

FARM AND ORCHARD.

CARE REQUIRED TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF MANURE IN SUMMER.

Keeping Poultry in Towns—Points on Poultry-Raising—Incubators and Hens—Farm Notes.

Farmers can form no estimate of the loss of manure during the warm season, as the volatile matter, being invisible, gives no indication of its disappearance, except from the odor, which simply makes known the fact that decomposition is occurring in the heap. The object of heaping manure is not only a matter of economy of space, but also to reduce the manure to a fine condition, and to render it as available as possible as plant food; but the degree of decomposition of the manure depends largely on the temperature of the atmosphere, the amount of absorbent material in the heap, the composition of the food from which the manure was made and the amount of urine mixed with the solids.

MOISTURE IN THE HEAP.

Perfectly dry manure undergoes changes but slowly, and chemical process occurs more rapidly when moisture is present. Of the stable manures, the greater portion of the nitrogen is in the liquid, which requires but a slight elevation of temperature to hasten decomposition. When decomposition occurs, heat is generated, due to the motion of the atoms, and a great many changes and combinations take place, resulting in the formation of compounds that are soluble in water and which are in a proper condition to be taken up by plants, but those compounds may again be broken up to permit of other changes, during which process some of the soluble compounds enter into the composition of those that are insoluble, while others form compounds of all but seek an escape in some manner. The excessive heat that may be present in the manure heap on very warm days may cause the decomposition to be very brisk, and ammonia escapes rapidly. To prevent which cold water may be added to the heap, to cool the mass, or the heap may be spaded over and absorbents mixed with it. Moisture hastens chemical action, or retards it, according to its temperature, but more so when the moisture consists largely of nitrogen-matter, such as urine, which at all times induces decomposition.

ADVANTAGES OF ABSORBENTS.

Even solid manure requires care. If the solids are massed together and become very dry they will possess little value, but can be preserved by the addition of absorbents, which permit the mixture of both the liquids and solids in a manner to impart to the whole a greater value than is possessed by either singly, and no manure can be a complete fertilizer that does not contain all the substances required as plant food, hence absorbents add to the manure as well as preserve it.

KEEPING POULTRY IN TOWNS.

Farming World tells how one of its town-bred correspondents has eggs all the year round, as follows: "First, I take very good care of my hens; and, second, I don't go in for fancy, but for that mixture of all breeds called 'Barn-door.' When eggs are plentiful, I preserve them in a manner to insure that I could not boil them—but in butter and salt. To do this the egg must be laid in a sweet and clean nest, for the smallest spot on it would spoil it for preserving. I think good clean sand makes the cleanest nest for egg-laying.

White-washed laths hung on a barbed-wire fence will make it visible to stock, and guard against some of the dangers attending the use of barbed wire. The soil system instead of pasturage is another remedy against the dangers of barbed-wire fences.

A fifteen-mile journey is an average day's work for a horse. How far does the cow travel in poor pasture, nipping at the grass and sleeping here and there to get her daily ration? Then she is expected to pay for it through the milk-pail, says the Mirror and Farmer.

What folly it is in a farmer to buy ton after ton of artificial fertilizers and waste tons of manure in his barnyard by expending the use of barbed wire. The soil system instead of pasturage is another remedy against the dangers of barbed-wire fences.

Throughout France gardening is practically taught in the primary and elementary schools. There are about 28,000 of these schools, each of which has a garden attached to it, and is under the care of a master capable of imparting a knowledge of the first principles of horticulture.

The Country Gentleman says the Lawrence, a late autumn and early winter pear, of fine quality, but not equal to the best, is only partially perfect, but it has the good quality of coming milk-riper and is always fair, and the tree holds its foliage late in autumn until the fruit is well matured. It is a good market variety.

Veterinary surgeons state that the milk is the first thing affected when a cow becomes ill, and that the milk will show indications of coming milk-fever as long as a week before any outward sign can be discovered. A sore, or anything that may be liable to poison the blood, also poisons the milk at the same time.

It is no easier to keep poultry than to keep other stock, as labor and proper management are used to meet success. Less capital may be required in poultry, but it must be judiciously expended, or a loss can result as easily as from any other source. Experience is of more value than capital in poultry raising.

Do not try to make a specialty of wool on a small tract at the same time. The best mutton breeds are milk-ewes, and are bred for producing the choice grades of wool. The size of the sheep does not affect its production of wool. The heaviest fleeces come from the Merino, which is the smallest breed of sheep now known.

If farmers were as careful and systematic in the management of their herds as the breeders of pure breeds are with their cattle, much better results would be secured from ordinary stock. Even the best breeds will fail if not rightly managed, and all classes of stock can be made to produce to the best advantage.

Professor Fernald reports that a hill near a house, which was doing much damage to the lawn, was exterminated by making holes in the hill fifteen inches apart with a small stick and pouring two or three spoonfuls of bi-sulphate of carbon into each hole, after which the holes were closed up and the earth pressed down by stepping on it.

A German scientist states that when milk is first drawn from a healthy cow it contains no microbes, but after two hours exposure he estimated that 25,000 were in each egg, the other with single eyes, taken from parings. The potatoes and eyes were dropped ten inches apart in the rows and were tended throughout the summer exactly alike. The yield from the whole plot was equal to that from the whole plot, but in size and quality.—E. L. in New York Tribune.

It is cheaper to keep a family cow than to keep a herd proportionally with a herd there is more or less labor to be hired and paid for, while the labor required for one cow may not cost the expenditure of a dollar. Though the labor may be applied, yet it will be performed by some one else, and would perhaps not be otherwise employed. It is the cost in money—the outlay—that reduces the profits. All labor that can be applied, and which would otherwise be wasted, is so much made and saved. The

family cow will also consume many substances that would otherwise be thrown away. In a paper read before the Illinois State Horticultural Society occurred this statement: If you once let the earth dry on the roots of evergreens nothing will save them, and outside the roots the roots must not be allowed to dry if you want the tree to live. There is a resinous substance on the outside of the roots, and if the roots once become dry water can never penetrate that resinous covering, and the plant cannot die.

Laying hens require meat more especially in cold weather, when eggs are scarce. We would, however, prefer to give them all the skim-milk they will drink, this being a good substitute for meat, and in some respects more healthful. On the farm, fresh milk is usually plenty, there should be fresh milk provided for both young and old stock. You will see good results from such a course. Try it.

The presence of the peach-borer may be known by the appearance of gum, which should be scraped away. Clean the tree by sponging with water, first removing the gum from around the trunk a little. The next day the work of the borer may be known by the appearance of what seems like fine sawdust. Now run a knife-blade in after him, or a piece of sharp wire. If the borer is not watched it will soon destroy the tree.

It is claimed that if pear trees are occasionally sprayed with the Bordeaux mixture the blight can be prevented. If signs of blight appear, the blighted limb should be cut off below the blighted part, and the limb washed once a month or oftener with a solution of sulphate of copper. Though it is difficult to cure usually, the tree is badly affected, it is well to treat such cases, in order to assist in preventing the spread of the disease.

LATEST FASHION NOTES.

Narrow ribbons of fine quality are now used to finish the bodices of dresses at the back rather than the wide sash which has been so long favored.

Modistes returning from Paris say that low-throated collars of lace dresses are already in vogue, and that before the middle of next season they will be seen everywhere.

Beautiful white toilettes for summer receptions and dinners are made of the finest and richest of China and India silk scattered over with tiny white silk buds, leaves or rose sprays.

Black muskooks, plain and barred, and all thin black materials, have now hosts of admirers. Black embroidered lawns and swisses are come, we hear, and black with rainbow side borders.

Some elegant round hats laden with ostrich plumes have just made their appearance among importers of Parisian millinery. Hats thus trimmed have been worn at some fashionable weddings.

As many as three and five rows of tiny buttons are seen on bodices and they are also used plentifully on cuffs, collars and coat-tails. These coat-tail basques will be the thing for all fall suits.

Notwithstanding the lavish and magnificent array of dinner and evening trimmings mixed with silk cord or intermingled with gold, silver or jewel set jet garnitures are far too tempting to be passed over.

The July Topicaliter is the first number of the fourth volume. This pretty monthly, besides leading in typographical neatness, has made itself indispensable as the organ of the trade in all parts of the country.

The Tuscan hats this season are very large, but they are soft, light and most ingeniously woven. A pretty fawn-colored model has an open work band around the brim, which looks very much like passementerie.

The August Season contains its usual elegant display of midsummer costumes, including many of the prettiest for tennis, yachting, boating and the races, and likewise some new and suitable costumes for home, street and evening wear.

Among the imported dresses, not a few have the bodice cut to show the throat in walking or afternoon costumes, and can properly be worn in the street. A band of wide gimp often supplies the lack of a collar, this band lying upon the corsage and not standing upright in the usual military fashion.

No Sash for Her.

A great sullen-looking, heavy-jawed and brutal-appearing man six feet tall and weighing at least 200 pounds came into a Justice's office in company with a little bit of a thin, wan, pale and sad-eyed woman, who seemed to belong to that class of females who are "afraid to say 'boo' to a goose."

"We want to have a separation," said the man gloomily, while the frail little woman looked up with a mere suggestion of color showing in her thin cheeks.

"A separation?" said the Judge. "Do you mean a divorce?"

"I guess so," replied the man sullenly. "Me and her can't seem to get along no more."

"No, we can't judge" (the voice of the sorrowful little woman cut the air with a sound suggestive of the skillful cracking of a whip lash). "We don't get along at all, and I ain't afeard to say any nuther."

Here she let her don't want to do one solitary thing to help him to get on, and he had just enough of his sass, yesterday up an' tuk a hoop-ol-an' gin him one good truckin' down that I guess he won't forget right off, an' he's been talking 'separation' and 'divorcement' ever since, and Law knows 'I'll win' for either or both. The man don't walk the way with kin be sassy to me, no, he don't! Not much!—Detroit Free Press.

Too Much Wit.

There is something pathetic in the failure of the wit of a lifetime. Thomas Corwin never ceases to attribute to his reputation of being funny his inability to compass the highest honors. He felt, says Harper's Weekly, that his abilities and services entitled him to an honor which was the gift of the people. He rose to be Secretary of the Treasury in Fillmore's Cabinet, but that did not satisfy him. He died feeling that if he had not been so funny, if he had not indulged in his exquisite ridicule of the Michigan militia General who attacked General Harrison, he might have been President. Corwin was immeasurably greater than his reputation, and his fun all-most always helped out his serious argument.

For those interested and who want to know how a turtle digs her nest, a gentleman who witnessed the performance says that he saw the animal dig a hole in the "hen" digs the hole, something like a jug, using the hind flippers, first one and then the other, moving her body about so as to be able to get at the nest. If the sand is not too hard she will make a nest in from twenty-five to thirty minutes.

The use of electricity is offered to the lion tamer in the form of a light wand, with an insulating grip for the hand, connected by a flexible wire with a battery of which the power can be varied at will. An experiment with this form of applied science has been successfully made.

Old-fashioned people who do not quite understand what is meant by the "social storms" they read about so frequently are respectfully informed that they are the modern substitute for the old-fashioned thunder-storm.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

True importance of keeping the liver and kidneys in good condition cannot be over-estimated. Hood's Sarsaparilla is a great remedy for regulating and invigorating these organs.

CRETE.

THE ISLAND WHICH THE TURKS HAVE NEVER SUBDUED.

Two Thousand Years in Rebellion—The Descendants of Old Greek Pirates—Traits of the Population.

(From the St. Louis Globe Democrat.)

The present insurrection in Crete, which is likely to make much trouble for the Porte, if not for the leading powers of Europe, is but, in fact, a continuation or revival of former rebellions, for the time is not known when the Cretons were not either in open insurrection or secret conspiracy against the Governors of their island. It was first occupied by the Saracens, A. D. 823, and the Cretons were in constant mutiny until their island was retaken by the Greeks, eighty years afterward; then they rebelled against the Greeks, and were by them handed over to the Venetians. In 1364, a violent insurrection was begun against the Venetian Governor, and after several years of war attended with great bloodshed and much cruelty on both sides, the Cretons were subdued, and subdued so effectually that, although the Venetians ruled the island till 1645, no more is heard of Creton rebellion. The last named date the Turks came, landed in the northern ports and began the siege of Khania, which continued for twenty-four years, being the longest siege of modern times. During this siege over 200,000 lives were lost, but Khania finally overcame, and the whole of the northern part of the island was overrun by the Turkish forces. But the island was never completely subdued. Through the center runs a mountain chain from east to west, and the branches toward the south terminate in exceedingly rough precipices, rendering it almost impossible to land at any point on the south coast. The whole of the south coast of the island is, therefore, mountainous and almost impassable. The aborigines took refuge in the mountains, and in 1840, when Cretons were to this day their submission to the Porte being only in name.

When the Greeks rebelled in 1820 Crete also burst into a flame, and the Turkish garrison of the island, finding it impossible to make progress against the rebels, was placed in a desperate position. The Sultan applied to Mohammed Ali, the Pasha of Egypt, for assistance, and several regiments of Egyptians, trained to the barbarous warfare of the Sudan, were dispatched to Crete. At the island, except the mountainous districts, was speedily subdued, and in 1820, in return for the assistance rendered, Crete was ceded to Egypt. The administration of affairs by the Egyptian Government was so much worse than even that of Turkey, that the rebellion broke out, but the Ottoman Government, this time being at peace with the rest of the world, dispatched troops, subdued the rebellion, and took back the island in 1840. By a policy of conciliation, the Cretons were restored to their island, and the Cretons remained in a state of smoldering rage until 1859, when an insurrection broke out, which continued at intervals until 1866. The Christians demanded redress of their grievances, called a general assembly, which declared the independence of the island and pronounced the Turkish power at an end, and voted for a secession to Greece. All attempts at conciliation had failed, a Turkish army under the command of Mustafa Pasha was landed on the coast, and a war began, the annals of which were filled with tales of the most terrible barbarities perpetrated by both sides. Thousands of recruits poured in from Greece, and many heroic deeds were done. It was the Sultan's policy to divide the island, and he besieged by the Turks. The Greek and Creton defenders held it until the walls were crumbled by the Turkish artillery; the Turks attempted a storm and carried the fortifications by assault, but in the hot moment of their triumph the whole fort was filled with Turkish troops, one of the garrison blew up the magazine, and besiegers perished at one stroke, leaving nothing of the fortress but the rock on which it stood.

The Cretons, who were at the time in Prussia, Italy and Switzerland advised the Porte to give Crete to Greece. This advice was contemptuously rejected and the war continued, going against the Turks. Proposals were made for peace, and the Sultan, in order to offer terms to the insurrectionists, announced that he would not promise to be kept, but the war was renewed, with various fortunes, until finally, both sides being exhausted, self-government was granted to the Cretons in 1869.

The peace thus won lasted until the year 1877, when another great rebellion broke out, which was quelled only by a very significant hint from the Congress of Berlin that the Cretons had made trouble enough for themselves, and were to be kept quiet. The Creton insurrection subsided, but the Creton European intervention was lost, and the island was tolerably quiet until a few months ago, when war between the Cretons and their Turkish masters again broke out, and the hostilities now going on are as savage as ever.

The character of the population has much to do with the state of the island. The "Christians" are such mostly in name; the Turks, so-called, are really apostate Greeks, who, finding their position as Christians intolerable under a Mohammedan Government, have, to better their own condition, embraced Mohammedanism, and are thus known as the "Turkish element." Both classes are alike ignorant and prejudiced, and being of the same nationality, hate each other with a ferocity of bitterness which only a religious difference could engender. The Greek Christians despise the renegades, declaring in the language of a Creton that "they have exchanged a heavenly crown for an earthly one, and the renegades, in turn, hate those whom they left, and all the conditions exist for a permanent broil. Those of one side are as brutal and cruel as those of the other, and not much can be said to the credit of either. During the wars waged in the past by the Turks against the Cretons, neither side gave nor received quarter. In the southern part of the island are numerous caves, one of which, because of its many ramifications, is believed to have been the labyrinth of the Minotaur. In one of these, the cave of Melidoni on Mount Ida, some 300 Cretons took refuge from the Turks in the war of 1820. They believed their position impregnable, and as they were well supplied with food and the cave contained a natural spring, the Cretons refused to surrender. The Pasha in command sent an officer with a flag of truce to treat with them. They cut off the officer's head in sight of the Turkish camp. A storm was attempted, and repulsed. The Pasha sent a Creton woman to offer terms. They shot the woman and threw her body over the cliff. In despair of coming to any agreement with them and in revenge for the brutal treatment of the Turkish officer, the Turks brought to the spot a great quantity of hay and straw, set it on fire and smothered the whole community. Of course, the Cretons made reprisals, and the horrors of war were still more aggravated by the barbarities practiced on both sides.

These strifes have desolated one of the most fertile islands on the globe, for few regions are more favored by nature than the beautiful island of Crete. Situated at the entrance to the Archipelago, in the midst of the Mediterranean Sea, it enjoys climatic advantages found in few other places. Crete is 160 miles long; in its

greatest width a little over forty, and in its least a little less than six miles. The north side is indented with deep bays, presenting several fine harbors; but the south side presents a rock-bound, forbidding coast. So high are the mountains—some of them nearly 8,000 feet above the sea—that on the loftier peaks snow lies for three-quarters of a year, while the plains beneath, but slightly above sea level, enjoy a perpetual summer. In ancient times Crete was noted for its hundred cities, its cities, and its scores of little republican communities, and last, but not least, for the civil war that were almost constantly carried on by its population, for the Cretons were then as quarrelsome as they are now.

The islanders know something of their own history, and are proud of the historic associations connected with their country. Now, as ever, they are intent on a union with Greece, and the more so as Greece is a growing power, and likely at some time in the future to become a great power. The Greeks have not forgotten the glories of Philip and Alexander, and leading men among them hope that their country will inherit the heritage of the Ottoman Empire. The population of Crete is about 100,000, and is composed of little republican Christians or Turks, and about 10,000 are foreigners. The Turks, renegades and foreigners live in the towns, where at least they are measurably safe from violence by sudden insurrection, and the country villages are secured by the Creton militia.

While the island is fertile, less than one-fourth of the cultivatable land is tilled, and that not well, for there is no incentive to industry when it is insecure, and insecurity is the chronic state of Creton investment capital. The Turkish tax-gatherers are mercilessly severe in their collections, and the heaviness of taxation may be judged of from an incident related by a recent traveler: Close to Khania a Creton native farmer raised in the year 1850 150 bushels of wheat, but the amount seventy bushels were taken by the municipal tax-gatherer, twenty-five by the Pasha of the Villavet, and twenty by the officials of the Greek Church, leaving but thirty-five for the farmer. Nor is this an exaggerated case, for, as the Christians themselves expressed it, they are thankful when the Turks do not take all. Labor is hopeless under such taxation as this, but bad as is their condition, it is not improved by the fact that according to the rules of their church, nearly half the year is devoted to festivals and religious observances, and do not work any more of the other half than they feel obliged to, the amount of labor done is far from startling. Their industrial arts are such as do not require much manual labor. They raise fruits, dates, grapes, figs, almonds, pistachios, lemons, oranges and, above all, olives, from which they press by their rude appliances large quantities of oil for export. The wine is excellent and exported in large casks, borne along the streets by a dozen men. Of late years the manufacture of silk has been given to silk-raising, and eggs or cocoons are exported to Australia, Italy, Germany and France.

It is a remarkable fact that one of the leading exports from Crete is toilet soap, and there are factories for the manufacture of the soap, manufacturing over 700 tons a year. Visitors tell us that, although badly needed, but little of this soap is consumed in Crete. The Cretons cannot afford to use it, and since it is made of pure materials and of the best olive oil and perfumed with native aromatics, it is an excellent toilet soap, and is well known in the European trade.

The Cretons, however, do not take kindly to manufactures. Fruit-growing is their favorite occupation, for but little labor is needed to plant and cultivate vines, and less is required for gathering the crop, so they can give a large share of time to their favorite diversion, quarreling and fighting, at both of which they are very proficient. The bravest among them are the Spahibaks, strong, hardy men and beautiful women, the lineal descendants of the old Greek pirates. They are mountaineers, inhabiting the south and west of the island, who, never having been thoroughly conquered by the Turks, even when the Spahibaks were a nominal vassal obedience. Their country is highly favorable to the carrying on of guerrilla warfare; the mountains are of volcanic origin, and are broken by gorges and fearful chasms through which a body of men find it impossible to force a passage.

In this part of the island are to be seen the old Greek convents, situated at the tops of almost inaccessible mountains and rocks. They were built during the Venetian days, when the Cretons were as much opposed to the laws of the Venetians as they have since been to the Turks, and were so located that their inmates might be safe from bands of prowling marauders. Many of these convents are now deserted and in ruins, but in some the society has been kept up to the present day, and one, it is said, has an unbroken line of elected abbots since the fourth century. Their hospitality is genuine; they admit parties of travelers, do not turn ladies from their doors, will receive no pay for their ministrations, and the longer they stay the better pleased they are to have them. Every monastery is a cave or grotto. Some of these retreats of ancient hermits are pervaded with the odor of great sanctity. The most famous of these is the cave of the Holy Spirit, which, in the last few years of his darkened mind, never seeing the face of mortal, and venturing out only at night to lay contributions on the gardens and fruit trees of his neighbors. Being on one occasion mistaken for a robber he was shot by an arrow in the hands of an enraged householder, crawled to his den and died there on a stone couch, now an altar.

The austerity of life in these convents is something of which the Western world has little idea. The Greek monk must fast 245 days in the year, and on many of these fast days even fish is not allowed, while on others olive oil, eggs and milk are also forbidden. Notwithstanding the severity of this discipline, the monks are generally healthy and industrious. They do not require their visitors to conform to their own practices, but feed them with the best that is in the house.

Crete is of great interest to antiquarians, for in it may be found relics of every age, from an Egyptian obelisk to the present day. The field has been but little worked, for, from some reason, relic hunters have not until recently turned their attention to this quarter of the world. It is, nevertheless, very rich in antiquarian treasures. On the tops of almost inaccessible hills and mountains are the ruins of Pelagian towns, cyclopean in their structure. Near Khania, Rhetino, Candia and Suda are the ruins of later Greek towns, yielding statues, inscriptions, vases and coins in the abundance that there is a regular trade in them. On the shore are the remains of the walls of forts; in both town and country are Venetian palaces and fortifications, the country houses being really little castles, now occupied by Turkish and Creton land-owners as residences.

Many of the churches have pictures and sculptures of great interest, and indeed the whole island is so rich in matter of antiquarian interest that it seems remarkable that no thorough exploration has been made as yet. It is not, however, likely to be carefully examined until free from the Turks, for no explorer of mounds or digger of trenches can be sure that after he has made an important discovery his find will not be taken from him by the greedy Turkish officials. Therefore, it is to be hoped that the Cretons will be successful in their present rebellion, not only for the reason that the study or antiquity will be forwarded, but also that one of the most fortunately situated countries on the globe will be freed from the blasting influence of Mohammedanism.

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