Farm and Household.

FRUIT PUDDING.—One cup molasses; one cup milk; two eggs; one teaspoonful soda; three cups flour; one-half cup melted butter; one cup raisins, one cup currants. Boil or steam three hours.

PEAR BLIGHT.—Linseed oil, well applied with a whitewash brush, has been recommended by a Kentucky fruit grower as a reliable remedy for pear blight. He claims to have effectually checked the progress of this disease with its use.

BOSTON BROWN BREAD.—Four cups of rye meal, three cups of yellow Indian meal, one cup molasses, one teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of salt. Mix with sour milk or buttermilk in a soft batter. Steam three hours and and bake two hours.

RICE MUFFINS.—Boil the rice soft and dry. Take one half cup rice, stir in three spoonfuls sugar, piece of butter, size of an egg, and a little salt. One pint of sweet milk, one cup yeast, two quarts flour. Let it raise all night. If sour in the morning add a little soda dissolved in milk, and bake in muffin-rings.

BREAD OMELET.—Take a slice of bread an inch thick, cut off the crust, pour half a pint of boiling milk on it; season with pepper and salt to your taste. Beat it up and when cold put to it five eggs. Beat the yolks very light and add them to the bread and milk then add the whites, well beaten. Fry in hot butter. This makes two omelets.

CATS.—Cats on the farm do much damage in destroying useful birds, and they often play with the chickens when the master is at home, but they do not forget to appropriate a young one or two occasionally when unobserved. They understand how to act much better than may be supposed.

KILLING THE POTATO BEETLE.—It is stated that tar water sprinkled over potato plants will destroy the beetle as effectually as an application of Paris green. A gallon of gas tar is placed into a barrel of water; the whole is well stirred up, and then the tar is allowed to settle, and the water is applied to the plants. This water is offensive to most insects, and may be freely used without injury to plants or man.

LIVE STOCK.—All live stock should be kept clean. They should not be exposed to the severe weather of winter, not only because it is cruel but because it does not pay. It costs money for an animal to keep itself warm, for it must be done at the expense of the food it gets or the flesh it has already gained. An animal is in many respects an engine, and its food is the fuel. Any shelter given to the farm stock saves in food, just as a covering to a boiler saves fuel.

SELECTING SEED.—No farmer can afford to risk sowing damaged or defective seed; hence the wisdom of testing seed previous to planting it. It is a comparatively small matter to do this, as most readers know.—The germinating powers of wheat, rye, oats and barley may be tested by sowing some seed in garden pot-saucers or other unglazed earthen vessels set in water and covered with moist flannel. Clover and grass seed may be tested in the same way, as indeed may garden seeds. If the seed germinates irregularly it is a sign that old and new seed have been mixed. If only a small per cent. germinates, the seed should be, of course, discarded. The heaviest seed, other things being even, is best.

LICE ON CATTLE.—The National Live Stock Journal is authority for saying that the cheapest and one of the best means of ridding stock of lice, consists in the free application of wood ashes, frequent brushing, removal of old or dirty bedding, occasional application of boiling hot water to the wood-work of stalls, sheds, and styes, or lime-washing of the same. All loose hairs and dirt removed from the bodies of animals by brushing, as well as old bedding, should be collected in a heap and burned. The presence of vermin on live stock can never be successfully combated by simply applying a certain remedy to the body of the animals, and not at the same time attending to the general cleanliness of those, as well as of their surroundings.

NEEDLES.

The needle is one of the most ancient instruments of which we have any record. The modern needle is a pointed instrument having an eye, and is used for carrying a thread, some kind of fabric, or other material. It is probable, however, that the needles of those people who lived in very ancient times had no eyes, as instrument of bone, which were most likely used for this purpose, are found in the caves that were inhabited by ancient people of France, and the needles of ancient Egypt, which are described as being of bronze, do not appear to have been made with eyes. Some writers are of the opinion that in place of the eye a circular depression was made in or near the blunt end, in which the thread was buried. Pliny describes the needles of bronze which were used by the Greeks and Romans. These instruments have also been found in the ruins of Herculaneum. The first account that history gives of the manufacture of needles is that they were made at Nuremberg in 1730, and, while the date of their first manufacture in England is in doubt, it is said to have commenced in that country about 1543 or 1545, and it is said that the art was practiced by a Spanish negro or native of India, who died without disclosing the secret of his process. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth this industry was revived, and has been continued ever since.

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Mr. Austin has located his office for the present at WYTHEVILLE, WYTHE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, to which point all communications to him should be addressed. Upon the completion of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad to a connection with the Norfolk & Western Railroad, which will be effected at Roanoke, Roanoke County, Virginia, in May, 1882, the principal office of the Bureau will be removed to Roanoke.

A monthly bulletin of properties for sale will be issued for circulation among investors, manufacturers, and agriculturists.

The Commissions charged will be moderate.

Parties having lands for sale are invited to record them at this Bureau, with plans, maps, description of improvements, and of mineral deposits, analysis of minerals, price, &c., &c.

It is hoped that, by means of such an organization, the material development of the resources of this rich, salubrious, and fertile section of Virginia may receive an effectual and permanent impulse, and public attention be directly and practically assured to its varied and remarkable elements of national wealth and prosperity.

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