, is in the direction of honesty, though as the usage is to feed the Canadian cattle for some months after their arrival, it will be a fine question to settle how long the meat remains Canadian, and when it begins to be British. If the distinction could be successfully maintained it would tell against Canadian meat at first, simply because of John and Mrs. Bull's enormous prejudice in favor of everything English. When, however, they discovered that much of the best British meat, which was so much the best because it was English, you know, and had brought extreme prices on that account, had been that which came from Canada, they would begin to select Canadian joints by preference and boast over them at their dinner tables. Certainly in the great English staple dish of roast beef, the average Canadian table is better supplied than the average English one.

Avoid a southern or western slope for the pear orchard; all others are preferable, and an eastern one is the best.

The following letter appears in that excellent farming periodical, the *Farmer's Advocate*. (London, Ont.) By the way, why have we not such a publication in Nova Scotia?

CONDITION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FARMER.—I have taken your valuable paper for at least 12 years, and like its practical teaching very much, but regret that its teachings are not reduced to practice more than they are; but we live so near to Brother Jonathan, that fast going and rich people, our young people nearly all go there as they arrive at maturity or working age; they bring the habits of our more wealthy neighbors amongst us, as they keep going and coming, which is a heavy tax upon us with the markets we have, and nearly all our energies are used in keeping up to the style of the country. The making a rich field, the keeping of a good herd, or flock, or planting and keeping in order a good orchard, are things that are very much overlooked by our young men. The consequence, in the part of the country where I reside, many of our best farms are running down for want of labor and attention. In many cases when the first settlers cleared the forest and made comfortable and happy homes, when the second generation got hold, it was either sold or let run down so much in a few years that it was not worth cultivating. This is the condition of large districts in Nova Scotia. We want a change very much, but cannot tell at present how that change can be effected.—J. M. G., West New Annan, N. S.

The *Farmer's Advocate* has the following seasonable hints about poultry:

Get the chicks out as soon as possible after the first of April. It will cost a little trouble for the first few days, or perhaps even weeks, but the April pullet will lay three months earlier than those hatched out in May. The reason is, they develop much faster in warm weather. Last season a pair of pullets hatched on the 5th of April, laid eggs amounting to forty-five cents each, or enough to pay for raising them to that date (last of October), while those of the same breed and strain, hatched in May, did not begin to lay until January. The warm weather seems necessary for early development of the organs.

OUR COSY CORNER.

With the first signs of spring comes a weariness of the winter bonnet, and a casting about for something to wear between seasons. Then it is that the popularity of the cloth, felt and silk head-coverings reaches high-water mark, and the amateur milliner more than ever feels her superiority over the rest of the world as she plans to make for herself a bonnet that shall cost "next to nothing." It is true the new straws are already displayed in

tempting array, but the average woman prefers to occupy some time in "making up her mind about them."

The *capote*, with its demure prottiness and its refined air, is especially charming just now. The brim—a very narrow one, either pointed or round—is usually covered with a scanty puff of velvet, and the crown is of pinked cloth. One would, perhaps, suppose that each costume must have a *capote* to match it in color, but this is not the case. Such colors as mode, beige, cardinal, seal, olive, billiard-green, grenat, and old-blue adapt themselves to any gown. Mauve has the same good reputation, but far beyond its deserts. A smart *capote*, that is friendly to a costume of any shade, has a brim that is slightly pointed in outline, and the *pouf*, which is of moderate fullness, is of russet velvet. The crown is covered with a square of mode cloth, pinked at its edges; one corner is brought far down in front, so that it is in a line with the point of the brim, while the others are drawn to the back, so as to give a proper fullness to the crown, without being themselves conspicuous. At one side, quite near the front, and curling toward it, is a bunch of *coq* feathers, the shade of the velvet. Against the mode crown their darker tone is decidedly effective, and the absence of other decoration only adds to the *chic* air of the bonnet. The *bride* is of russet velvet, and consists of two straps, with pointed ends, made sufficiently long to cross each other easily.

In the shape of bonnets very few changes are anticipated. Besides the *capote*, of which mention has already been made, there is also a large bonnet, with a protruding brim that hints of the poke, though it is narrow at the sides and flares suddenly into its pronounced width. Neither a very round nor a very slender face will find this bonnet becoming, so that it is not likely to prove a dangerous rival of the *capote*.

We fully endorse all the advice that the *Delineator* gives to our lady readers. We hope shortly to give our friends the benefit of some extremely useful hints taken from the same valuable magazine.

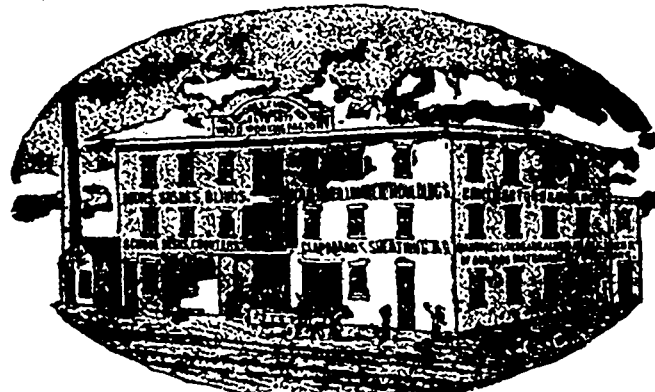
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