SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL.

Cutting Tobacco.

You can tell by the appearance of the leaves when to cut. If your field generally shows leaves turning yellow, with reddish and brown spots, and the leaves break readily when bent, you can prepare for cutting. To cut on a damp and cloudy day makes it easy to handle plants, but if your tobacco is ripe and needs cutting do it on a warm, sunny day, too, but don't leave your plants to wilt in the field. There are different methods of cutting, some slitting the plant from the top to within a few inches of where it is to be cut off from the butt, others hack it off with a hatchet or any instrument they can find with the dullest edge possible, others use small strong meat saws, and others tobacco knives made specially for the purpose. It is regarded as the best to saw off or cut off with the tobacco knives without slitting down the stalk. Take hold of the plant near the top, bend back gently, and sever the stalk near the ground, then lift the plant gently, and leave down across the stump, being careful that the leaves are not doubled up, and none of them become torn. Careless cutting will spoil much of the previous labor, and in the case of cigar leaf spoil the most valuable wrapper leaves. Some of the most intelligent planters cut two rows at a time—that is, alternate from row to row. After the cutter a man follows with the laths or poles on which to hang tobacco. Some spear the plants—that is, they have a spear-head socketed to fit on the ends of the laths, driving the spear through the stalk near the end, putting about eight plants on a lath four feet six inches wide. Some few others, as in the New England States, tie the plants to the pole with a string, while others drive nails at measured distances on the laths and hang the stalks on the nails, alternating the stalks on the two sides of the lath, and this would seem the most effective and most economical way. When the plant is once hung there is no danger of its moving, and the nail puncture will not do damage by drying the sap of the stalk too suddenly, as may the slit from the spear head. Most planters now-a-days take the tobacco to the barns immediately after cutting, instead of scaffolding in the field temporarily, and many have wagons made specially to hold the laths so as not to inflict any damage to the leaves of the plant while being transferred to the barn. If possible, cut a whole field in the one day, or the succeeding day at the farthest, so as to have all advanced to the same degree in curing.—*Farmers' Home Journal.*

Preventing Spread of Swine Plague.

The Bureau of Animal Industry declares that the microbe of swine plague has very feeble powers of resistance to external agencies. It is killed by drying within twenty-four to forty-eight hours, and it is speedily destroyed in water. Its life in the soil is no doubt, very limited for these reasons. Moreover, it fails to multiply on vegetable substrata, like potato, and grows freely in most nutritive media. In these respects it differs very markedly from the hog cholera germ, which manifests a very decided resistance to the destructive agencies in water and soil.

It seems probable that infectious matter from swine plague is more directly conveyed from one animal to another than is the case with hog cholera virus. Direct contact of the sick with the healthy must be considered as one of the principal means of infection. The mucus from the lungs contains the disease germs in abundance, and forcible expiration by which particles of water, etc., are ejected from the nostrils to some distance may easily communicate the disease to another. The soil at the same time becomes infected from intestinal discharges, as with hog cholera, and it is therefore necessary to separate the well from the sick by removing them to uninfected grounds; but the infection of the soil and pens can not live for more than two weeks, and in a month such places may be considered safe.

The same remarks apply to both diseases as regards disinfection. This need not be so thorough in swine plague if the pen or grounds are left unused for a month, and if the healthy be kept away from the sick. At any rate, disinfection should always be practiced if possible. For this purpose lime is perhaps the best and cheapest.

There may be some difficulty in determining which disease has attacked a given herd, or whether both are not actually present. Very severe lung disease is now the only sign that is of any positive value in the direction of swine plague, unless it be bacteriological testimony, which is the safest, but not at hand under most circumstances. Where any doubt exists the disease should be treated as hog cholera, and all the rules for disinfection and isolation suggested in this and the preceding report for that disease should be followed out. In the disinfection lime should take the place of the mercuric chloride recommended in the report for 1886. Whether this disease can be prevented by inoculation requires more evidence than has been obtained thus far, and experiments to test the matter are now going on.—*National Stockman.*

Care of the Cotton Crop.

The cotton crop being somewhat backward this year plowing may and should be continued longer than usual. As the main object of cultivation during July was to encourage plant growth, or development of weed, so the object is now to promote the growth and maturity of the squares and young bolls. The plants are now, or should be, covered with abundant foliage, and the process of assimilation of the sap and the development of the embryo fruit will go on rapidly without much perceptible increase in the size of the plants. The same vegetative functions, however, are in full force, being only partially diverted from the formation of leaves and branches to the perfection of the fruit, and the same necessity exists, though in less degree, for keeping the surface soil in an open and porous condition. Cultivation should now, as a rule, be limited to one furrow of a wide plow or cultivator, run in each middle. In spite of all efforts to cultivate on a level, the stalks are now standing on the comb of a more or less elevated ridge or bed, and examination will show that this bed is full of the rootlets of the plants. It is not good practice to plunge a plow into the sides of the bed and tear it away to the depth of three or four inches, as will be the case where two furrows are put in. It is best to run but one furrow, right in the middle, having the implement so set or adjusted that it will cut to a uniform depth from side to side of not greater than one inch. Deep plowing must be avoided now, if not heretofore. It will be better not to plow the crops any more than to tear and mutilate the roots at this critical period. No point has been more definitely settled, by scientific experimenters as well as professional practical farmers, than that deep plowing in the later stages of the growth of any annual plant, is irretrievably ruinous. It will inevitably cause the plant to throw off the greater part of its forms and young fruit and to start into vigorous but belated growth. Taking the average of the middle line of the cotton belt, it may be assumed that all forms or squares that make their first appearance after the middle of August will be too late to mature into perfect bolls before a killing frost occurs; therefore all further increase in the size of the plants and the number of new squares after that date involves a useless waste of energy and should not be encouraged.—*Southern Cultivator.*

Hay and Ensilage.

Hay is the dry-cured grass—ensilage, canned grass, or other plants. Ensilage is to the dry-cured hay as canned fruits or vegetables are to the dried or evaporated. Ensilage is probably as much more palatable to cattle, compared with the dried grass, as the luscious canned fruit is more grateful to our own tastes than the sun-dried article. While it is not probable or desirable that we dispense altogether with dry-cured hay, it is very probable that ensilage will be largely used in the future. The process of preserving green forage in pits or air-tight compartments is so simple, so certain and so independent of the weather conditions that it will finally commend itself to all progressive, wide-awake farmers. As a rule the very plants that are most difficult to convert into sweet, sound hay by the ordinary process, are at the same time best adapted for ensilage. Corn plants, which can hardly be converted into an even indifferent hay, are of all plants the best for silo purposes. Pea-vines, potatoes vines, sorghum, etc., can be easily produced in unlimited quantities and are just the thing for the silo. Every farmer should have a pit, if for nothing more than to satisfy himself, by personal test, in regard to the value of the method.—*Southern Cultivator.*

Make Home Beautiful.

Who can have so beautiful a home as the farmer? Surrounded by trees, shrubs and flowers, and a beautiful green sod, the envy of his city friends, he ought to appreciate its beauty and aim to care for these surroundings as they need; and if the love of the beautiful is in his make-up, he will go on adding to its beauty from year to year, by setting out a tree here and a choice shrub there, and training a rose in some angle of the house or by the bay window, and a clematis or other flowering vine by the veranda; and adding an occasional choice grape vine to the garden, to say nothing of other fruits for ornament and use. Some new attractions should be added to the home every year. There are many days in the course of the year that may well be employed in improving the home.—*Cor. Southern Cultivator.*

HERE AND THERE.

—Around Dresden, Tenn., recent heavy rains ruined many tobacco crops on low lands.

—General Williams fears that the frost will get a good part of the tobacco crop in Montgomery County, Tenn., this season.

—It is claimed that wool washed after it has been clipped, and left for some time in its natural grease, combs better and makes more perfect cloth than if washed while on the sheep's body.

—F. H. Ayers, of Illinois, writes: "I have dehorned my cattle, milch cows and all. Will say that dehorning cows giving milk does not affect the flow any more than a cold rain. They may not give quite as much for one or two milkings, that is all."

—Before the close of the month, in some sections, the early cotton will be ready for picking. Arrangements should be made at once for harvesting the crop in the most expeditious manner and in the best condition. These suggestions are mere "hints to the wise."

—The fairs in Kentucky this year start off well. At Kirksville, Madison County, there was a good attendance and a fine display of stock, particularly horses. The fact is, this is "horse year" in Kentucky. When one of that gentry brings $50,000 we must all tip our hats.—*Farmers' Home Journal.*

—G. H. Harper, who has cured many hogs in the Tibbs neighborhood of cholera, does not use any thing but ordinary burdock. He boils it and then thickens it with wheat bran and gives it to the diseased hogs. He says the remedy has never been known to fail to cure.—*States Democrat.*

—The festive chinch bugs seem to do little damage south of the Ohio river, but from Crittenden County, Ky., there comes considerable complaint of their ravages in the corn crop. We occasionally hear of them in the Purchase counties. This insect belongs to the Northwest, and we hope he will not find Kentucky soil, or Kentucky crops adapted to his taste or wants.—*Farmers' Home Journal.*

USEFUL AND SUGGESTIVE.

—An excellent remedy for ringworm is borax. Wash with a solution three times a day and dust over them the fine, dry powder.

—As a dressing in the bath, two quarts of water with two ounces of glycerine, scented with rose, will impart a final freshness and delicacy to the skin.—*Scientific American.*

—Silk must never be ironed, as the heat takes all the life out of it, and makes it seem stringy and flabby; but if you wish to press out odd bits of silk and ribbon for fancy work, use an iron only moderately hot, and place two thicknesses of paper between that and the silk.

—Oatmeal Crackers.—Take three cups of the finest oatmeal, one tablespoonful of white sugar and a little salt. Wet it up with sweet cream and let it sit in a cool place an hour or two, then knead in fine flour enough to make a dough that can be rolled and cut. Roll thin, cut out and bake in a moderate oven about ten minutes.

—Before commencing the weekly cleaning of clothes place all of a kind in separate baskets or piles—the underclothes and bed linen together, also the towels and table linen, the flannels by themselves, and the colored clothes. The table linen should be examined and stains removed before putting into suds.

—To cure hiccoughs sit erect and inflate the lungs fully. Then, retaining the breath, bend forward slowly until the chest meets the knees. After slowly rising again to the erect position, slowly exhale the breath. Repeat this process a second time, and the nerves will be found to have received an excess of energy that will enable them to perform their natural functions.

—By using the following preparation for cleaning kid-gloves, ribbons and laces, these articles may be kept in the "pink of perfection" with little trouble. Two quarts of deodorized benzine, and two drams of sulphuric ether, two drams of chloroform and four drams of alcohol. Pour the fluid in a bowl and wash the articles as if in water, rinsing in a fresh supply.—*Harper's Bazar.*

—To clean paint that is not varnished put upon a plate some of the best whiting; having ready some clean warm water, and a piece of flannel, which dip into the water and squeeze nearly dry; then take as much whiting as will adhere to it, apply it to the paint, when a little rubbing will remove any dirt or grease; wash well off with water, and rub dry with a soft cloth. Paint thus cleaned looks equal to new.

—Lovers of onions will find that by boiling them in two waters and draining them much of the objectionable odor will be removed; add a little milk to the second water. Then put them into a stewpan and simmer for a few minutes in a sauce made as follows: Put butter the size of an egg into a saucepan, and when it bubbles stir in a scant half teacupful of flour and stir well till cooked; add two teacupfuls of thin cream, some salt and pepper, and stir over the fire till smooth.

—Macaroni with tomatoes is thus prepared: Turn half a pound of tomatoes into a saucepan, with a spoonful of stock or a bit of butter; let them cook until tender enough to pass through a coarse sieve or colander, then reheat, season nicely, adding a few drops of lemon juice or vinegar, and pour over a flat dish covered with nicely boiled macaroni, not the pipe; that answers when it is to be cut into short lengths. Cover the surface with grated cheese and bread crumbs, put a few bits of butter over, and brown it before the fire or in a sharp oven.

THE GRASS CROP.

How to Thicken Up Meadows so as to Secure the Best Results.

It is always an item to secure the largest possible yield from every crop. This is the case in the garden with fruit, small grain or cultivated crops as well as with the pastures and meadows. A good even stand of grass growing in a reasonably rich soil, will yield not only a much larger quantity, but under average conditions the quality will be much better.

After the crop is taken off is a good time, not only to enrich the soil, but also to drain where necessary and to thicken up the thin places.

Too much water standing during the winter is almost certain to kill out the grass or if moist and low the grass is liable to grow coarse; in very many instances draining will remedy.

Thin places can often be thickened up by harrowing thoroughly so as to even up the surface of the soil and then scatter seed over these places. This ought to be done reasonably early, especially if there is a sufficient amount of moisture to induce a good germination so that a good growth can be secured before cold weather sets in.

A little work spent in this way will often aid materially to increase the yield of grass, and is as much of an object to secure the best possible growth of grass as it is of any other crop in the farm. Grass both during the summer and winter is a cheap food provided fair crops be secured, but if good crops be secured it is just as important to have a good soil and a good even stand as it is with any other crop grown upon the farm and some pains are necessary to secure it.

Properly cared for a good meadow or pasture can be made to promise good crops for quite a number of years, but care must be taken to apply plenty of manure so that the fertility of the soil can be kept up and when from any cause the grass ever gets partially killed out care should be taken to reseed.

While as a rule rotation should be followed up with nearly all crops, in some localities it will pay to keep land in grass a long time, as long, in fact, as profitable crops can be secured. And in order to do this it will nearly always pay to take good care of them. After harvest is completed there is usually some spare time, a portion of which can very often be used to a good advantage in the meadows, securing as large a yield as possible.—*N. J. Shepherd, in Detroit Free Press.*

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

—All fallen young fruit should be collected and destroyed in some manner, as many insects will consequently be killed by so doing.

—Farmers who change their crops every time the market is low and go with the crowd into something new are almost sure to fail.

—It is a popular error to suppose that the appetite is always a correct guide as to quality and quantity of food needed.—*People's Health Journal.*

—If the fruit is likely to be at all crowded, the removal of a third or even a half of it will often result in a much larger and finer crop than if all had been allowed to remain, and the pecuniary returns will be correspondingly better.

—An excellent oil for anointing throats, chest, and noses when cold has been taken, and which will often break up a slight cold or render a hard one less severe, is made by dissolving camphor gum in sweet oil until the oil is strongly impregnated with the camphor. It should be warmed and rubbed in thoroughly with the hand.

—Lemon whey is made of milk and lemon. Put one cupful of sweet milk over the hot water bath. Take two tablespoonfuls of the lemon juice and when the milk is hot add the juice. Cook till it changes to curds and whey. Then strain through a piece of muslin or a very fine strainer, add one tablespoonful of sugar and set away to cool. The curd should not be served in any condition.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—Good judgment is needed in selecting draught horses for use or breeding, but a writer has truly said that the production of good horses is a business in which any man may engage, with the consciousness that he is doing a good work that will add to the wealth and general prosperity of the countryat large, and producing an article which requires no sharp practice to turn into honest money, and one which comes nearer having a fixed value than any other product of the farm.

—All cooks do not understand the different effects produced by hard and soft water in cooking meat and vegetables. Peas and beans cooked in hard water, containing lime or gypsum, will not boil tender, because these substances harden vegetable caseine. Many vegetables as onions, boil nearly tasteless in soft water, because all the flavor is boiled out. The addition of salt often checks this, as in the case of onions, causing the vegetables to retain the peculiar flavoring principles, besides such nutritious matter as might be lost in soft water.

THE CARE OF DOGS.

How These Faithful Household Pets Should Be Fed and Housed.

A dog is an animal of a most kindly and affectionate disposition, most amiable and friendly, full of fun and enjoyment, fond of his kind, but fonder far of mankind, and will neither fight the one nor bite the other without sufficient reason. Rather large as to liver, he requires a goodly amount of exercise, and has an idea that one hour's romping in the open air does more good than a gross of blue pills, even if you get them for nothing. A dog will work hard all day and think nothing of it, but he will thank you for a good bed at night. He is blessed with a ten-horse-power appetite, and this fact renders food of necessity to him. He is a teetotaller upon principle, but can no more go without water than a modern steam engine. That's what a dog is, only some people don't seem to know it.

I will now merely mention those things that are really necessary to keep a dog in health:

1. Food of good quality and in sufficient quantity. There are many mistakes made by the public in feeding their dogs, and dog owners would do well to remember that the more regularly they feed their dogs the better, and the food ought to be cleanly and freshly made every day.

Avoid giving a dog bones, butter, grease, fine bread, sugar or that abominable residue of abominations, greaves.

Small dogs may be fed from the carefully selected scraps from the table. Toy dogs, or lady's pets, on a mixture of boiled rice and cabbage, with a tiny scrap of meat in it. For the larger breeds there is nothing better than Spratt's patent; they are made so nicely and cleanly that armies would thrive on them. I always recommend those with twenty instead of ten per cent. meat, as I believe few dogs get sufficient flesh, which is really their natural food. A dog of the size of a retriever will want three or four a day, a mastiff six or seven; give one or two for breakfast, dry or soaked, just as the dog may seem to prefer it, and the rest in the afternoon. Vary this occasionally with boiled green and pot liquor, if not salt. Salt should be avoided, except in the case of old dogs, when a dust may be mixed with the food.

2. Water—A continual supply of pure water should be placed where the dog can reach it without spilling or scratching dirt in it, and the water should not only be changed daily, but the dish ought to be well rinsed out.

3. Exercise is most essential to the well-being of a dog. To witness the way he enjoys a good scamper would tell any one this. Without exercise the wheels of the poor animal's life seem to clog, bad humors are not excreted, dyspepsia comes on, he gets morose, dull, and sometimes even irritable and unhappy, liver troubles come on, then jaundice, and then death. A dog ought to have at least two hours' daily romping in the open air.

4. Cleanliness—The animal's body, his kennel or sleeping-place, and his dishes ought to be kept scrupulously clean and sweet, while his coat should be brushed daily, and the action of the skin promoted by the free use of a good tortoise-shell comb.

5. Housing—Dogs should never be left out at night, and the places where they sleep should be well ventilated without being draughty; the bed should not be too soft, but it must be dry and comfortable.—*Gordon Stables, M. D., in Medical Claims.*

Joy in Montenegro.

Princess Peter Karageorgevitch, daughter of the sovereign of Montenegro, gave birth to a child the other day. Prince Nicholas was so overjoyed at this that he fired a revolver from one of the windows of his castle (which is indeed a very modest one-storied building), whereupon his loyal subjects began also to fire, and this noisy and perhaps not altogether innocent loyal demonstration attained such proportions that at last the Prince had to send out his guards into the streets to stop it.

Literary Free-Masons.

There is in London a Masonic lodge membership to which is limited to men possessing either literary or artistic qualification. It is called the lodge of the Quartuor Coronati, and Sir Charles Warren was president and Walter Besant treasurer from its foundation in 1884 until recently, when Sir Charles was compelled by the constitution to retire. He was presented on his retirement with thirty books, all written by members of the lodge.

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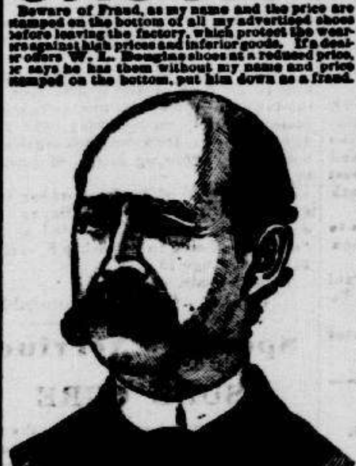

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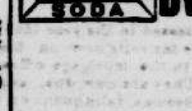

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