

## On the Farm.

## PUTTING ON BEEF.

J. M. Imboden, writes: "There is no one breed of beef cattle better than all others under all circumstances and conditions. The trouble with cattle from the butchers' standpoint is too big shoulders, giving the fore quarters too large a proportion to the rest of the carcass. The muscles that are exercised the most are the toughest. For this reason the inside two-thirds of the round is good, while the outside third is not so good. A thick, mellow hide—not a hard, harsh hide—denotes more clean meat than a thin hide. A straight back, well sprung rib and width of loin indicates a large amount of the high-priced meats in the carcass. The comparison of animals in the show ring is often so close that the awarding of the prize turns on a very small point, as a tie or a dimple in the back, which cuts no figure in the usefulness or profit of the animal. A typical beef animal should have a thicker neck than the dairy breeds, the flesh should begin at the front, the animal should have the greatest possible thickness of flesh along the back between the shoulders and the hips, and the width of the hips should be carried forward to the shoulders. The Angus are the thickest fleshed beef cattle. Their greatest fault is too much of a spread of the shoulder blades at the top. They do not mature quite as quick as the Herefords. It would be hard to tell which of the beef breeds at 30 months old on the same care and feed would make the greatest gain. Young animals develop muscle along with the fat and when fattened young contain a larger proportion of lean meat to the fat and hence more profitable to the butcher. The first 1,000 pounds put on a steer is the cheapest, as the animal is growing as well as fattening, and the cost of the increase of weight increases with age."

## PARASITIC INSECTS.

A certain authority has stated that a single female louse may become the grandmother of 10,000 in eight weeks' time. Some other parasitic insects are said to breed even more rapidly. There is but one way to exterminate them and that is to kill the first one as quickly as possible before it has an opportunity for breeding. This is not so difficult, if one pays attention to the matter, and as soon as their presence is suspected uses any good reliable remedy for them, of which there are many, although we know of none more efficient than kerosene emulsion, or a mixture of kerosene, one pint in four pints of kerosene. In that proportion it may be used safely by a sponge or cloth, rubbing in to reach the skin. We remember when it was as unusual to see calves in the spring that were not troubled with lice as it is now to find a flock of poultry without them and we hope another half century will banish them from the poultry yard as generally as the last half century has from the calf pen.

## WHAT TO PLANT.

There are three things a farmer or gardener should consider before he puts seed in the ground. First, what crops his soil is best adapted to raise. To try to grow that which is not adapted to the soil is a waste of time and labor. Next what does he understand the care of best? This is less important because if he is not very stupid agricultural papers and books of some kind neighbor may teach him enough to make him successful with a crop of which he has had no previous experience. Third, what crop can he find a good market for without too much expense for transportation? Nearly all the farm crops are in demand but the weed crop, but not all may sell well in his own neighborhood. Think it over before putting in the seed.

## CORN AND POTATOES.

When it is about time for the corn and potatoes to break through the ground go over the field with a light harrow, not alone to loosen the soil and break the crust if it has baked at all, but to kill all the little weeds that are starting on the surface and trying to get ahead of the crop planted. When they are up about two inches high repeat the harrowing, and continue it until it is time to use the cultivator between the rows. The harrow not only saves much labor in weed killing, but either crop will look as if it had had a fertilizing within 24 hours after the harrow went over it.

## LIVE WEIGHT OF CATTLE.

I have tried several methods of finding the live weight of cattle, writes Mr. F. F. Prantz, and find the following the most correct: Measure the girth around the breast just behind the shoulder blade, and the length of the back from the tail to the fore part of the shoulder blade. Multiply the girth by the length, and if the

girth is less than three feet, multiply the product by 11, and the result will be the number of pounds. If between three and five feet, multiply by 16; if between five and seven feet, multiply by 23; if between seven and nine feet, multiply by 31; if between nine and eleven, multiply by 40.

## FIGHTING IN FURS.

How English Soldiers Were Clad in the Crimean War.

During the terrible struggle in Russia in 1854-6 our troops were clad in costly furs to preserve them from the rigors of a Russian winter. The coats of the officers were made of a fine brown fur, cut in the well-known military shape of the time. The coats and cloaks for the men were not of so fine a quality, but were, nevertheless, of a good substantial make, and were, furthermore, supplied with waterproof shoulder-coverings.

Both officers and men alike wore very strong overalls of cowhide, and it is on record that one city firm alone secured a contract to supply 50,000 suits of this material for the men, and 10,000 more for officers. A noted furrier made no fewer than 50,000 pairs of large fur gloves to complete a single order.

Those regiments that did not wear bearskins, as did the Guards, were supplied with a sealskin head-dress, an exact copy of that worn by Arctic explorers. This cap was pronounced to be both warm and easy to wear, and was a boon to many poor fellows who otherwise must have suffered terribly from frost-bite.

Whatever may have been the mistakes of this war there was no stinginess on the part of the government in providing the soldiers with warm clothing, as is evidenced by the fact that one consignment of stores included 250,000 pairs of gloves, 200,000 pairs of lamb's wool stockings, some 50,000 flannel gowns for the hospitals, and 60,000 greatcoats for wear over the others.

## SENTENCED TO DEATH.

A Criminal in Denmark Was Sentenced Three Times.

A famous criminal in Denmark has had the unique experience of being sentenced to death three separate times. Such is the leniency of Danish law, or, rather, the indisposition of the ruling powers to proceed to extreme measures, that this notorious person, before he was tried for the third time on the capital charge, had already been reprieved twice and relegated to prison for a long term. It was in prison that he committed his third offense in murdering one of his jailers. He began his long career of crime at the age of 8, by setting fire to a farmhouse. In October, 1894, a criminal in Germany was found guilty of the murder of two women and attempts to murder others. Under the German law sentence is passed for each crime, and the prisoner in this case was consequently twice condemned to death on the capital offenses, and for the murderous assaults to 15 years' penal servitude.

## DON'T ANSWER IMPERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Impertinent questions are to be met with firm and dignified politeness. Any question about another's personal affairs, about the price of one's clothing, the amount of one's earnings, the reasons one has for entirely private conduct, is impertinent. Would I answer such questions? Not at all. Usually by a little tact, one can settle such questioners. If there is no other way, I counsel a plain but courteous sincerity—a simple refusal to answer. One may just say: "Pardon me, I prefer not to give any information whatever on this matter."—Margaret E. Sangster in the April Ladies' Home Journal.

## DOUBT.

Ella—The gentleman who lodges above appears very attentive to you. Bella—Ah, yes; I am even engaged to him. But yet I am tortured with doubt. Would that I knew whether he loves me for myself alone! Ella—But why in the world should he marry you otherwise? Bella—Well, to tell the truth he owes my mother for six months' rent.

## NEW FRUIT PICKER.

Fruit can be picked and automatically discharged into a barrel without bruising by a Canadian patent picker, which has a cloth funnel suspended on the end of a rake, which is used to pull the fruit into the funnel, with a tube provided with a piston at the lower end, against which the fruit strikes.

## A HARD TASK.

The Boers, said the Englishman, will soon be conquered, for they have lost heart. For instance, take Oom Paul, who—

Alas! sighed the British General, I wish we could take him.

## CHILDREN HELD SACRED IN JAPAN.

From one end of Japan to the other, a child is treated as a sacred thing, be it one's own or a stranger's. Each one carries its name and address on a ticket round its neck, but should it indeed stray from home food and shelter and kindness would meet it anywhere.

## USE OF PIGEONS IN WAR.

## MORE RELIABLE THAN TELEGRAPH OR HORSEMEN.

They Are Being Used in Several European Armies—How They Are Carried on the March—Great Speed of the Birds—Their Value to a Commander-in-Chief.

The usefulness of pigeons as messengers in time of war is more and more attracting the attention of military experts, and impels them to take a very keen interest in the attempts which are now being made to perfect the birds in the novel work. Hitherto messages have been conveyed from one army corps or from one regiment to another by means of horsemen, bicyclists, or the telegraph, but now it is claimed that pigeons are better messengers than any of these. They can reach a given point more quickly than any horseman or bicyclist, and they are more likely to carry messages safely and expeditiously than the telegraph, since there is always the danger that the latter may be cut.

If pigeons were inert machines they would doubtless have been used as military messengers long ago, but, being lively and sensitive creatures, they speedily demonstrated, when the first experiments were made, that they could not under existing conditions long endure such work. Pigeons when taken from their own cote, will readily fly back to it, but a military messenger service requires birds to do much more than this. The first experiments were made with movable pigeon houses, which were placed on wheels and accompanied the army.

## HOW THEY ARE CARRIED.

In this way it was possible to send messages to the stationary cotes whence the birds had been taken. These houses on wheels, however, could only accompany large bodies of cavalry, whereas it was far more desirable that some means should be discovered of safely transmitting messages from small bodies of soldiers who might be reconnoitering or otherwise employed a good distance ahead of the main army. It was clear that the only way of achieving this object was by training pigeons to accompany soldiers on horseback, and that this could only be done by constructing cages in which the birds would not feel fatigued after a long ride. Many styles of cages—some of wicker, others of canvas and wood—were tried, and some answered the purpose admirably, the result being that the birds were soon taught to fly from their temporary homes on the horses' backs to the movable dove cote which was with the main army many miles away. The transmission of messages from outlying posts to the main army was thus greatly facilitated.

No matter where the movable house is, the pigeons who have been fed even for a few days in it will find it out, and thus communication can readily be established between two bodies of troops in motion. Heretofore pigeons have only carried messages from one stationary cote to another; now they will just as readily perform the same service between movable houses.

The distinction is a notable one from a military point of view, and much labor has been necessary in order to achieve such

## A REMARKABLE RESULT.

It was easy to construct a comfortable movable dove cote, but it was very difficult to fashion a cage in which a couple of pigeons would feel entirely at home, while on the back of a galloping horse. Delicate birds like these cannot bear to be jolted, and at first after a long ride, they either refused to fly home, or they flew a short distance and then settled down for a much needed rest. Especially were they distressed by the motion of the horse if the weather was cold, and, when released from the cages, they seldom found their way to the movable cote. Gradually, however, these difficulties have been overcome in a large measure, and, as a result, it seems safe to say that pigeons will in future form part of the indispensable paraphernalia of the cavalry in at least three European armies.

In Russia they are now carried in cages which are strapped to the shoulders of the horsemen. Experiments have shown that, when released, they can fly from twenty-five to fifty kilometers in from eighteen to twenty-three minutes, and thus in a very short time a commander in chief can obtain exact information about the movements of an enemy who is a day's march ahead of him. These cages are of wood and, though plentifully supplied with hay, are rather unwieldy and uncomfortable, the result being that the birds are always very tired after they have taken even a short journey. Still, in an emergency, even these cages are bound to prove of vast service.

## IN THE GERMAN ARMY.

The birds are carried either in canvas bags, which are strapped in front of the horsemen, or in double bags shaped like wallets, which are carried on the horsemen's shoulders. Each of

these double bags contains two birds.

In France the military authorities, on the suggestion of General Paul de Benoit, have recently pronounced in favor of an osier cage, which is shaped like a foot soldier's knapsack, and which is carried in the same manner. It has three stories, the floor of each being of wicker work, and there are side doors, through which the birds can pass from one story to the other. The walls and doors are well padded, so that the birds are, as it were, sheathed in scabbards, their bodies being fully protected against all jars and jolts, while at the same time their heads and tails are entirely free. Connected with the cage is a small movable basket, in which the birds can eat, drink and walk about. The entire apparatus weighs only three or four pounds, and is therefore no encumbrance to the horseman. Recent experiments have shown that pigeons do not suffer from fatigue while they are being carried in these cages, and hence there is reason to believe that cages of this type will generally be adopted throughout Europe.

It is claimed that in time of war messages can be carried by pigeons into besieged towns, and the question is now being asked, "Can they be returned to their dove cotes in spite of the cannonading around such towns?"

## ENGLAND'S COAL SUPPLY.

Alarmist Discussion Regarding the Danger of the Exhaustion of the Mines.

The possibility of a coal famine in Great Britain is the subject of a rather alarmist discussion, in England. The high cost of coal is beginning to touch many interests and industries, and should it continue at its present price, while remaining cheaper in countries which are commercial rivals of England, it is felt that it will do more to lessen British foreign trade than any other imaginable calamity, even war. The most serious thing in the matter is the rapidity with which the stores of coal in the United Kingdom are being used up. In consequence, to a great extent, of the large exports of coal and its increasing use in industry by railways and in other ways, the supply is in many directions threatened with exhaustion at a relatively near period. In Lanarkshire, the most important of all the coalfields of Scotland and one of all others on which the great manufacturing industries on the Clyde mainly depend; in South Staffordshire, in the Forest of Dean, in Durham and Northumberland, and elsewhere the available supplies of coal are being so rapidly depleted that more or less serious exhaustion will have to be faced within the next twenty, and some say in the case of the deep coal of Lanarkshire, within the next ten years. The gravity of such a situation is so great that it is somewhat difficult to realize.

One writer asks what will happen to England when it has no more coal, or coal only obtainable at a heavy increase in the present cost of mining. Already the stores of iron ore are on the way to exhaustion, and the iron industry of the country, is becoming more dependent on the supplies from Spain. If, therefore, England cannot replace her domestic supply of coal with cheap imported fuel, she cannot hope to maintain her position as a manufacturing nation, and without manufactures and exports the whole fabric of English life and England's commercial prosperity, will undergo a radical change, and the latter will pass away to the country possessing the natural advantages England is losing. The only apparent remedy is to stop the export of coal by the imposition of a heavy export duty. This is suggested by one writer, but, at the best, it would only be a palliative. The country at present taking the 20,000,000 tons annually exported from England would find other markets in which to buy, and the English mine owners would be sufferers along with the miners, to whom the loss of wages on the getting of so many millions of tons would mean a good deal. The question, as will be seen, is not easy of solution and the discussion of it is likely to be a long one.

## COULDN'T FIND THEM.

A countryman—and countrymen may generally be trusted to tell the truth—relates in the Cincinnati Times-Star a story illustrative of what he calls the idiotic behavior of city folks on the farm.

"Why," said he, "a student from the Cincinnati University visited my farm last summer, and one day, when I was starting out to dig some new potatoes, he took the basket out of my hand and said he would get them. He was gone half an hour or so and came back with an empty basket. He had hunted over the whole patch, he said, and couldn't find anything but blossoms. There wasn't a single potato on the vines."

"I really thought he would faint when I took the hoe and began digging them out of the ground."

Over one thousand servants are employed in the Royal Household.

On an average only one bullet out of 500 fired in battle strikes home.

## A BICYCLER'S ESCAPE.

A Missionary's Exciting Experience With a Lion.

Mr. A. B. Lloyd, an English explorer and missionary in Africa, is an ardent bicyclist. On one of his rides in that country he met a lion, and it was his "scorching" that saved him. One fine morning Mr. Lloyd started on his wheel for a village a few miles from the mission station. He took the main road to Uganda, which was a good thoroughfare about five feet wide. After climbing a long hill he came to the descent on the other side, a long, gentle slope, where he knew the road was smooth.

Up went his feet to the cogs, and away he flew down the hill, going faster every minute. Near the bottom of the hill was a turn. On approaching this, he again put his feet to the pedals.

As he rounded the curve a terrible sight burst upon him. In the middle of the narrow path lay a full-grown lion, its head down upon its paws, facing up hill.

Mr. Lloyd could not stop, or if he did stop, it would be in the very jaws of the king of the forest. To the left was a wall of rock twenty feet high, and to the right a steep embankment, with the river a hundred feet below. Escape seemed impossible.

Suddenly he remembered that the wild men he had met were always afraid of his bicycle. Perhaps a wild beast might be affected in the same way. Therefore he did the only thing he could do. Releasing his check on the wheel, ringing his bell, and shouting with all the power of his lungs, he forced the bicycle at its best speed directly toward the couchant lion.

The beast raised its head. Then, seeing this unearthly creature, with so strange a voice, rushing fearfully upon it, it gave a blood-curdling yelp, and sprang to one side just as the rider flew past.

## DOT'S PRAYER FOR PEACE.

On one evening little four-year-old Dorothy had failed to remember her father in her prayer because he had scolded her. "You must pray for papa, too, Dot," said her mother. "But I don't want to," replied the little one. "But you must, Dot," said her mother. Dropping upon her knees again Dot added: "And for pity's sake, bless papa too, and let us have peace in the family."

## AN ISLAND OF BLACK CATS.

One of the queerest corners of the earth is Chatham Island, off the coast of Ecuador. The island abounds in cats. Every one of them is black. They live in the crevices of the lava, near the coast, and get a living by catching fish and crabs instead of rats.

## PLAINLY IMPOSSIBLE.

Young Mr. Spoonmore, who has just been accepted,—But what will your father say, darling? You know he doesn't like me any too well. The Young Woman—Well, you can't expect me to use the language in which papa will express himself when he hears of it.

## HE WAS NOT A CLOWN.

Cholly—She called me a clown. Miss Pepprey—How ridiculous of her! Cholly—Wasn't it? Miss Pepprey—Yes, Why, the clown in the modern circus is a man of unusual intelligence, who commands a splendid salary.

## LITTLE DEEDS OF KINDNESS.

Little deeds of kindness are, after all, what make life lovely, and develop the flowers of affection and sympathy. It would be a dreary world with nothing but mountains in it, and a dreary life with nothing but heroic action springing from it.

## AGES OF ACTRESSES.

Sarah Bernhardt was born in Paris in 1844; Mrs. Kendall, Lincolnshire, 1849; Lily Langtry, St. Heliers, Jersey, 1859; Adeline Patil, Madrid, 1848; Marie Rose, Paris, 1848; Ellen Terry, Coventry, 1848; Mary Anderson, Sacramento, Cal., 1859.

## TO MAKE SWEEPING EASY.

To lessen the wear on brooms and make sweeping easier an improved handle is divided into three sections, the center section being a flat spring plate set in the same plane with the broom head, which relieves part of the strain on the bristles.

## PIPE AND WHISTLE.

An inventive genius has produced a tobacco pipe which has a whistle in the stem in order to enable the smoker to summon a cab without taking the pipe from his mouth.

## A HALF-HEARTED EFFORT.

Daughter—Yes, I know Mr. Staylate comes very often, but it isn't my fault. I do everything I can to drive him away. Old Gentleman—Fudge! I haven't heard you sing to him once.

## The Clergyman's Wife.

The position of women in the world is a matter about which the average man gives himself little concern. As Mrs. Camp said of the "Rooshians," he accepts the fact that women "was born so," and so must be content to perform the duties pertaining to their state in life. These duties are, roughly speaking, the care of man and the perpetuation of the race. As they seem to be such natural and appropriate duties, it is difficult for man to realize how much of sacrifice and of limitation of possibilities their performance involves. The daily life of most women is a weary round of details, on which the comfort and health of the family depends, of attention to clothing, to food, to brooms and dust cloths. They are constantly called on for decisions, and always about minutiae. It is scant wonder if in the end this perpetual engagement with petty details produces a certain narrowness of view, the mind losing its focus for large affairs. Perhaps it is well that it does lose it, thus rendering women oblivious to the greatest limitation their lot involves, and one which men least realize, their lack of direct power in the greater affairs of life. It is only indirectly, through their influence over those holding power, that they have power in great events, a condition which would be intolerable to men.

It is thus a hard job to be a woman, it is doubly so to be a clergywoman. For not only is she saddled with all the duties falling to her sex in the apportionment of the world's work, but she suffers from limitations and obligations not naturally imposed upon her sisters. To begin with, she is generally the wife of a poor man, but a man with cultivated tastes and that high regard for the decency and respectability of life which characterizes his class everywhere. To maintain a standard of living which shall not only conduce to the best work, but insure respect, the pastor's wife must work as hard as any artisan at contriving ways and means and making economies. And, nine times out of ten, the bravery with which she does it is simply splendid. Think of the way in which the pastor is relieved from small worries, of the strong men in all the higher walks of the life who have come out of minister's homes, and of the personal sacrifices their opportunities and education have entailed upon the wife and mother. Considered as a whole, there is no more useful or self-denying body of women anywhere, nor one that deserves so well of the state.

But beside this daily struggle with cares and economies, the clergywoman must also "set an example." Now while in little things she is quite as good, and generally a little better, than other women, it is not an agreeable thing for anybody to be an example. But the pastor's wife must always remember that she is so to her husband's flock, and that in little as well as in big things. Mrs. Brown is relieved from such responsibility because through her husband may preach all the virtues, she is not expected to practice them. But there is no such escape for the clergywoman who is expected to illustrate in her daily walk and conversation all the teachings of the clergyman. And there is reason to fear that her responsibilities are not to end with being an example.

Now there is no doubt that most clergywomen are pastors' assistants, engaged in the spiritual work of the church. But being capable as well as good women, and recognizing the limitations of sex, they realize that they can best advance that work by devoting their talents to helping the man whom they influence. They therefore relieve him so far as may be of the burden of petty details of care and worries, so that he may concentrate his attention upon his work. They become his watchers and critics, weighing his actions and words and commending that line of procedure and condemning that. In this capacity they are so invaluable to the pastor that it may be questioned whether they could be equally useful in any other, even were they not already overweighed. To oblige them to be candidates with their husbands would, moreover, tend to lower the standard of the clergywomen. The young pastor would be tempted to select a wife with a view to striking the taste of the average congregation, rather than as a helpmeet, in the best sense, for himself.

## ADVICE.

Please help me, sir! cried the beggar. I am starving! Coldly the person appealed to looked at him in his misery. Why, my man, said he, you don't look as though you needed any help to starve! If you can't do it unaided why don't you give up the attempt?

## THE POINT OF VIEW.

Tom—Women are all more or less cowardly. Jack—Oh, I don't know. I never heard of one afraid to get married.