

On the Farm.

EARLY LAMBS.

If you want to raise early lambs for market begin now. You can complete the whole process without interfering with your stock pasture. Get good ewes two or four years old and put them in to the mowing and let them have good fall feed, let them breed as soon as they will, give shorts and silage and a little grain and keep them gaining in flesh. Be careful to increase the food gradually to avoid bringing on scours, says an eastern exchange, and have the sheep fat enough for mutton when the lambs are dropped. Then a slight increase in succulent food will keep them in the same condition while giving milk, and when you take the lambs away give dry feed entirely till the milk flow stops and in a short time the sheep will be ready for the butcher. Feed the lambs middlings and meal with sliced roots or silage as soon and as much as they will eat. All this has been done and sheep that cost \$2.50 in the summer have sold the next April for \$4 and their lambs for \$5 without any bother of fencing a sheep pasture. But the sheep will not do this without the care of someone who knows sheep and understands their needs and symptoms. As this is merely a speculative business, to be joined to dairying or other special farming, it is not recommended for people who are not prepared for it, nor for men who depend on average hired help. There are but few farms so well cultivated that they would not be improved in productivity and profit by having sheep for about one-third of the stock pastured and have the pastures so divided that the sheep could have one and the cattle the other, too. In this way the pasture can be at least partially cleared of weeds and bushes, and a little extra feed will secure a lot of early lambs to be sold before the sheep are turned to pasture.

BURNING STUMPS.

The months of August and September are the best for the eradication of old stumps. Nothing connected with farming is more aggravating than those "thorns of the ground." How often do my thoughts wander back to the time when I had to plow and harrow and cradle and harvest in these stumpy fields. But my father was a fighter against stumps, and year in and year out scores and scores of stumps were cut and dug and grubbed out. Of course it is tedious and laborious work to dig and chop these stumps of trees and it is too costly to blast them. There is no better way than to burn them out, and this may be done by a simple and cheap method. A sheet iron cylinder large enough to slip down over the large stumps is used. This cylinder tapers into a cone-shaped figure the size of a stovepipe. Several joints of stovepipe are then added to this and the whole apparatus is placed over the stump. Previous to this the soil is dug away from around the stump and a fire is kindled; then the cylinder is added, the smoke evolves from the pipe and you have a good working stove, principle complete. The stump will be burned up as completely as if it were put in a stove manufactured for the purpose. At this season of the year the dryness of the stumps will render them in good condition to burn. There is more profit derived from the destruction than many suppose. More work can be done in a day in a field free from stumps, and a larger yield will also be the result. Spare nothing to rid yourself of every stump on your farm.

FACTORY TESTS FOR CHEESE.

In order to protect himself as well as his conscientious patrons, the modern cheese-maker must be able to judge with accuracy the quality of milk brought to his factory. Smelling and tasting are the most common methods but it is readily seen that neither one nor both of these methods can be used satisfactorily. For the purpose of estimating rapidly the acidity of milk, the Wisconsin station has devised a method called the alkaline tablet test which may be readily used as the milk is delivered at the factory. The apparatus consists of a white tea cup, a four, six or eight ounce bottle and a small measure with a capacity of about one-half ounce. A solution of the tablets is made by placing the many in the bottle as is indicated by its capacity in ounces. As the milk is delivered at the factory the measure is filled from the weigh can, and poured into the white cup. The same or another measure is filled twice with the tablet solution and emptied into the cup of milk. The liquids are mixed by giving the cup a quick rotary motion. If the milk remains white, it contains more than two-tenths of one per cent of acid. If it is colored, even a faint shade of pink, after being thoroughly mixed, it contains a less amount of acid and is therefore so far as acidity goes suitable for the manufacture of cheese.

CARE OF THE HORSE.

Here is the Mark Lane Express' idea of how horses should be cared for: The animals should be first watered, then fed, and while they are eating their corn the bed is turned up, the

stalls mucked out, the feet picked out with the picker, and the soles, frogs and walls well brushed with the water brush, the shoes being examined to see that they are firm and serviceable. Thorough grooming with brush, curry-comb, sponge and linen rubber.

Sick and idle horses require grooming as much as working animals do to keep them in health. If horses got more efficient grooming there would be fewer complaints as to "surfeit," pimples, blotches, hidebound, roughness and other things that affect the health and spoil the appearance of the animal, and there would also be less demand for alterative and "condition" powders, which are generally rendered necessary through the skin becoming unhealthy owing to its neglected condition.

The cleaning out of the foot is an important point that is entirely neglected with most of our farm horses. Of course, when out at pasture it is not necessary, but where horses are in the stable continuously the feet should be looked after better than they usually are.

TO FUMIGATE A POULTRY HOUSE

Remove everything, nest, perches and all. Put a pound of sulphur in an iron kettle, set it in the middle of the house, put a shovelful of hot coals into it, close the house up tight and do not open it for two or three hours. Burn all the old nest straw, paint the nest boxes inside and out with hot coal tar, and also the roosts. Whitewash the house thoroughly inside and outside, and you are rid of the mites. When these pests get a start only the most heroic measures will rid a place of them. When the house is once clean it is easy to keep clean if properly attended to when necessary. The man who whitewashes his poultry house once a month in summer will never complain of mites in the house. A good spraying pump is very useful to get the wash in the cracks. A little carbolic acid and coal oil in the wash is beneficial. Give the inside of the house a good drenching. But do not attempt to do this with your Sunday clothes on, or any suit worth wearing outside. It is hard on the mites and clothes at the same time.

HAVE NO FEAR.

There is Very Little Danger of Death by Lightning.

The death rate during the average thunder-storm is less than one to every million human beings in the affected area.

In large cities the mortality is generally less, while in the country it is frequently greater. The danger of being struck by lightning, it will be seen, is out of all proportion to the fears which many people have of thunder bolts. A great deal more care is taken to guard against this danger, than is exercised to prevent people from falling out of windows or being run over in the streets, and yet these causes give rise to many more deaths than thunder-storms.

A large city is a safer place during a thunder-storm than a village or suburban districts. Modern buildings with their tall steel frames act like so many lightning rods to connect the charged atmosphere with the ground and thereby prevent violent discharges. The water, gas and steam pipes which pass continuously from the top to the bottom of most buildings also serve to conduct electricity to earth. When a flash of lightning strikes such a building it is usually conducted to the ground without inflicting personal injury.

The most dangerous position in a modern building is near the base of a system of pipes that are not well grounded. The chances are that the lightning will jump from them to the ground, and a person standing near might be

INSTANTLY ANNIHILATED.

With the exception of this position, one part of a modern building is quite as safe as another. The precautions taken by people to hide from lightning are almost always unnecessary. It reminds one of the ostrich which, when pursued, fancies that by hiding its head in the sand no one sees it.

Many people will not sit near an open window during a thunder-storm, or even in a room in which a window has been left open. Their idea is that lightning will follow the current of air entering the room. Again, they will retreat as carefully as possible to the centre of the building, taking refuge under a staircase or in a closet. As a matter of fact the lightning is not likely to pass through the walls whether the windows are left open or not, and a current of air is not a non-conductor of electricity, unless it is saturated with moisture, and even then the chances of lightning following it are very slim. Lightning seldom enters the side of a house.

It follows that the danger one is supposed to incur by sleeping on steel springs or beds with iron frames is slight. It is commonly supposed that any mass of metal tends to attract the lightning, and people therefore consider machine shops or hardware stores dangerous places. The truth of the matter is that they are perfectly safe for a man runs more risk of death eating a fish dinner than he does lying among metal pots and pans during an electric storm.

A DANGEROUS REMEDY.

Mr. Drinker—The paper says that old furs can be given a brilliant luster by the use of rye.
Mrs. D., gazing at her husband's nose—
—Won't they turn red?

PRIVATE PERFORMANCES.

HOW IT FEELS TO PERFORM BEFORE HER MAJESTY.

It is regarded as a great honor to be "Commanded" to Entertain the Queen in the Waterloo Chamber—Experiences of an Actor at Balmoral.

When Her Majesty Queen Victoria wishes to see the performance of any play, or scene from one, by some special company, a note or verbal message is sent to the manager of the company a day or two previous to the appointed time by the Lord Chamberlain, or some other official acting for him. "Commanding" the company to appear. At the time arranged for, supposing the performance is to take place at Windsor Castle, it will have to be done in what is known as the "Waterloo Chambers," as that is the best room for such performance that the Castle boasts.

During the preceding day the scenery and dresses required are sent to Windsor, and all is got ready. Naturally, owing to the room being designed for quite another purpose, it is not so "handy" as the ordinary theatre for the artists' requirements, but they make the best of it.

After dinner, which Her Majesty always takes at nine o'clock, she is, as a rule, ready for hearing the performance. This, therefore, never begins before ten, and often it is half-past. Generally speaking, it lasts from one hour to two hours; the Queen practically never goes beyond that now.

The play does not begin until she gives the signal, through the official attendant, that she is ready. There is, as a rule, no applause, as everybody takes their cue from the Queen, and it would be contrary to etiquette for Her Majesty to applaud. But if she has particularly enjoyed the performance she sends for the artists and manager at the close of it and personally compliments them.

A day or two later the manager receives from the Chamberlain a letter, saying how much the Queen

ENJOYED THE PLAY.

and this note is often accompanied by personal presents in jewelry, etc., to the principal actors and actresses.

"We are, of course, glad," said one who had been thus honored, "to be called 'commanded' to appear, but it is often an awkward business. For it is no joke to get a lot of scenery to Balmoral in the middle of winter at a day's notice! I have recollections of being half frozen in the process before to-day. But there is one thing you can ever reckon on and that is the appreciation of the Queen for all really good work of any kind, whether it be singing or acting. And no woman I ever knew puts you at your ease sooner."

"Nobody could possibly be kinder or more encouraging than the Queen and her sons and daughters when you sing or play before them at court," said a private individual who has more than once entertained royalty, including the Queen and the Prince and Princess of Wales. "I well recollect what a 'stew' I was in when I first received the well known 'command' to appear at the palace. Yet you will be surprised to hear that in my case it did not 'command.' It was an invitation which said that Her Majesty would like to hear me—just as you might send from one friend to another."

And he showed the note, which he treasures highly.

"You ask what happens when we get to the palace? Well, I was shown into a waiting-room by the servants, and soon was joined by Lord Dash, who was waiting on the Queen. He told me that Her Majesty was at dinner, and would be ready for me in fifteen minutes or so. In the meantime he showed me into the drawing room, to see that the piano was all right and to arrange the music. I had a programme, so hastily made out as I came along in the train that it was written on an envelope, and I had barely got ready when the door opened and in came

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

"Being introduced to His Royal Highness by Lord Dash, he was most interested in what I was going to play, and, indeed, practically took upon himself the post of master of the ceremonies. For when the Queen came in just after H.R.H. introduced me to her and told her what I was going to play first. Indeed, he did more than that; for he said, quite loud, 'It goes like this—at the same time humming a few bars and moving his fingers as if playing."

"So I went through the programme; it took nearly an hour. I was called to the Queen in the middle and at the end of it, an dsh gracefully expressed the pleasure my performance had given her. You can take my word for it when I say that, of all the great audiences that I have performed before, I have never found any more kind and sympathetic than these small audiences of royalty in the drawing rooms at Windsor or Osborne."

"Yes, after the performance is over there is refreshment provided, for the royal family never overlook anything that can contribute to the artists' comfort in any way. And not one of them is ever too proud to come and ask a question about anything that has specially struck them, but which they do not quite understand. I have played before most of the aristocracy of England in their drawing-rooms—and at one place was actually asked to go in to the next room and have something

to eat with the butler—but for real appreciation of one's work, and perfect gentlemanly treatment in every way, there is no audience, in my estimation, like that one gets when one gives a 'private performance before the Queen.'"

THE CHINESE ARMY.

It is the Most Unique Organization in the World.

Maj. A. E. J. Cavendish, late military attaché with the Chinese army, says that in many respects the army of China presents a curious example of the unfittest, according to the London Globe. In the broad outlines its scheme is simple and suited to the country; nevertheless, with the characteristic Chinese love of detail, in its minutiae it is exceedingly complex. Owing to an equally characteristic want of exactitude, although returns, as rendered by separate accountants, are often beautifully worked out to the thousandth part of a taal, yet in a combination of these returns nothing balances. Every province has its separate "army."

The writer gives an interesting account of these forces, and proceeding to general remarks, says: Much of the utter inefficiency of China's army is explained by the native saying, "Do not use good steel to make a nail nor take a good man to make a soldier," which is most thoroughly acted up to.

On almost every occasion in 1894-95 the Chinese troops refused to stand up to the despised Japanese. Small wonder! when of the hundreds of thousands who, since 1832, have been "drilled" with foreign weapons, not one in 50,000 has been taught their proper use. Musketry and artillery practice is limited generally to

HANDLING THE WEAPONS.

and instruction in the use of rifles and field guns is not thought necessary; nay! it is opposed.

In January, 1895, several thousands of men had been collected at Shanhai-Kuan, under Gen. Wu-ta-cheng, to reinforce the army in Manchuria; new rifles and field guns had been served out, and the force was to move early in February, yet on January 20, the men fired their rifles for the first time, and barely 1 per cent of hits on a target 200 yards distance ensued; as for the guns, not a soul knew how to load them or set a fuse, and when at length one was fired with the aid of the foreigners present, the ammunition was so defective that, although the gun was laid for 3,000 yards, the shell only traveled 850. Yet these men were sent north to fight at Tien-Chuang-tia without further training, instruction by a foreigner having been haughtily refused.

To be a soldier is to lose caste in China, to imbibe foreign notions is worse still, and incurs the hatred and suspicion of the civilians, who in reality govern the army and navy, so much so that to be a graduate of the foreign schools is an almost certain bar to promotion; in the military and other schools established by Sir Robert Hart and the viceroys at Peking and elsewhere the students have to be bribed to attend, so as to compensate them for the social disadvantages of foreign education. If we add to this the natural contempt for foreigners ingrained in the Chinese nature, we have potent causes for the wilful laziness and ignorance of officers, which is truly appalling; alas, that they should add

COWARDICE AS WELL.

A general near there being ordered to keep a sharp lookout for the Japanese, whose landing was hourly expected, did so by asking the railway station master to send two coolies to the coast to look for the enemy! His was the plan of arming his men with bags of pepper to be thrown in the faces of the Japanese, who, while engaged in sneezing, would all be slain by the Chinese spearmen!

It seems a libel on the human race to say that out of the manhood of 300,000,000 of Chinese a body of good soldiers cannot be made, and with the example of the army which has been evolved from the Egyptian fellahs, it may be premature to call it impossible. But China herself cannot do it; the very best human material and the most elaborate instruction would be wasted under the existing native official, who steadily resists all reform in his administration. Nevertheless, the docile soldiers and sailors of China have never yet had a chance of showing under proper management what are their real capabilities; should they under European tutelage ever prove themselves in any numbers to be of real military value, the "Yellow terror" may not be a mere figment of the super-heated brain.

PORTABLE THERMOMETERS.

One of the latest charms is a tiny circular thermometer, its base a metal button, so it can be thrust through the buttonhole of a coat lapel. The mercury follows a small coil of glass, around which the degrees of heat or cold are numbered. These thermometers are too tiny to be objectionable in appearance, and one can turn back one's coat lapel and compare degrees of temperature with the man or woman who claims it is the hottest day of the season, with corresponding comfort to one's self-esteem. If some inventive genius would only perfect an arrangement by which the mercury could be kept at the highest point until it has been exhibited at the suburban homes in the evening to the fortunate dwellers in those shady retreats it would meet with even greater appreciation.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Notes of Interest About Some of the Great People of the World.

The new Prince Bismarck is said to be a man of very violent temper and haughty in the extreme.

Mr. A. J. Balfour has given the commission for Mr. Gladstone's statue in Westminster Abbey to Mr. Thomas Brock, B.A.

Hall Caine will sail for New York at the end of August for a short visit to attend the rehearsals of his play based on "The Christian."

Samuel Edgar Francis, a waiter in a Boston hotel, has by his own unaided efforts mastered nine languages, and that without ever having been abroad. Spain's Secretary of Embassy, Don Bernardin Fernandez de Valesco, Duke of Frias and a grandee of the first class, has taken French leave of Vienna, neglecting to pay his hotel bills and his creditors.

Lord Salisbury created an additional Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whose duty it will be, to deal with international questions connected with Africa, and Sir Martin Le Marchant Gosnell has been appointed to the new post.

The King of Sweden sets aside every second Tuesday on which any one of his subjects may call on him. The only formality required is to send in one's card, the visitors being received when their turn comes in the order of arrival.

The English schoolboys who induced Kipling to send them a letter for their little magazine builded better than they knew. The collectors of Kiplingiana were soon on the scent and the result is that the tiny publication in which the letter appeared now sells for \$150 a copy.

Sir Henry Irving has about sixty pairs of spectacles, either at his home or the theater. The reason is that he is perpetually losing them, and when busy with the some production would find himself considerably handicapped did he not know where to put his hand on another pair.

The German novelist Heyse is said to have exclaimed on reading the first published volume of Bismarck's "Letters." "Thank God, that man went into politics! He would have spoiled our trade." Bismarck wrote like many men of action with a distinctly literary quality and charm.

Edmund Burke's political career was immensely aided by his wife, who undertook the management of his private affairs, so as to leave him free for public duties. Their marriage was an ideal one, and Burke often declared that for him all cares of life vanished directly that he stepped over his own threshold.

Like Cato, who in his 80th year began to learn Greek, Lord Dufferin, who has passed the limits of threescore years and ten, thinks it is really time he knew something about Persian. He has accordingly set himself the task of adding that poetic and figurative language to his already large store of linguistic accomplishment.

Dublin University has sustained a great loss by the death of Mir Aulad Ali, who held the Chair of Arabic and Hindustani for thirty-seven years, in immediate succession to Dr. William Wright, who was appointed to the professorship of Arabic at Cambridge, and to the post of keeper of the Syrian manuscript in the British museum. The Mir was a native of Lucknow, but was a master of the English language, and a powerful and attractive speaker at the various college societies.

Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton, Q. C., a Liberal candidate in England for the Launceston division, and one of the greatest living authorities on the question of patent law, had a distinguished academic career. When at Kingswood School, Bath, in his seventeenth year, he headed the list of the Oxford Senior All-England Examination; in 1863 he matriculated, gaining a scholarship in mathematics and obtaining honors in classics and chemistry, and five years later he followed up the successes by coming out Senior Wrangler and First Smith's Prize-man. In the same year he carried off the gold medal for mathematics at the London University, and was subsequently appointed lecturer on that subject at Christ's College Cambridge.

Szczepanik, "the Polish Edison," inventor of the electroscope, which does for the eye what the telephone does for the ear, and which is to be shown at the Paris Exposition, has built a large house in Vienna, which is entirely taken up with the apparatus which he uses in planning and working out his inventions. One of these inventions, just patented, is, according to the Neue Freie Presse, a new system of wireless telegraphy, quite different from Marconi's, and making it possible to send messages to a great distance without a wire. Another, entirely unique, invention is that of weaving without pattern. Szczepanik has a peculiarly constructed loom, with the aid of which a piece of Gobelin tapestry, which now requires three years to draw and weave, can be made in one day!

NOT AS PLEASANT AS DRIVING.

He—Did you ever ride in a horseless carriage?
She—Yes, once.
He—How did you like it?
She—Not at all. The fellow had to use both hands to work the lever.