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Miscellaneous.

A city young man who rode a cunning Yankee to a Jew, "that they had been fifteen minutes to ascertain what kind of a hunk it had on."

A poor young man remarks that the only advice he gets from capitalists is to "live within his income," whereas the difficulty he experiences is to live without an income.

"Did you know," said a cunning Yankee to a Jew, "that they had been fifteen minutes to ascertain what kind of a hunk it had on?"

A good little boy who was kicked by a mule did not say naughty words or go home crying to his mother. He just tied the mule within five feet of a beehive, backed him round to it and let him kick.

Nellie has a four-year-old sister Mary, who complained to mamma that her "button shoes" were "burling." "Why, Marie, you've put them on the wrong feet," puzzled and ready to cry, she said. "What's a button shoe?" "What's a button shoe?" "What's a button shoe?"

STRENGTH OF VEGETABLES.—A short time since the asphalt flooring of a skating rink in London appeared to be "blistered" in several places, and it was found that this was caused by the forcing up through several inches of concrete of some asparagus plants the roots of which had been left in the ground, which had been part of a garden.

DOING YERMIN.—Several correspondents write to announce the complete extermination of rats and mice from their cow-stalls and pigsties since the adoption of this simple plan. The mixture of two parts of well-bruised common squills and three parts of stiff chopped bacon is made into a stiff mass, with as much meal as may be required, and then baked into small cakes, which are put down for the rats to eat.—*English Standard.*

GRASSY SEED CATALOGUE.—Our readers will find the catalogue of J. J. H. Gregory's well known seed catalogue advertised in our column. It contains seed with such conscientious care as to dare to warrant their freshness and purity, is of that class of bold, brave acts which the public appreciate. Though the catalogue is of necessity limited to refunding the value of the seed purchased, still, under it, Mr. Gregory must sell good seed or make a dead loss.

Mr. Atkinson is a farmer. He wrote to a commission house: "I will send you the finest butter next week you ever saw. The first lot will weigh about sixty pounds. Will divide the proceeds of the sale with you." Enclosed by the liberal terms of the offer, the firm announced to their friends on "change" that they were prepared to receive orders for the finest butter ever sent to market. The butter arrived as advertised, but it was in the form of a most ferocious cat of enormous size, who was no sooner liberated from his crate than he commenced a career of the most unbridled villany.

DOMESTIC HINTS.—It has been commonly stated that germination would not take place in seed below the freezing point of water. M. Ulrich, however, states that seeds of triolite, and indeed other seeds also, were found to germinate when placed in grooves formed by blocks of ice.

Potatoes into boiling water salted to the taste, and keep them boiling till a fork can be passed through them. Drain off the water, uncover them and let the steam escape, and if they fail to be mealy nothing will make them so.

WITNESS IN STABLES.—The matter of witnesses in stables is one of vast importance than some farmers think. Animals, no more than vegetables, can thrive in the dark. Our long winters are sufficiently trying to the constitutions of our farm stock under the best circumstances, and the presence of an animal upon which the sun's rays shine at all for five or six months will come out in the spring in a bad state of health, even though the feed, ventilation and temperature have been all right.—*Pheasant.*

Oatmeal is an important and valuable article of food. With the exception of Indian corn, it is richer in nutritive value than any other grain. It is cultivated in great quantities in the United States, and the production of oatmeal is increasing. It is a staple food of the poor, and is also used in the preparation of many of our best dishes. It is a healthy and strengthening food, and is well adapted for the use of the sick and convalescent.

Horses Should be Taught to Walk.

It is easier to find horses which can trot well than those which can walk well. Whether for farm use or the saddle, horses should know how to walk well. The farm horse has to do most of his work in a walking gait, and it is great satisfaction to the rider, for a saddle horse to have a fine and sprightly walk.—*Pen and Pencil.*

The Hartford Courant says that at a recent breakfast in a Massachusetts town an elderly gentleman, having been aided by one of the ladies present in some trifling service, asked the old question, "What should we do without the ladies?" and received the customary answer: "Have a stag nation." Shortly afterward one of the ladies was honored with some pleasing recognition, eliciting the inquiry, "What should we do without the gentlemen?" where a Hartford lady responded on the impulse of the moment: "Have a doe nation."

A police inspector, being informed that a restaurateur was serving game out of season, visited the restaurant in plain clothes and ordered dinner. "Waiter, partridge for one." The inspector finishes his dinner leisurely, and then says to the waiter, "Ask the boss to step this way a minute." "What for?" "I wish to notify him to appear in court to-morrow and answer for selling partridges out of season. I am the police inspector, and have secured the necessary evidence against him." "It wasn't partridge you had," Police inspector (anxiously). "What was it, then?" Waiter (cheerfully). "Crow."

GREEN FOOD FOR HENS.—A daily ration of green food is actually necessary for laying hens. Vegetables, either cooked or raw, are much relished also, and serve in some measure to supply the place of green corn. Onions chopped fine and mixed with their food are exceedingly wholesome, and if not a cure are certainly a preventive of disease in many instances. Growing chickens are more anxious for green food than laying hens. They are not so much interested in the food as in the green food itself. It should be provided for them. There is no green food so wholesome for them as onion tops cut up fine.

THE BREAKFAST TABLE is one of the very best humorous papers published in this country, and strongly merits the phenomenal success it has received. Aside from its quaint and original humorous department it is a first-class family newspaper in every respect. It is widely quoted, and the person who has not had a hearty laugh over its witty sketches is behind the times. The paper may be obtained through any newsdealer, and we presume the publishers—E. P. Brown & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio—will cheerfully send specimen copies to all applicants enclosing stamp for return postage.

FOOD FOR SITTING HENS.—The requirements of a sitting hen differ from those of a laying hen. Owing to her keeping quiet and with a little exercise, no more is required to sustain vitality, and that should be of such nature as to digest slowly. For this reason whole grain is preferred and corn is thought to be the best. Soft feed of any kind is soon digested, and the hen becomes hungry, and either loses her nest too frequently or else becomes very poor. The advantage of corn over other grain is that it is more digestible and so not likely to stimulate the production of eggs, and being hard and compact, it digests much slower than other grain. A run upon the grass is all ways beneficial to sitting hens. Next should be avoided.—*Journal and Record.*

THE ALDERNEY BREED OF CATTLE.—The Channel island breed of cattle, popularly known in England as "Alderney," consists of two classes of the same breed. The Guernsey is the larger of the two, usually of a light fawn color, spotted with white. The Jersey class is smaller, and the popular color is a dark or "dun" deer. In the United States the name Alderney is no longer in general use, but each class is usually simply Jersey or Guernsey, as the case may be. The best English Alderneys now sold in the United States are descended from some Swiss mountain breeds, of which many fine specimens have been exhibited at livestock shows in Paris—dark gray light fawn color, and fine in head and proportions. They have contended, without the grounds, that the Alderneys were an offshoot of the Normandy breed, or of the Ayrshires, but there is no resemblance to the first, and it seems quite probable that the Alderneys were a cross between the Ayrshires and the Jersey breed.—*American Cultivator.*

Ice Necessary in the Dairy.

A paper was lately read before the French Academy of Science which gave the results of many experiments. The milk having been exposed at various temperatures varying from 52 degrees to 212 degrees Fahrenheit, elicited the following summary of facts:

The rise of cream is more rapid as the temperature is raised. Cream exposed approaches (32 degrees) the freezing point. The volume of cream is greater when the milk has been effectually cooled.

The yield of butter is also greater when the milk has been exposed to a very low temperature.

Finally, the skimmied milk, the butter and the cheese are of better quality when prepared under the above circumstances.

THE POSITION OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.—F. G. L. in Western Farmer says:—In no country is agriculture so despised as in America. The Emperor of China holds the plough one day in the year as a mark of respect to agriculture. But, says the *Farmer*, "China is barbarous." China has better agriculture than America. She has the largest population, the longest canal, the widest bridge, the deepest well, the greatest wall, the longest avenue of large trees in the world—the date back in authentic history before our Christian era—furnishes a good deal of our best scripture sayings—but is barbarous. A tenant farmer in England is much higher than a proprietor of land in America. France does not, like America, legislate against her agriculturists, but leaves them free and untrammelled and is commercially very successful. Her agricultural population are peaceable and prosperous, and would so continue if political demagogues would let them. Here we have demagogues and political quacks both to contend with.

PEAS AS DECORATIVE PLANTS.—The *Review Horticult* states that the common pea, when sown in winter, produces a good effect as winter decorative plants. They are certainly among the last things we should think of growing for ornament, but the French know how to utilize everything, and under the influence of their agricultural population are peaceable and prosperous, and would so continue if political demagogues would let them. Here we have demagogues and political quacks both to contend with.

How to Make Hot-Beds. A correspondent of the *Cincinnati Times* says upon the subject:—As it will soon be time to make hot-beds for early cabbage and tomatoes, I will give some of my experience in the last ten years. Any one not experienced might think it a very easy thing to make a hot bed, but he will find after he has been in the business for years, he will sometimes find it requires a great deal more care and attention for early beds than for those later in the season. The first thing to select a warm, sheltered spot, on the south side of some building, and it should be protected from the cold west winds.

After leveling the ground, haul your fresh horse manure (there should be considerable straw mixed with it), and put in a pile of it to one side, where you want the bed. In hauling be careful to have it well shaken apart, so there will be no lumps in it. After this has lain from one to three days, according to the state of the manure when hauled and the weather, commence and shake the manure evenly over the place prepared for the bed. If the manure is not less than twenty or twenty-four inches thick. It should extend eighteen inches beyond the frame on every side. Before putting on the frame, take a wide board, and begin on one side and go over the bed, laying the board on and pressing down by walking on it. This will keep the surface level. If the weather is cool, the manure should be covered as quickly as possible with earth. Common garden soil will be the best for the first two or three inches on the south side of some building, and it will be better than soil from the woods, but the top should always be light soil from the woods, and potting loam. The dirt should not be less than seven or eight inches deep. This will give the plants a good soil to make up before reaching the manure. As soon

How to Sweep.

As the dirt is on and leveled, put your broom on and sweep right up to the boards or straw; then bank up your bed to the top of the frame with manure, and let it remain covered up for thirty-six or forty-eight hours. This will give the bed time to cool off from the first heat, and also keep the dirt in the manure from coming up to the dirt. Before sowing your seed, rake the bed, and pulverize all the clods; then mark out in rows, north and south not less than six inches apart; scatter in about five or six to the bush; water and cover again, and leave till the plants begin to come up, which will be in from two days to a week, owing to the heat of your bed.

VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—HORSE CLIPPING CONDENSED.—The usual fortnightly meeting of this Association was held on Thursday, the 31st January, the President, Prof. McAllister, in the chair. The first business in order was the reading of a paper read by Mr. Daniel Lema, who explained that it was produced by a variety of causes, especially over-driving, drinking cold water when heated, over-gorging the stomach. From experience in a large number of cases he favored the treatment followed at the College, viz.: removing the shoes, cutting down the crust of pressure, hot foot-baths and poultices, purgatives and laxative medicines, followed after the subsidence of the acute symptoms by broad, heavy-roofed bar shoe and cold clay.

Weight of Milk.

A city dairymen writes that his cow, which troubled him much to dry before calving, has recently come in fresh and giving nearly 30 quarts of rich milk per day, which he finds it difficult to get rid of. He says he has a short cut by weighing it, if he can learn how much a quart of milk should weigh. X. A. Willard, some months since, stated on authority of Gail Borden that an average quart of milk at a temperature of six degrees would weigh, if he recollect aright, a fraction over 2.14 pounds to the quart; but Dr. Sturtevant, in one of his public lectures, in which he urges farmers and experimenters to drop the practice of weighing milk by measure, as quantity so much that one never knows certainly how much a cow gives by the measure reports, and to adopt the weighing system instead, gave it as his opinion that a quart of milk at a temperature of six degrees would weigh, if he recollect aright, a fraction over 2.14 pounds to the quart; but Dr. Sturtevant, in one of his public lectures, in which he urges farmers and experimenters to drop the practice of weighing milk by measure, as quantity so much that one never knows certainly how much a cow gives by the measure reports, and to adopt the weighing system instead, gave it as his opinion that a quart of milk at a temperature of six degrees would weigh, if he recollect aright, a fraction over 2.14 pounds to the quart; 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