AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE FARMER AND THE ORCHARDIST.

[This Department is prepared for the SACRAMENTO RECORD-UNION by its Agricultural Editor. All matter relating to the agricultural interest will be found under this head.]

A Whole Fruit District Nearly Ruined.

The lower Sacramento river district has been known for a score of years as one of the best fruit sections in the State. The soil is a rich alluvial, and in it fruit trees of every kind grew rapidly and healthily and came into bearing at an early age. The fruit was large and more highly flavored than that grown on the same river bottoms farther north, where the air was hotter and dryer during the heated season. Ten years ago there was one continuous orchard commencing a few miles below Sacramento and continuing twenty miles to Steamboat slough. In all this section the peach, apricot and nectarine did exceptionally well, and orchards of these fruits paid their owners a handsome profit. The lands on which these orchards grew were thus enhanced in value and bore high prices. Prosperity was the universal rule of those who possessed orchards in this section. The gradual filling up of the river with sand and mud, and the consequent nearing of the water line to the surface, has as gradually been injuring the trees in these orchards and reducing the quantity and destroying the quality of the fruit. The consequence is that but few trees have been put out of late years, and the old orchards of peaches and other stone-fruits are gradually but surely going to decay. On the American river bottom also, just above the city, there was but a few years ago a large number of valuable fruit orchards, paying their owners hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, and bringing business and prosperity to the city. To-day the soil in which these orchards were planted, in some instances, is buried by sand deeper than was the hight of the trees that grew out of it, and the whole section is in a condition of ruin. Thus, while we have scarcely realized it, the ruin and destruction of one of the most profitable of former industries is almost completed.

We Want More Tonnage.

The wheat crop this year will be larger in all probability than has ever before been harvested in the State. Estimating the probable increase over last year we think it safe to assume that the total product will be 28,000,000 centals, or 1,400,000 tons. Estimating 600,000 tons for seed and home consumption, this will give 800,000 tons for export. Last year we shipped 600,000, employing 273 ships. The requirement this year will probably be at least 364 ships. At the same time the sail tonnage here and known to be coming is less than at the corresponding date for six years past, while our requirements are considerably greater. The wheat-carrying tonnage in the port of San Francisco and known to be on the way to that port on the 1st of July, for years past, compare as follows:

	In port.	En route.	Total
1876	tons 58,900	312,600	371,500
1877	55,700	166,000	221,700
1878	98,100	229,300	327,400
1879	45,800	165,900	211,700
1880	25,100	167,100	192,200

Thus it will be seen that while we have considerably more wheat to carry away—probably one-third more than last year—that we have at this time nearly one-fourth less tonnage in port and coming than we had then. On account of scarcity of tonnage last year, high freights reduced the profits of farmers materially. This year the reduction of profits from the same cause will probably be much greater. In this connection we would suggest the importance to the producers of the State of the establishment of a State Bureau of Statistics. The establishment of such a bureau, and the gathering and publishing each month of the acreage and promise of the leading crops, would be of great benefit to producers. In this one matter of securing tonnage to carry away our wheat crops at reasonable rates, the benefits of such a bureau can hardly be estimated. This year alone such benefits, had such bureau been in existence, would probably have been equal to the cost of the establishment for fifty years.

And Now the Other Side.

The millers and shippers of wheat fully waked up this year to the losing practice of grinding and shipping dirty and gritty wheat. They called the press to their aid and ventilated the subject freely, truthfully charging the farmers with carelessness in cleaning their seed wheat, carelessness in allowing their lands to become foul and weedy, and carelessness in thrashing and cleaning their wheat for the market. When the whole State had become aroused to the subject, and people were wondering whether the farmers were not chargeable with something worse than carelessness in the premises, the farmers themselves put in a plea of not exactly not guilty, and not exactly of justification, but perhaps properly a plea of rejoinder. They say to the millers and shippers: If we are not guiltless neither are you. We would sooner sell clean wheat than foul wheat, but you would pay us no more for the one than the other, therefore we sold you the weeds and stones for wheat. If you have been losing by the operation and are ready now to pay us for cleaning our wheat, we are ready and willing to clean it. With this rejoinder the subject seems to have been dropped by mutual consent. But we hope the discussion of it will lead practically to good results, and that both sides will join hands to redeem the State from the damaging character that was being fastened upon her by mutual neglect and carelessness. Let the farmers see to it that their wheat this year is put in good marketable condition, and let shippers see to it that good and poor wheat are not mixed and sent out in the same cargo. The result of this change will be increased profits all round.

AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE.

AGRICULTURE IN ENGLAND.—In an elaborate review of the present agricultural position of England, James Caird expresses the opinion that nothing like the existing depression in the farming interest has been seen in that country since the repeal of the corn laws. In nine years there have been seven defective wheat harvests. The failures in Great Britain, he points out, have stimulated the agriculture of America in a wonderful degree. The United States have ten times more acres of wheat than the United Kingdom, and they produce twice as much corn of all kinds as England and France together. They have twice the number of horses, one-third more cattle and four times more hogs than both. In addition to this they raise cotton, tobacco and sugar worth nearly $250,000,000. Mr. Caird dwells upon the fact that owing to the vast areas of fertile but uncultivated land, the agricultural wealth of America has practically an unlimited power of expansion, and he sounds a note of warning at home. One of his remedies is to make the selling of land in England a far simpler matter than it is now. Another is to produce articles which will bear neither long storage nor carriage, as milk, fresh butter, early meat, vegetables, hay, straw, potatoes, sugar-beet and grass. He thinks that the residential advantages of the country, its climate, scenery and good laws, will help to keep up the value of land; but it must be confessed that his outlook, his view of the future, is none of the brightest. America is bringing the truth home to thousands that the origin as well as the mainstay of wealth is productive soil.

INHERITANCE.—There are certain principles of laws of Nature which have great influence on the reproduction of animals, but which are not always taken into account by breeders, and seldom given their full credit. It is one of the first laws of Nature that like produces like, or the offspring resembles its parents, and though this can be largely controlled by selection and conditions of life brought to bear on the animals by man, still it can not be entirely overcome, and oftentimes not as much so as is desired. In spite of all the forces we can bring to bear upon her, Nature holds her sway, though variously modified by them. This first law of Nature is known as inheritance, by which we mean the transmission of characters, both physical and mental, from the parent to its offspring. There are various theories as to the part each parent plays in this inheritance, but all of them are varied according to circumstances. Few breeders pay much attention to the inheritance of internal characteristics, but from my own observation these seem to be more marked by transmission through a number of generations than is external form. I knew of a gray mare with several marked characteristics which she transmitted very regularly to the sixth generation, though the sire each time was of entirely different breeding and character. With the exception of one branch this whole family (which is now very numerous), never produced any other color than gray or sorrel. The gray varied from dark to light, but invariably got flea-bitten in old age, and the sorrels were light, there being but one chestnut, and she was the only branch of the original family that had a bay colt. The old mare was a notably fast walker, having walked fifteen miles under the saddle for a wager in two hours and a half, and her stock is far above an average in this respect. They are all high-spirited and free workers, and were never known to balk. It is a very rare thing for a colt to throw itself while being broken or to break a halter, and though naturally afraid of the whip, they will all fight if whipped much. All these characters have been almost universally transmitted to a large number of horses where a different sire was used nearly every year, and while the outward form varied somewhat according to the sire, the internal characteristics remained the same. Strangers often remark, on looking at a large herd cattle, that they do not see how an owner can tell his calves apart, so many of them look alike. But the owner, if he is at all observing, will have no trouble in recognizing a resemblance between the calf and its mother in some way, before the calf is grown. At one time there were several red heifers in one band very much alike, and I asked if Blush's heifer was not missing, and went through the herd carefully to look for her. As the cattle walked on my father suddenly called out, "Yonder she goes; I can tell her by her walk. She moves exactly like Blush." Though this heifer did not so closely resemble her mother in form, she had precisely the same walk, and I doubt if there was an animal in the whole herd that did not have some characteristic in common with its mother. I remember a very peculiar and marked case of recognition of a transmitted character. A blacksmith was shoeing a horse that he had never seen before, and after paring the fore feet and fitting the shoes, asked, "Is this horse a Tuckahoe?" "Yes," was the reply. "He is a son of old Tuckahoe." "I have shod old 'Tuck' many a time," said he, "and there is the exact counterpart of his fore foot." This horse did not strikingly resemble his sire in outward appearance, and seemed to have the disposition of his dam; still, here was a very marked case of inheritance, or the blacksmith, who shod many feet a day, would not have recorded it. Animals sometimes inherit characters from more remote ancestors than immediate sire and dam. This is called atavism or reversion. These qualities, inherited from remote ancestors, must have been possessed in a latent condition by all the descendants to the present generation, when they have become visible. Until we learn how to control inheritance more than we do at present we must not expect to get animals just to our liking; for, though the immediate ancestors may suit us very well, as we cannot control and keep latent the now occult characters, we must not expect the offspring to exactly resemble either parent or be an exact intermediate between the two. If we made a close study of inheritance among our animals, I think we would see many characters which would not be noticed at first sight, and which, as they become more prominent in after years, we would account for by atavism when, in reality they had been present all the time.—[W. L. N. in Prairie Farmer.

FASHION NOTES.

The tunic and the double shirt are equally fashionable.

Fichus are preferable in warm weather to scarfs. They are easily made over white crinoline, and they should have thick side-plaits.

A new make of jacket has come for out-of-door wear. It is made of cashmere, cut to the figure like a jersey, laced at the back, and is beaded.

Pongee dresses are trimmed with the new old Roman point, which is a good copy of the antique lace worn in the thirteenth century.

A petticoat of black lusterless silk, trimmed with several narrow flounces finely pleated, is superseding the white skirt.

Buttons on boots are made to match those worn on the costume. For morning wear slippers are made of fancy kid, and red is the favorite color.

The "Zulu" hats are most preferred of all the round hats, probably because they are the rage. They are not becoming, and should only be worn in the country or at the seaside.

Dotted muslins are now shown in a deep ecru tint, and as they do not soil as easily as white muslin, are likely to be popular. Some are made entirely plain and others are trimmed with lace.

Collars are seen upon nearly every costume this season. Basques for out-door wear frequently have long collarette and revers like that seen upon gentlemen's dress coats.

New linen lawns are both French and Irish. The former is very delicate both in texture and color, while the latter is less fine, but equally cool and more durable.

New gloves for evening wear are trimmed at the top with several rows of side-pleated lace, an inch or two in width, or with a lace insertion and a row of wide-pleated lace above.

Best dresses of nun's vailing or of bareges virginie are made with kilt pleated skirts, and either simple blouse waists or else charming little coat basques, which are trimmed with a little bright damassee silk and the gayest of buttons.

Very pretty and inexpensive overdresses for wear with satin or velvet skirts are made of the cream-tinted linen canvas which comes for curtains. This is woven in small square meshes of twisted thread, and is trimmed with Languedoc lace. An embroidered vine done in crewels or silk adds much to the beauty of the garment.

Hosiery cannot well be handsomer than it is unless it should be composed entirely of point lace. The silk stocking is, of course, the most elegant. It is self-colored, with embroidered clocks, or else it has some tiny pattern in two shades or more; or again, the clocks alone are of a different tint.

Lace mitts are either of French or English manufacture, the former being made by hand in what is called filet work, and the latter, called the Nottingham mitt, resembling lace and made by machinery. All the new mitts have thumbs, but not fingers, and beside black and white there are many shades of light blue, ecru and pink, both in the real and imitation laces.

Paper blankets possess a great advantage over woolen and cotton bed-coverings for use in hospitals or in regions where yellow fever or other virulent epidemics may be raging. The only safe way to get rid of infected cotton or woolen bed clothes, which, if not destroyed, may be the means of spreading certain diseases to a terrible extent, is to burn them—neither an easy nor an agreeable thing to do. But, in the case of paper blankets, it is only necessary to dip them in water and expose them to the flow of a hydrant for a few minutes, and the desired disintegration is effected.

VINEGAR PIE.—One cup sugar, one-half cup vinegar; boil together a few moments, cool, add one egg, one teaspoonful flour, one tablespoon butter, a little rolled cracker, two crusts.

OUTDOOR AMUSEMENTS.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE LOVERS OF FIELD SPORTS.

[In this department, as the head indicates, we propose to make record of current sporting events. Communications to the paper concerning such matters should be addressed to the "Outdoor Amusement Department."]

THE CARP.—Sportsmen can engage in no more delightful avocation than the culture of fish, and many lovers of rod and gun are so situated that they can well afford to lay out and maintain fish ponds. The care of the fish is a delightful pursuit. The carp is a prolific and valuable food-fish and easily raised. The carp thrives best in artificial or natural ponds with muddy bottoms, and such as abound in vegetation. In large ponds it may not be necessary to furnish any special food, but in restricted inclosures as, for instance, those of a fraction of an acre, they may be fed with the refuse of the kitchen garden, leaves of cabbage, lettuce, leeks, etc., hominy, or other substances. Grain of any kind is generally boiled before being fed to the fishes, but this is probably not absolutely necessary. The refuse of malt from breweries makes excellent food for them. It is prime necessity that there be no predaceous fish in the same pond with the carp. Of course, the larger fish will be measurably secure against the attacks of carniverous species of about the same size, but the eggs and young will become a prey to the rapacity of such associates. As a general rule the fish will thrive best when they are the sole occupants of particular waters, although the association of suckers and chubs would be less objectionable than that of sunfish, perch or black bass. The carp spawn in the spring, in May and June, and indeed, under some circumstances, throughout the entire summer. The Fish Commission have young fish that spawned from May to September. They are very prolific, yielding from 400,000 to 500,000 eggs, according to size. The eggs adhere tenaciously to whatever they touch, and for that reason it is very important that a new pond should be provided with floating weeds for such attachment. The eggs hatch out in a few days, and the young grow very rapidly. They feed voraciously upon the so-called frog spittle, the green alga scum so common in frog ponds. Consequently such waters are especially adapted to carp. Whenever the water becomes chilled down to perhaps 40 degrees, and especially when frozen over at the top, the fish bury themselves in the mud, aggregating in lots of fifty to one hundred, frequently with their tails projecting, and constituting what is called in Germany kettles or roses. It is very important that they should not be disturbed under such circumstances. Of course, while hybernating in this way they are not feeding, although they are said to lose appreciably in weight. In the more southern regions, where the waters do not freeze, they will probably feed throughout the year, and make a more rapid growth. So far, Prof. Baird says, no waters have proved too warm for carp; indeed, they are said to thrive especially well in reservoirs receiving the condensed waters of low pressure steam engines in Germany, of over 100° temperature. As regards the best plants for a carp pond, Prof. Baird mentions the ordinary pond weeds (Poutederia and Sagittaria), splatter dock, or pond lily, and, indeed, any of the kinds that grow in the water, with leaves floating upon the surface, dockweed among the number. Those which produce seed, like the wild rice, are especially desirable, as the fish feed voraciously upon them. The great merit of the carp for cultivation, next to its excellent table quality, lies in its adaptation to shallow and warm ponds unsuited for ordinary fish. The country is full of such waters, now useless, which might be made exceedingly productive; and there are thousands of swamps in every State, which might easily be flooded and stocked at small cost in money or trouble. In Germany many villages maintain at common cost for the public benefit carp ponds of a hundred acres or more.

THE FIRST STOCK AND TROTTING HORSE IMPORTED TO CALIFORNIA.—The following is from the New York *Spirit* of July 3d: It is now no uncommon thing to ship horses to and from California, but when the first stock-horse, transported there, was exhibited on Broadway previous to being laden on the Pacific Mail steamer for San Francisco, hundreds of people thronged around him, thinking the enterprise one of the wonders of the nineteenth century. In 1855, Ansel I. Easton, of San Francisco, conceived the idea of improving the stock of California, and there was certainly need of it, as the horses were then of the Spanish and Mexican blood, and had little or no marking of good breeding. Consequently he interviewed Benjamin Fish, then the leading horseman of the city, and said: "What price will you ask to go East and purchase for me a stock and trotting horse?" Mr. Fish replied: "I ask $1,000 and expenses." "I accept the terms," said Mr. Easton, "and you shall live like a gentleman on the route. Purchase for me the best horse east of the Rocky Mountains, and for funds I will furnish you with an unlimited letter of credit on the —— Bank of New York city." After being East a short time Mr. Fish saw Ethan Allen, who was then trotting quite well, and thought he would answer his purpose. Offered $12,000 for him, but was quickly informed that that amount would not buy his tail. Mr. Fish began to think Ethan might not be for sale. He next went to Vermont, where he finally purchased a Black Hawk stallion, four years old, and of great promise, paying $2,800 with $50 additional for delivering him in New York city. In crossing the Isthmus of Panama the horse became sick, also contracted a spinal affection from which he never fully recovered, but appeared so well that a gentleman from Los Angeles offered $10,000 for him. On arriving in San Francisco, Mr. Fish said to Mr. Easton, "I have returned with a horse for you, but if you do not like him I don't wish to hold you to our contract." "But I do like him," replied Mr. Easton, "and shall accept him." The arrangement was that if Mr. Easton would cancel the contract the horse was to be reshipped to Los Angeles on the return steamer. This stallion become very popular throughout California as a stock horse, and to this day the Black Hawk stock is spoken of with great favor. The terms of service were $100, and no warrant with foal. The first year he earned $5,000 for service, and the second year still larger figures, but was never a successful trotting horse. Could trot a quarter in 38s. and finish the mile in about 2:40, but, undoubtedly, would have trotted faster had it not been for the weakness in the back. Mr. Fish was absent from home 78 days, and informs me that the horse cost $6,000 delivered in San Francisco.—[E. W. H.

THE WING-SHOOTING TOURNAMENT.—In our local columns we have already given an account of the proposed wing-shooting tournament to be held during State-Fair week under the auspices of the Forester Gun Club, an association entirely reliable and well-officered. We reproduce the circular letter of the Club: "We are pleased to announce that the Forester Gun Club of this city will hold a grand pigeon-shooting tournament under the auspices of the State Agricultural Society, at their park during the coming State-Fair week, commencing on the 20th day of September. The entrance fee is fixed at $20, all of which will be returned to the contestants in the usual proportions. The shooting will be at 15 single birds, ties to be decided at three pair of double birds, and under the rules of our club, a copy of which will be furnished on receipt of entrance. For the purpose of having all good birds, which is impossible when gathered in one locality and kept cooped up, it has been decided to adopt the method now so popular with our Eastern clubs, of having each contestant send at least two-dozen first-class birds, to arrive here on the 15th day of September, or as near that day as convenient, to J. E. Kane, who will pay freight and care for them properly. The birds will be credited to the sender, and when the tournament is concluded the Club will settle with each contestant that has not used or shot at all his birds, at the rate of $3 per dozen, and will collect from those indebted for birds at same rate. When more than one enters from one club or locality, the birds can be sent in one coop. We trust that our fellow-sportsmen will assist us in inaugurating this much-needed feature, which will not only give all better birds, but will prevent the dealers from demanding such exorbitant prices as has been their pleasure and custom on all such occasions. By urgent request it has been decided to handicap Crittenden Robinson to 31 yards, W. E. Gerber to 26 yards, and Frank Maskey to 26 yards. We earnestly request that each club in the State will be represented, and that some steps will be taken to form a State organization, which will certainly meet with the approval of all true lovers of the gun. Entrance, to be accompanied with coin, will be received by J. M. Hotz, Secretary, up to the 10th day of September, who will also be pleased to give any further desired information."

CRICKET. The well-known game, cricket, which is now in season—the name is of doubtful derivation—is a number of centuries old, but how old has not been ascertained. It is thought to be identical with club-ball, played during the fourteenth century, and originally called handyn-and-handoute. Although strictly English, it has been introduced into Scotland, Ireland, the United States, and other countries, but it is never played with such ardor and so generally as on British soil. Almost every school, village and town of England is provided with a cricket-ground, and it is considered so healthful an exercise that everybody is encouraged to engage in it. Many Englishmen ascribe their physical vigor to the game, which is often recommended by physicians, especially for persons of sedentary habits. There are various examples of men once thought to be going into a decline who have grown hearty, muscular, and rugged by this exercise. A number of players over there make it a trade, earning their livlihood by matches with amateur clubs and by instructing others. The noted Marylebone Club is the standard authority on cricket, its rules being recognized as the true code all over the world. The Eleven of All England and the United Eleven, both professional, are ranked as the best cricketers extant. The game has grown to be quite popular here, and the mode of playing it has much advanced. Five American clubs have shown themselves to be formidable rivals of English clubs, and they are steadily improving.

ODD NOTES.

The National Association of Amateur Athletics has reinstated William R. Pitman in the amateur bicycle list. Correct.

Thirty-seven seconds for a quarter of a mile on a bicycle is Walter Phillips' time, made on the Belgrave road, Leicester, Eng., June 11th.

The Staten Island Cricket Club defeated the noted Germantown Club of Philadelphia in a match played Saturday at Staten Island. The score was 97 to 90.

T. P. Donaldson defeated T. T. Drill by one lap in a three-hour go-as-you-please race at the Clinton Athletic Club track, Brooklyn, June 12th. He scored 19 miles in three hours.

O'Leary will give another six-day, twelve-hours-a-day, heel-and-toe walk in Buffalo, beginning August 9th. The first prize will be the sum of $1,600, and the winner will become the possessor of the "Championship Challenge Belt."

The eleven of St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H., defeated the eleven of the St. George Club of New York in a game of cricket, played June 27th on the St. George's Cricket Grounds, Hoboken. The score was 107 to 82.

The grand bicycle meet at Coney Island in the early part of September next is exciting much interest. The Manhattan Club will assume all responsibilities, and it is to be hoped that the clubs throughout the country will lend their aid in making the affair the success it should be.

Theibaud Bauer is out with a card to wrestle Greco-Roman style any man in the world, for from $100 to $500 a side. It won't do, Mr. Bauer. The people have had enough of your "championship matches." Go West, where you are not known.—[Turf, Field and Farm.

The Boston Athletic Association will take charge of the new amphitheater, which will be located on Park Square, Boston. It will have a cinder track suitable for pedestrians, fourteen laps to the mile, and other accommodations for amateur athletic sports.

A former Fish Commissioner of one of the States, who writes over the nom de plume of Ecaille in *The Sea World*, don't think much of California fish. In his opinion "they are the poorest specimens for table or any other use that he ever saw or ate, from the devil fish to the little smelt."

That was a great feat of Captain Bogardus in his second match with Rimell, standing at thirty yards, five ground traps, killing 99 out of 100 birds, and the last bird falling dead three feet outside the boundary. He shot 46 straight; his forty-seventh was the one he lost, and then he killed 53 straight. Such a score has never been made before; never was expected to be, and we don't believe will be again, excepting, perhaps, by Bogardus. Truly, Bogardus as a shot is a wonder, and we very much question if we shall ever see his equal.—[Chicago Field.

Jacob Schaefer has sent to George F. Slosson a peculiar challenge to play a game of billiards, 1,000 points up, for $1,000 a side, at either the "champion's game" or the regular three-ball French carom game. Schaefer deposited with the donors of the Brunswick emblem $250 as an "evidence of good faith" in issuing the challenge. He, however makes two stipulations—one to the effect that if Slosson consents to play the "champion's game" for the Collender emblem, the game shall be extended to 1,600 points, instead of 600, as at present, and the other that if he decides to play the "unlimited rail game," the choice of cushions shall be decided by toss.

NOW I AM THE LEADER OF THE DEMOCRASEE.

[Pinafore Redivivus.]

When I was a lad, I went to school,
Where Uncle Sam sends many a fool;
I polished up my buttons, and swept my room,
For which I was rewarded by a Democratic boom.
I polished up my buttons so carefullee,
That now I am the leader of the Democrasee.

In right-about-face I made such a mark,
That they gave me the post of Adjutant's clerk;
I served the Ad. with a smile so bland,
And I copied all the orders in a big round hand.
In right-about-face I was so free,
That they made me the leader of the Democrasee.

As a white cadet, I made such a name,
That a pet of the South I soon became;
I wore white gloves, and a bran-new suit,
At the bottom of my class at the Institute;
So they dropped all their issues, and nominated me,
And now I am the leader of the Democrasee.

My political ignorance became so great,
That they took me up as a candidate;
So why shouldn't I obey the party's "call,"
Since I shall never have to think for myself at all?
I knew so little that they rewarded me,
By making me the leader of the Democrasee.

Of civil life I know no more
Than Tilden knows of military lore.
So they abandoned him and his great "reform,"
And fled to me—"any port in a storm!"
They abandoned all their leaders, and begged of me
To come and be the leader of the Democrasee.

In the Union war I fought so well
That my name is greeted with "the rebel yell."
Of a "man on horseback" they had such a fear
That they nominated me—which is rather queer.
'Twas a right-about-face to nominate me,
And now I am the leader of the Democrasee.

Now, Americans all, whoever you may be,
I'll give you a bit of strategee;
Never go to any but a military school,
And be careful to be guided by this Democratic rule—
Keep away from the polls, and let politics be,
And you all may be leaders of the Democrasee.
—[Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Why is a young lawyer like the national currency? Because he is a legal tender and somewhat green.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

HOME ADORNMENT AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY—ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.

[Correspondents of this department will not be limited in their epistles, but conciseness is preferable, and but one side of a page must be written upon. Questions pertinent to this department will be answered in this column.]

TREATMENT OF NERVOUSNESS.—It is absolutely indispensable to health of the nervous system that you always, everywhere, inhale pure, fresh air. Get out into the sunshine all you can, and get all the sunshine you can into your home. Try to preserve a sunshiny temper and disposition, and ever look on the sunshiny side of life. Take a sufficient amount of mental and physical exercise, but carefully avoid overworking either mind or body. Get all the rest you need, and all the sleep you can. Give a proper attention to diet as regards quantity, quality, and its healthful preparation, and abstain from the use of stimulants in any form. Let your apparel be sufficient in amount, of proper material, and made up and worn upon hygienic principles. Attention must be given to promote the most scrupulous personal cleanliness, by frequent, and, if able, daily bathing. As harm results from injudicious bathing, a few simple rules may not be amiss. The best time for bathing is usually about the middle of the forenoon, although during warm weather a bath just before retiring is very soothing to the nerves. Never bathe just before or after eating, or when exhausted by severe mental or physical exercise. Always bathe in a room sufficiently warm that you may not feel the least chill, and in water of whatever temperature is best adapted to your particular case. A cold bath must never be taken when you are too cold, too warm or greatly fatigued. The head should be wet in cold water before the bath. Soap should not be used in daily bathing; once or twice a week is often enough, and after its use the body must be rinsed in clear water. Spirits of ammonia, in the proportion of a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful in an ordinary washbowl of water, is highly beneficial for its cleansing properties, and a good nerve tonic. Salt in about the same proportion dissolved in the water is also good. The bath should be followed by a brisk rubbing with a coarse towel or flesh-brush, until reaction takes place and the body is in a healthy glow. Then get into bed, cover up warm and rest for half an hour or more, after which exercise should be taken. A friction bath or air bath just before retiring is often wonderfully soothing to the nerves, as is also the application of cold water along the spine, or rubbing the body with a dry flannel that has been saturated with salted water. Now, for a nervine, drink freely of skullcap tea. Warm hop tea has been recommended for nervousness. Under the care of my physicians I have derived great benefit from ammonia and phosphorus in almost every form, bromide of potassa, and other similar medicines. Electricity is highly beneficial to many; but that which is of far more value in the case of nervousness than medicine or volumes of hygienic instructions, is the benefit derived from pleasant social intercourse, the congenial companionship of loved and loving friends. [Invalid Edna, Masonville, Ia.

TO CURE FITS OF SNEEZING.—A correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* says: During the recent rapid changes of temperature I caught a severe cold in my head, accompanied by almost incessant sneezing. My unfortunate nose gave me no rest. The slightest impact of cold air, or passing from the outside air into a warm room, equally brought on a fit of sneezing. In vain I snuffed camphor and pulsatilla; the light catarrh still triumphed over me. At length I resolved to see what the maintenance of a uniform rate of temperature would do toward diminishing the irritability of my Schneiderian membrane, and accordingly I plugged my nostrils with cotton wool. The effect was instantaneous; I sneezed no more. Again and again I tested the efficacy of this simple remedy, always with the same result. However near I was to sneeze, the introduction of the pledgets stopped it at once. Nor was there any inconvenience from their presence, making them sufficiently fine not to tickle, and yet leaving them sufficiently loose to easily breathe through. This is really worth knowing, for incessant sneezing is among the greatest of smaller ills, and it seems only a rational conclusion to hope that this simple plan may furnish the most efficient remedy against one of the most distressing symptoms of hay fever.

PROOF SPIRIT.—Proof spirit was so called because, in the pre-scientific age, it was customary to levy duty on spirits by a rough-and-ready process called the "proof," which was conducted as follows: A small heap of gunpowder was wetted with the spirit to be tested, and the wet spirit was then ignited. If the spirit was strong, the gunpowder became ignited and flashed off very soon after the spirit was lighted; but if the spirit was weak, the water left behind it wetted the gunpowder, so that it did not catch fire. A careful investigation of the true constitution of the spirit showed that the weakest spirit capable of igniting the gunpowder had the following composition by weight: alcohol, 49.24; water, 50.76, and a specific gravity of 0.920. This is known as proof spirit. Spirits either stronger or weaker than this are spoken of as overproof or underproof. Thus, a spirit was said to be 25 per cent. overproof or underproof if 100 measures of it would, on dilution, yield 125 measures of proof spirit. It was underproof if 100 measures only contained 75 measures of proof spirit. In these days, though the terms are still retained, the estimates are made by the hydrometer.

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE.—A correspondent of the *American Farmer* tells how he makes the article: Make a light rich shortcake of almost any kind. I prefer the soda-biscuit recipe, with a little more shortening added. Roll the dough rather thinner than for biscuit, and shape it to fit your baking-pans. Have ready a quantity of strawberries, the more the better; two quarts will make it very good, with the quantity of dough made from two quarts of flour. Mash the strawberries, make them quite sweet (of course with white sugar); add to this a pint of rich cream. When the pans with the shortcake are taken from the oven thoroughly done, split them open; butter each half liberally with good butter; lay one upon a large dish; spread the mashed strawberries thickly over it; lay the other half on the top of this, buttered sides of both up. Again spread thickly with mashed fruit. You may, by having pans of uniform size, make it with as many layers as you like. I prefer only two or three, as the pieces can thus be kept in better shape when divided. A little pure cream added after dishing out is an improvement, but not at all necessary. Eat it while hot.

TO PRESERVE PLANTS.—A recent improved receipt for preserving plants with their natural colors is to dissolve 1 part of salicylic acid in 600 parts of alcohol, heat the solution up to boiling point in an evaporating vessel, and draw the plants slowly through it. Shake them to get rid of any superfluous moisture, and then dry between sheets of blotting-paper, under pressure in the ordinary manner. Too prolonged immersion discolors violet flowers, and in all cases the blotting-paper must be frequently renewed. The novelty appears to be the salicylic acid.

QUEEN OF ALL PUDDINGS.—One pint of nice fine bread-crumbs, one quart of milk, one cup of sugar, the yolks of four eggs beaten with the grated rind of a lemon, butter the size of an egg. Bake until done, but not watery. Whip the whites of the eggs stiff, and beat in a teacup of sugar in which has been stirred the juice of a lemon, spread over the pudding a layer of jelly or any other sweetmeat you prefer, and pour the whites of the eggs over that, and bake a light brown. To be eaten cold with cream.

ORANGE TARTLETS.—These are made by lining patty-pans with sweet short paste, filling with uncooked rice, and baking to a light color; then, the rice being removed, each tartlet is furnished with a small quantity of compote of oranges cut up small. Orange tartlets are usually served cold; but they may be made hot by being put into the oven for a short time after they have been filled with the compote. The following is another form: The shell of paste is made the same in diameter as the oranges about to be used; these, after being peeled and cored, are cut in halves lengthwise, and treated with syrup; then half an orange, with the convex side uppermost, is placed on each tartlet, and a small quantity of syrup is poured over. This variety of orange tartlet can be ornamented with candied cherries, angelica, blanched pistachio nuts or almonds.

BROWN FRICASSEE OF RABBITS.—Take a couple of fine fat rabbits, skin and clean them nicely, divide the joints and cut the remainder into suitable pieces; put these into a saucepan with a little fresh butter and fry them till they become of a light-brown color; then put the meat into a stew-pan with a pint of water, two tablespoonfuls of lemon juice, the same of mushroom catchup, one of Worcester or New England sauce, a couple of roasted onions, and a little cayenne and salt; stew over a slow fire till perfectly done, then take out the meat, strain the gravy and thicken it with a little flour; make it very hot and pour it over the rabbits.

THE TREATMENT OF SPRAINS.—Dacre Fox, an English surgeon to a large railway company, who has had considerable experience of this form of injury, says that in the more severe cases he finds that after a few days fomentation the best treatment is regulated pressure, by means of carefully adjusted pads and large plasters of a special shape, varying according to the particular joint involved. By this plan he feels sure that it is possible to control the effusion into the sheaths of the tendons and adjacent structures, to lessen the pain and to shorten the duration of treatment.

STRAWBERRY PIE.—Line a large pie-plate with good paste, prick it with a fork, and bake it brown in a quick oven; when done, fill immediately with strawberries, mixed with plenty of sugar; cover these with a meringue made by beating the whites of three eggs stiff with three tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar. Sift powdered sugar over the top, and bake until colored a delicate golden brown. It should be eaten as soon as fairly cool.

CAULIFLOWER WITH WHITE SAUCE.—Cut the stalk close and trim the green leaves from a nice white cauliflower. Tie in a piece of thin muslin, and cook in equal parts of boiling milk and water with a little salt. Boil until tender, but no longer, or it will go to pieces; from twenty minutes to half an hour. If allowed to stand long after cooking it will grow dark. Serve in a hot dish.

SOFT INDIAN-MEAL PUDDING.—To one quart of boiling sweet milk, add a sufficient quantity of cornmeal to make a stiff batter; add salt, and make sweet with molasses; butter a pan and pour the batter into it; then pour upon it one quart cold sweet milk; add a little butter, cut into small pieces, and bake slowly.

HNES' NESTS.—Take five small eggs, break a hole in the bottom of each, blow out the egg, fill with blanc mange; when cold, take off the shells; cut the rind of six lemons into strips; boil in water till tender, then preserve with sugar; fill a deep dish full of calves-foot jelly; when set, put the strips of lemon-peel on in form of nest, and lay the sham eggs in it.

WHITE SAUCE.—Melt half a tablespoonful of butter in a sauce-pan, and stir in an even tablespoon of flour; mix smooth, and when well cooked add a teacupful of hot milk; put in half a tablespoon more of butter, cut into pieces; season with salt, and let come to a boil, stirring meanwhile.

WARMED-UP POTATO.—Slice a quart of cold boiled potatoes and heat them in a cup of milk until it is all absorbed; turn them over in the milk while cooking, but be careful not to break the slices; season with salt, pepper, butter and a little sweet cream.

WHORTLEBERRY PUDDING.—Make a stiff batter of one pint milk and a pound and two ounces of flour, and add two quarts of berries stirred in; boil three hours in a bag. If blueberries are used, make stiffer.

MINCE PIE.—One beef's tongue, one pound suet, one pound currants, one and a fourth pounds raisins, one-half pound citron, eight large apples, one quart wine, one lemon—not rind, spices.

SQUASH PUDDING.—Nine tablespoons strained squash; one quart boiled milk, seven eggs, salt, three teaspoons wine, two of rose-water, peel and juice of lemon, sugar to taste; bake with under-crust of paste.

PRACTICAL PAPERS.

A recently-invented paper-bag-making machine receives at one end a roll of paper, cut to the proper width, and lays off at its other end completely-finished bags. The machine can be made to suit any width of paper and produce any size of bag within the limit of its highest capacity.

The favorite articles of commerce among the New York street boys just now seem to be colored paper lamp-shades, made of tissue paper, usually of pink or blue, to go over lamp chimneys, gas jets or chandeliers. As one strolls along the avenue now of an evening the open drawing-room windows are suggestive of theatricals and colored fire.

Japanese paper air-cushions are curious and serviceable articles, and one of them will sustain without bursting a man weighing 160 pounds. The cushions, it is said, are waterproof and make good life-preservers. For pillows they are superior to rubber, because they will not stick together and will emit no odor. When not in use they may be rolled up in small packages.

The pachymeter, an instrument lately patented in Vienna, accurately determines the thickness of paper to the one-thousandth part of an inch. Another Austrian invention is the dasymeter, a small pendulum which indicates in pounds just the amount of force which is necessary to break a strip of paper stretched between two points by means of a screw, until it can no longer bear the tension.

A material called parchment slate, manufactured in Nuremburg, Germany, readily takes the mark of a lead-pencil, and is being largely substituted for paper in note and account books, etc. It is much lighter than the mineral slate, and possesses the further advantage that it will not break—being tough and unbending. Writing, upon this substance, can be as easily erased and cleaned off as from a slate itself.

The company that has been experimenting in Florida with palmetto for paper-making purposes has met with such gratifying success that they will erect about twenty paper mills in various sections of the State where palmetto trees grow in abundance, and where the transportation facilities are good. Some English paper manufacturers in Canada have been so influenced by the favorable reports concerning palmetto that they have sent an agent to Florida to ascertain what may be its intrinsic merits.

HOUSTON.—When Houston was President of the Republic the Congress of Texas took exception to his being in the habit of giving them his messages orally, and insisted he should write them out; that the habit was highly dictatorial and lacking respect. He agreed to conform to their wishes, and as the next day was the one set apart for the delivery of his "inaugural," he made his appearance in the hall of Congress with a roll of paper in his hand, tied with red tape and marked in large letters, "Inaugural." He addressed them with the roll in his hand, waving it gracefully that all might see it, and on concluding handed it with a bow to the clerk and started out of the chamber. On opening, it was found to be a roll of blank paper.

There have been a great many failures this year, and the rush to Europe is therefore correspondingly large.

THE QUIET HOUR.

THE "TANGLER'S" PARADISE OF CHARADES, ENIGMAS, ETC.

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