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About the Farm.

Back to the Farm.

Back to the farm where the bob-white
is calling.
As in remembered dawns when
youth and I were boys,
Driving the cattle where the meadow
brook is brawling
Her immemorial wandering fears and
joys!

Home to the farm for the deep green
calm of summer,
Life of the open furrow, life of the
waving grain—
Leaving the painted world of masquer-
ade and mummer
Just for the sense of earth and ripen-
ing again.

Down in the hayfield where scythes
glint through the clover:
Lusty blood a-throbbing in the splen-
dor of the noon—
Lying 'mid the haystacks as castling
clouds pass over,
Hearing insect lovers a-piping out of
tune.

Off to the wood lot where the br'er runs
riot.
And wary forest creature no hunter's
snare deceives,
Virgin growth beguiling the solemn-
hearted quiet
With songs of winter fires a-ripple
through the leaves.

Out in the dews with the spider at his
shuttle—
In that half-dreaming hour that
awakes the whippoorwill
And sets the night hawk darting sinister
and subtle,
E'er the full moon complacent loiters
o'er the hill.

Back to the farm! With friendly brute
for neighbor,
Where youth and Nature beckon, the
tyryst who would not keep?
Back to the luxury of rest that follows
labor,
Back to the primal joys of hunger and
of sleep!

POULTRY.

The Hen as a Money-Maker.

The pressing problem among woman-kind today is "how to make money at home." Ambitious country-bred girls everywhere, through with school—so far as "book learning" goes—and ambitious to "do something for themselves" in a financial way, are considering ways and means open to them. Most of them decide that they want to leave the farm—there is no money to be made there, they argue; what is made goes into "father's" pocket and they have to beg for the little they do get. I have talked with a good many country girls—girls who have spent all their life on the farm save for the little time away at school when they had outgrown the lessons taught at the "dear old schoolhouse," and I know what they think about it. I don't blame them very much, looking at the problem from their standpoint; but I wish I could persuade them that they have twice the chance of acquiring the financial independence they long for at home than abroad, besides being happy along with it.

I want to put myself on record by declaring that any bright girl who is determined to make her way in the world and willing to devote half the energy and time to the study of scientific poultry-raising that she would have to give to prepare herself to earn a meager salary at stenography, bookkeeping, and the like, will be able to lay the foundation for a steadily increasing income, and one that will not cease the moment she stops work for a little.

There is always a ready market for poultry products; the better the product, the better the market. I should like to see some of our bright, sensible, capable girls attack this problem in a business way, keeping strict account of every penny of outlay and the same of income. Start in a small way, pay your way, and make a business of your work. Don't let it go haphazard. Explore every path leading to success—the production and sale of fancy breeds of eggs and poultry, and so on. Then write to keep other wideawake girls posted on what you are doing and have done.

Short Rations.

All the scraps from the table, instead of being thrown away and wasted, can be made a source of profit if fed to the hens.

Wheelbarrows and wagons make poor roosting places for the fowls. Provide proper roosts and see that they are used.

Soft feed which has been allowed to become sour should not be fed to the

chickens. It is liable to induce bowel trouble.

Chicken meat is cheaper than almost any other kind, and there is no reason why every farmer's table should not be well supplied with this toothsome viand.

If your pullets have proven to be poor layers, do not keep them over in the hope that they will do better another year. A poor laying pullet seldom, if ever, makes a good laying hen.

Exercise is Necessary.

A reasonable amount of exercise is necessary during the winter to offset the enforced confinement from their restricted winter quarters and this is best obtained by using a litter of straw or some such material on the floors of the pens and feeding all the whole grain in this litter so they will be compelled to scratch for it.

Feeding is the problem of problems in poultry keeping and many who have been in the business for years are compelled to admit at times that they have still much to learn, but the feeding of the flock has very much to do with the health and vigor of the birds and with the fertility of the eggs they lay. Fattening foods should be fed sparingly to the breeders and only used in the rations for variety, for surplus fat is neither an aid to health or fertility; they must be well fed with properly balanced rations to keep them in good health and thrive.

Plenty of green food should be supplied all winter as well as during the breeding season. Sharp grit is essential to the best health of the flock and should be constantly within reach of the birds. Also make a practice of keeping oyster shells before the fowl at other times as well as in the breeding season as it is good for them. Fresh charcoal is also a good thing to keep before the birds.

Notes

My meat chopper performs perfectly such tasks as chopping cheese for macaroni and rarebit; bread crumbs for croquettes; fruit, nuts, citron and meat for mince pies; fruit cake and Nesselrode pudding ingredients that require cutting, and coconut for table desserts. I have even run corn through it to cut it small for young chickens.

Pickle to corn beef: Put into a big pot three pounds of rick salt, a quarter of a pound of brown sugar, a half ounce of saltpetre and water to make six quarts. Boil and skim. Drop into this a raw potato. If the time is strong enough the potato will float; if not, add more salt. When cold put the meat in and leave for several days with a weight to keep it under the brine. Fresh pork is good corned in the same way.

SEPARATING MILK.

A subscriber to this magazine writes. The advantages of separating the milk on the farm and delivering the cream, over the whole milk system are so numerous that we often wonder why there are so many farmers that still deliver the whole milk to the creamery. After having used a separator for some time the writer feels confident in saying that the farm separator is the greatest boon to the average farmer that has been devised since the invention of the self binder.

Some of the principal advantages of the farm separator to the patron of the creamery are the increased value of the skim milk; a saving in time and labor in delivering the product to the creamery, and a better price per pound for his butter fat; and he is also taking a much less risk of introducing contagious disease into his herd, than is the man who delivers whole milk to the creamery and returns the skim milk to the farm. Those who use the farm separator find that one of their greatest sweet skim milk to calves, hogs, etc.

In feeding milk in this manner there is no danger from scouring or other digestive troubles. On delivering whole milk to the creamery the farmer finds it more convenient to go every day, and then he usually has to wait from one-half to one and one-half hours for his skim milk, while the farmer who delivers his cream does not find it necessary to go oftener than two or three times per week, and then he can make the trip in much less time because he does not have to wait for skim milk.

In returning the skim milk to the farm the farmer is taking a great risk of introducing tuberculosis into his herd, while the farm separator eliminates this danger and many others.

One of the objections to the farm separator is its first cost, but if we stop to consider its many advantages, the cost is very slight indeed.

While some object to a separator because of the fact that they must be

kept clean and that they are hard to clean, the experience of the writer has been that it is much easier to keep a separator clean than it is to take care of the extra utensils required for the whole milk system.

Order Seeds Early.

Flora writes the W. H. M.: What a pleasure it is to have seed catalogues coming in and how much we enjoy looking through them and planning what we will have from the best and newest varieties of both plants and flowers. I always have to revise my list two or three times, for I am so greedy for all the good things I see, but cannot afford them all, so I have to cut my list to fit my purse. We save some of our own seeds every year, of course, cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins, sweet corn, peas, beans, onions, and several varieties of flowers. But we must have tomato, ground cherry seeds, perhaps some new varieties of kinds we have and also some flower seeds. My choice of the them to fill. If used against a fence or for the back-ground, those of less height next, and so on until the low rows in the garden, and some in beds at one side of the house, and climbers under windows, along porches, and to screen outhouses. One needs to plan now and order seeds early to get the best results from both garden vegetables and flowers.

Home and Educational Privileges.

A proper balance should be observed in the home privileges and other advantages accorded the children in every family. In some homes the daughters are the favored ones, and the boys "get the worst end" of everything. They are continually criticized by mother and the girls, are given the least desirable room and the poorest bed in the house, and have no privileges whatever in the house. The boys in such homes are naturally driven to seek recreation outside at an early age, and are likely to meet evil associates and form bad habits. God pity the parents who permit this.

In other families the boys are considered and look upon themselves as the most important personages, are expected to be troublesome and disorderly "because they are boys," are referred to and waited upon by their mothers and sisters, are given every advantage, and then grow to manhood with the idea that women are men's servants. This is all wrong. Neither sex nor one child should be favored more than the other. All should be accorded equal privileges in the home, be treated and be required to treat one another with courtesy and kindness.

Children of both sexes should be given equal educational advantages until they are through the graded schools, when the further training or education of each should depend upon his and her special tastes and natural abilities.

Agricultural Instruction.

The plan of having agricultural instruction given in the public schools by the teachers of those schools is still being urged through some periodicals. If those who favor this were to put in one day in the average school room, say in a rural school of twenty or more pupils, they would realize the impossibility of such a requirement and the teacher in the graded schools in the city, with from thirty to forty pupils, cannot be expected to add scientific agricultural instructions to the other branches taught, which now occupy every moment of the school day.

If teachers were not already fully occupied during school hours there are few who could continue teaching if they were obliged to add to their qualifications a knowledge of scientific agriculture.

Several prominent educators have recently stated, and proved, that teachers receive the least pay for their services of any class of salaried persons. If it were not realized that they are poorly paid why would plans for pensioning them be suggested. Already several donations to such a pension fund have been made by philanthropic persons. If teachers cannot support themselves for their maintenance when age drives them from the profession, how can they be expected to add to the expense of their education and training what is necessary to fit them for giving scientific agricultural instruction?

This instruction should be given, should be offered as a course in the public schools just as soon as possible, but the instructors should be the men now in training in the agricultural schools and colleges. A beginning might be made by the regular distribution among pupils of leaflets prepared by the instructors in agricultural schools, by occasional personal lectures

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