

### The Farm.

run, and see that they are protected. In-close their trunks so the chickens cannot get at them, and drive stakes in a circle a foot away from the base, and cover over with wire netting. The purpose of this is to keep the chickens from digging up the dirt and exposing the roots of the young trees to the broiling sun. When the trees have become thoroughly established in the soil this root protection is unnecessary, but until the trees get a good start it is the only way to save them from an early death or a slow, stunted growth. We need quick growing trees, and strong, healthy specimens that will shade the ground as soon as possible after planting.—(Annie C. Webster, in Massachusetts Ploughman.

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#### Black Spanish Poultry.

The Black Spanish is one of the oldest varieties of domestic poultry. Its name has been identified with the industry for hundreds of years, and its practical value on the farm has long been recognized. Its haughty bearing, large red comb and wattles and the white face and lobes peculiar to the breed, contrasting with its glossy black plumage, render it a most striking fowl. White faced Black Spanish have long been favorably known for their exceptionally fine laying qualities. The oldest of the non-sitting varieties, they still retain an unsurpassed record. The pullets are early layers, averaging 150 to 200 eggs a year, the hens beginning somewhat later after moulting, but compensating for any loss of quantity by the increased size of the egg, while hens and pullets alike are above the average for winter laying. Their eggs are large, white and of good flavor. The bird's white face is a distinguishing feature, and should be long, smooth, free from wrinkles, rising well over the eyes in an arched form, extending toward the back of the head and to the base of the beak, covering the cheeks and joining the wattles and ear lobes, the greater the depth of surface the better, and should be pure white in color. The color of plumage throughout is rich, glossy black, and any grey in plumage is considered a serious defect. Shanks and toes are blue, or dark leaden blue. Comb is single and bright red in color; wattles, bright red, except the inside of the upper part, which is white; ear lobes, pure white. No standard weight is given for the Black Spanish; they equal in size the Leghorn and Andalusian.—(Pacific Homestead.

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#### Blamable Blemishes.

The Rev. Dr. Stratton, in his excellent work, "Following Christ," gives many valuable hints on the Christian life. Among them are the following:

If religion does not improve the nature of a man, it will have to bear, at the bar of public opinion, the reproach of all the faults which adhere to it. The crooked limb may have been in the vine originally; but if religion does not prune it off, religion will be charged with its existence. Hence the Scriptures descend to such minuteness in portraying the Christian life as to denounce such characters as the "busybody" and the "brawler," and to forbid such things as "filthiness," "foolish talking" and "jesting" as things "which are not convenient"—that is, not suitable to the Christian. "Be pitiful," "Be gentle," "Be courteous," are counsels which they continually reiterate. Religion is a refiner's fire in reference to the outward man as well as to the inward. St. Paul has brought honor to Christianity by his delicate sensibility and his gentlemanly bearing, as well as by the breadth and power of his expositions of truth. The separateness from the world which the gospel enjoins does not mean the abandonment of the decencies of life nor the amenities of society, and no follower of Christ can disregard them in his intercourse with his fellowmen without injuring the religion which he represents in the same way and to the same extent as "dead flies" are said (Eccl. x. 1) to corrupt "the ointment of the apothecary."—Baptist Weekly.

Entertaining conversation is not alone dependent upon a well-stored mind, a ready wit or broad culture. It lays under contribution qualities of heart as well as head, and should reveal sincerity, sympathy and simplicity. We must feel an interest in our subject before we can inspire it, and enthusiasm is contagious when it is sincere. It gives animation to the face, vivacity to the manner, and has a thought-compelling power that aids fluency of expression.—August Ladies' Home Journal.

#### The Farm or the Schoolroom.

The popular idea that anyone can be a farmer has led many a young man to engage in business that all are not prepared to follow. It may be true that anyone can be a farmer, but every man cannot become a successful farmer. The young man flees from the drudgery that he believes farming to be and begins clerking, teaching, or some light work that can be done with soft hands and a starched shirt. Without regard to the matter of developing muscle or character, the work is prosecuted for the pay and the name. The income from farming is not so attractive, and the soiled clothes and horny hands are certainly not so enticing as a stipulated sum by the week or month, with the accompaniments that I have mentioned. The pay of the farmer who prosecutes his work with thought and dignity comes in various ways, the least important perhaps, being in the form of cash.

Two schoolmates of mine chose the profession of teaching, and I that of farming. They were successful so far as the good of the school was concerned, but not as concerned themselves. Pale, sunken cheeks, weak lungs, etc., one fell a victim to pneumonia a year and a half ago, while the other continues, but, by appearance, he also will soon succumb to disease. Mistaken ideas of farm life often induce young men to take up occupations for which they are not naturally fitted. The confinement, the mental work and worry, wear away the vital cord much faster than manual labor. If a young man would enter upon farming with broad views and try to bring out what in it lies, he would find an occupation at once healthful, congenial and elevating.—(C. M. D.

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#### The Site for the Poultry House.

It may not be necessary to select choice, expensive sites for the poultry house and the run of the chickens, but a little more attention given to the question of location might save many diseases and deaths. There are several points to consider in establishing a home for the chickens that might well occupy the attention of all. The best soil for a chicken house and poultry run is an open, porous one, and often this is best found where the land is practically no good for crops. A sandy, open soil that is hardly capable of producing a blade of grass can be made all right for the poultry. The open, porous nature of the soil enables the water to drain off almost as soon as it falls. In winter time the sandy soil will dry up hours before the heavy, loamy soil, and the chickens will suffer less from cold feet, croup and all other diseases incidental to bad weather. The impurities of the poultry yard are more easily washed away by every rain-storm on an open soil than on a heavy soil. This is sometimes quite important from a sanitary point of view.

Next to the character of the soil the situation in reference to the cold winds of winter should be considered. The house and the poultry run should both face toward the south, and if possible they should be placed on the sheltered side of a hill, woods or building. In summer this location is not so important, but in winter it will make a difference of several degrees in the temperature of the house. With a sunny location the chickens in winter can find many more hours of pleasant weather to exercise in than when the house and run faces the north and with no protection. As exercise and sun are essential to the growth and happiness of the poultry, they will prove important factors in increasing the number of eggs laid. If the sheltered place has a slope, so much the better for the drainage and general healthfulness of the place.

For summer uses shade must be provided. It is a good idea to plant two or three young saplings around the henhouse immediately, and the shade received from these will be very grateful to the birds. Then set out rows of trees in the poultry

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