

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

MARKETING FARM PRODUCTS.

The growing of farm products requires skill and ability, and the marketing of the same crops calls for the exercise of common sense, judgment and business principles, writes O. J. Vine. Many farmers are entirely too careless in marketing; they take little or no pains in the preparation of their products for market. Instead of properly culling their apples, potatoes and other farm and orchard crops, they simply take them as they come, without any attempt to have them look their best. City buyers have no use for the culls, at any price, and it spoils the appearance and sale of the better part of the products very much indeed. Appearance counts for something and those who take pains to have their products look well will find they can easily obtain an advance over regular prices. Buyers are always ready to pay an extra price for extra goods. In disposing of farm products of all kinds, from field crops to garden and dairy products, aim to sell direct to consumers as much as possible. A better price can be obtained and people are usually willing to buy, as they know the products are good and fresh. After becoming acquainted, and establishing a reputation for honesty and fair dealing, there need be no difficulty in disposing of nearly all farm products in that way. As a rule, it is best to dispose of farm products as soon as they are ready for market, unless there should be very good reasons for waiting for an advance. By marketing promptly, products are at their best, and there is no loss by shrinkage or damage by vermin. The money can be applied to the reduction of indebtedness, if any, or put at interest. It is well to exercise a little thought in the production and marketing of farm products, in order to obtain the best prices for them. By having them ready, and marketing them when the majority of farmers do not have their products ready for market, better prices can be realized. One farmer whom I knew, who makes a specialty of hay, always rushes his work on the farm, and markets his hay when other farmers are too busy to supply the local markets. As the price depends entirely upon the supply and demand, he usually gets from \$2 to \$4 per ton more than he would a few weeks earlier or later. A little planning will avoid the necessity of selling when the market is glutted. Farmers sometimes find about the time they wish to slaughter their supply of pork, that they can spare a few fat hogs; but as many of their neighbors have discovered the same fact, and have discovered the local demand is soon supplied and the market overstocked. I have seen hogs sell for a very low price, when a few months earlier or later the same hogs would have brought one-half more on the same market, simply because there was a scarcity. With but little extra work, and but little added expense, the income from butter and eggs can be doubled by producing them during the winter when they are scarce and high, rather than in the summer when they are plenty and cheap. In the matter of berries, small fruits and vegetables, it is the earliest and latest that bring the prices. With a little care, the earliest can be forced to early maturity and the latest can be retarded to still later ripening; notably in the case of the strawberry, a heavy mulch applied to a late variety will delay its ripening a week or more. A liberal amount of brain work is necessary in successful farming. Success implies combined thought and action.

LIME AND MANURE.

While lime is beneficial under certain conditions, yet its use, unaccompanied by other fertilizers, may prove injurious, especially on poor soils, since it converts the insoluble nitrogen, potash, and phosphoric acid compounds of the soil into forms which are rapidly taken up by plants or washed out in the drainage, to hasten the exhaustion of the supply of these substances in the soil. An old adage is that the "use of lime without manure makes the land poor," for if the soil is not abundantly supplied with organic matter, its retentive power for water and fertilizers may be seriously reduced on account of the destruction of the organic matter by the action of too much lime. Soils are also sometimes injured by the use of impure forms of lime, which harden like cement in the soil, or of those which contain an excessive amount of magnesia. Lime corrects the acidity of the soil, a fact well-known to farmers, and it renders the soil unfit for certain plants that thrive best on sour soils. This is termed "sweetening" the soil, though it is simply the neutralizing of the sour soils by the use of an alkaline substance.

Some plants, such as blue grass, thrive best on soils that contain an abundance of lime, but other plants are benefited by the application of burnt lime. Even on limestone soils the use of burnt lime (air-slaked) gives excellent results. According to experiments on acid soils the following plants were greatly benefited by the application of lime. All kinds of beets, spinach, lettuce, okra, salsify, celery, onion, parsnip, cauliflower, cucumber, egg plant, cantaloupe, asparagus, kohlrabi, cab-

bage, dandelion, Swedish turnip, pepper, pea, peanut, martynia, tobacco, sorghum, alfalfa, clover, barley, wheat, oats, timothy, and blue grass. The plants that were indifferent to lime were corn, millet, Hungarian grass, rye, potatoes, carrots, red top, and Rhode Island bet grass. Plants that appeared to be injured by the use of lime were watermelons, serradella, blue lupine and common sorrel. The effects of lime on soils that are not sour may give different results, but it is well-known that for some plants lime is a fertilizer; that is, provides plant food, which is shown by the use of gypsum on clover, the gypsum being sparingly soluble in water and is, therefore, immediately available to plants.

FEEDING HENS FOR PROFIT.

The right proportion of food for laying hens can be scientifically ascertained, but the relative question of the cost of the different foods must also enter into the question says W. E. Farmer in Wisconsin Agriculturist. Thus according to some authorities fowl should receive about sixty per cent. of grain, fifteen per cent. of flesh, and twenty-five per cent. of vegetables. This proportion is not absolute, but relative. It serves more as a guide to the poultryman than as an infallible rule.

Now the question of grain must be decided according to the locality and cost of the various grains. Where beans can be obtained cheaper than grains they take the place of the latter very acceptably if ground and fed in an attractive form. Mixed with ground beans a little corn, barley and wheat bran, produce desirable results. Corn we know has the greatest amount of fat-producing material in it, and oats more muscle-forming material. Beans, muscle-forming material, containing thirty-eight per cent. compared to twenty-two per cent. in oats.

As to the meat, flesh or fish food, the matter must also be considered from different standpoints. Fish will to large extent take the place of meat and flesh, and along the seacoast, where fish can be obtained for a little expenditure of time and labor poultrymen make it take the place of meat entirely. The fowls not only thrive on it, but they learn to like it, and to prefer it to any kind of meat. It is cheaper, too, and may always be substituted for flesh with good results.

The best vegetable substance for the fowls are clover, alfalfa, green oats, and garden vegetables. In the west where alfalfa thrives luxuriantly, this is the best green vegetable food that can be fed to fowls. Green oats are rather expensive green food, but garden vegetables can nearly always be found in abundance if one looks for them. The tops and refuse of the vegetables are often just as good as the parts we eat on the table, and they should be thrown into the yard in quantities. Keep the bulk of them in cold water, and feed only a few each day.

The fundamental need of farm crops is cultivation, a constant loosening and stirring of the soil. The roots need air quite as much as they do food and water, and if communication is closed between them and the source of supply not only are they cut off from this primal necessity of their existence, but even their food becomes sour and unassimilable, and their water is lost for want of a mulch.

Many choice crops have been destroyed by weeds that the over-pushed farmer could not find time to meet, but, on the other hand, many and many a finely started field has come to naught for want of warning from these weeds vagabonds. The crops have come up well and given signs of an abundant harvest, but for some reason or other the weeds have not shown their usual strength and pertinacity. The farmer goes through his fields occasionally, but his alarm-clocks are dormant, and he neglects or only half does his cultivating. The ground becomes hard and baked, and the starving crops grow more and more slowly and finally turn yellow and mature a small yield. It matters little how rich the soil, or how well watered, if no air can penetrate to the roots of the plants they will of necessity be smothered in their sun and windbaked coffins. Plenty of manure is good, proper irrigation is better, but cultivation exceeds them both. Crops can hardly be hoed too much.

THE BICYCLE HEART.

New Malady Brought Into Notice by the Medical Examiner of Recruits for the American Army.

Dr. S. C. Stanton, who has charge of the examination of recruits for the United States regular army, Chicago, has caused a sensation by declaring that a habitual fast rider of bicycles or a "scorcher" is unfit, physically, to serve as a soldier in the army. He has made this matter the subject of his severest tests in his examinations of applicants for enlistment and many men have been rejected because of a "bicycle heart," as the practitioner terms it, caused by excessive exercise in riding a wheel. The doctor says: "The persistent scorcher has a tendency to enlarge the heart and thus interfere with its proper action."

Few enthusiastic bicyclists can resist the temptation to scorch and as a consequence the physician believes that the hearts of a larger proportion of this class of riders are more or less affected. This being the case, they would be unable to endure the hardships that army life imposes and should not be permitted to enter the service.

HEALTH.

WASHING THE HAIR.

It is as great a mistake to wash the hair too frequently as to wash it too seldom. In the former case, the constant use of water is apt to wash away the natural oil of the skin, without which the hair not only loses its glossy look of health, but is apt to turn prematurely gray and grow thin and scanty. In the latter case the mouths of the oil vessels at the roots of the hair become clogged, dandruff forms and the growth of the hair is impeded, and the hairs themselves become matted and dusty looking, and utterly impossible to be endured.

To keep the hair in perfect health it should be washed at regular stated intervals. If you are strong and well, and free from a cold of any kind, once in every three weeks or a month is the proper limit of time to allow between each washing. If you are in delicate health it should be washed every six weeks.

On no account should the hair be washed if you are suffering from a cold in the head or from influenza, as serious trouble may be the result. And in winter time it is best to have the hair shampooed at home, instead of going to the hairdressers, and it should always be done in a room with a fire. It is a bad plan to wash the hair just before going to bed, as the hair has not time to dry properly, and is apt to remain damp till morning, which is very injurious to its growth. The best times to wash the hair are the morning, the afternoon, or between 6 and 7 at night.

In the latter case the hair will have plenty of time to dry before you have to go to bed. In the former case, if you have it washed in the daytime, be careful not to go out of doors, till it is quite dry, or you will run a very great risk of taking cold.

NEW WRINKLE IN MANICURE.

Dainty, rose tinted finger nails are at an end. Finger tips that have shown a high polish and a delicate point of nail are past and gone—that is among the ultra-fashionables. And it is the athletic, the sporting girl that has brought it all about.

She—this vigorous young woman that is out in the air at all times and is setting the pace for all the girls of this generation—exhibits now a hand with a nail that is cut squarely and unromantically, and shows but a dull polish, if, indeed, it shows a polish at all. Never a suspicion of coloring matter is on this nail. It has been treated only with soap and water, and its pink is a faint one beside the deep pink that was so popular a year ago, or even this past winter.

Thus the finger nail of the modern girl is very prosaic compared to what it was and looks more like a boy's than it does her very own.

Golf has been the power that has banished the dainty finger nail and put this new, boyish appearing nail in its place. For in mild feminine sports the pointed nail of high polish was all very well, but the girls found it did not do when it came to golf. The high polish was destroyed in short order, the point got in the way, and frequently during an exciting stroke broke on one or the other of the golf sticks.

This was not to be endured. The golf girl is, before all else, very practical. She made up her mind at once that the nail she had long been so proud of and had manicured so faithfully must go, and in its place she made this new nail the fashion.

It is not an artistic nail, but it serves its purpose, and is being quite thoroughly adopted by the girls that delight in games.

A GOOD TONIC.

A raw egg is an excellent tonic with which to begin these warm days. It is strengthening and tends to prevent that tired feeling so prevalent at this season of the year. If prepared in the following way it is really a delicious drink:



THE CATHEDRAL, SANTIAGO.

Put the yolk of an egg into a dish with a teaspoonful of white sugar and a teaspoonful of orange or lemon juice, beat lightly together with a fork. Put the whites on a plate and add a pinch of salt; then, with a broad-bladed knife, beat it to a stiff froth. Now as lightly as possible, mix all together in the dish; then as lightly transfer it to a clean tumbler, which it will nearly fill if properly made. It should be taken immediately, as it soon becomes liquid and loses its snowy look. Any fruit juice may be used in place of orange or lemon.

MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.

Many ladies, after returning home, do nothing to disturb the tan acquired during the summer in the country. Of course it has the peculiar distinctiveness of the seashore or the mountains, and is a sure mark of having been away from the city. But to all those persons who desire to remove the tan, and especially to prevent the skin from peeling off, we would recommend as follows:

Melt together in a double saucepan two ounces sweet almond oil, one ounce cocanut oil, one ounce lanoline, half ounce spermaceti, and half ounce white wax. After removing from the fire, stir the mass until nearly cold. Then add one ounce orange flower water and twenty-five drops tincture benzoin, a small portion at a time, stirring constantly. The cream will then be ready for use, this quantity being sufficient for a month.

Applied to the face at night and washed off very gently in the morning with a soft old linen towel or remnant, it will prevent the skin from peeling off. The tan will disappear.

MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.

It is hard for a young mother, who has not yet overcome the wayward tendencies of her own youthful nature, to realize the influence she exerts over her little ones.

She is surrounded by critical imitators, who constantly copy her morals and her manners. As the mother is, so are her sons and daughters. If a family of children are blessed with an intelligent mother, who is dainty and refined in her manner, and does not consider it necessary to be one woman when in company and an entirely different person in her everyday life, but who is a true mother, and always a tender, charming woman, you will invariably see her habits of speech and perfect manners repeated in her children.

Great rough men, and noisy, busy boys will always tone down their voices and step quietly, and try to be more mannerly when she stops to give them a kind word or a pleasant smile. A true woman will never fail to say and do all the kind, pleasant things she can that will in any way help to lift up and cheer those whose lives are shaded with care and toil. Truly the mother of to-day rules the world of to-morrow.

AS TO MATTRESSES.

Mattresses should be thoroughly beaten and brushed, and put into the air, or, better still, into the sun for several hours, before being put into clean covers. Pillows and blankets should, when practicable, be sent to be dry cleaned.

A CUPFUL.

It has been settled that in cooking a cupful shall be just half a pint. There are now on the market measuring cups of this denomination, and the cups are divided into halves, fourths and thirds, so that accurate quantities may be obtained.

A THREATENED DEMONSTRATION.

Delinquent—I'm sorry, but you know you can't get blood out of a turnip. Collector—Well unless you're prepared to pay this bill when I call around to-morrow I'll show you that I can draw some out of a beat!

POSITIVE PROOF.

Teacher—Now, can any of you give any proofs of your own that the world is not flat? Little Tommy—Please, sir, if it was you could see the North Pole with a telescope.

GROG IN ENGLAND'S ARMIES.

Interesting Results of Experiments in Total Abstinence.

It is not generally known that Field Marshal Lord Wolseley, the British commander-in-chief, has instituted careful and exhaustive experiments with a view to ascertaining the relative effects of alcohol and of total abstinence upon the physical endurance and staying qualities of the troops. A writer gives an extended account of these experiments, which we summarize:

Advantage has been taken both of the annual manoeuvres, as well as of the petty wars of which England has a few on hand in one part or another of the world almost all the time, to examine carefully the question. One regiment would be deprived of every drop of stimulant, while another belonging to the same brigade would be allowed to purchase as usual its malt liquors at the canteen, and a third, probably a Highland corps, would receive a sailor's ration of grog in the form of whiskey. In each instance the experiment went to show that whereas at first the corps which had received an allowance of grog surpassed the others in dash and impetuosity of attack, yet after the third or fourth day its members began to show notable signs of lassitude and a lack of spirit and endurance. The same manifestations, though in a minor and slower degree, were apparent in the regiments restricted to malt liquors, whereas the men who had been kept from every kind of stimulant increased in staying power, alertness and vigor every day.

The result of these experiments led the British War Department to decide, not on the ground of principle, but solely for the sake of maintaining the powers of endurance of the troops now engaged in the Sudan campaign, not to permit a single drop of stimulant in camp save for hospital use. Spirits, wine and malt liquors have been barred from the officers' mess table as well as from the regimental canteen and from Generals in command down to the drummer boys and the camp followers. Liquid refreshments have been restricted to tea and oatmeal water. Thanks to total abstinence, the men have been able to make forced marches of the most extraordinary character across the burning desert and under a blazing sun, the heat of whose rays can only be appreciated by those who have lived under the equator. Indeed, what aroused most admiration at the battle of Atbara was the calm and collected manner in which the Highland regiments advanced across the bullet-swept plain in front of the dervish zerebs, apparently just as free from undue excitement, and coolly keeping their formation with as much exactness as if they had merely been on the drill ground.

The British Admiralty has not yet followed the example of the United States, which has abandoned the daily grog ration and prohibits the use of stimulants on board when at sea; but orders have been issued that in lieu of double grog rations when going into action not a drop of alcoholic liquor is to be allowed on the day when fighting is to be done. It is no longer fierceness, fury, and reckless dash that are required of the men, but calmness and collectedness.

BLISS ON THE BEACH.

Jack—I noticed in this morning's papers that the Prince of Wales is now at an English seaside resort and takes a surf bath daily. Cholly, just before he faints with rapture,—To think, ba jove! that I bathe in the very same ocean he does!

A SACRED CONCERT.

Mrs. Billson, Sunday evening,—Can't you go to prayer meeting with me tonight? Mr. Billson—Impossible, my dear, I promised Jimson that I would go with him to a sacred concert. Well, I'll go there with you. Um—I believe ladies are not admitted.