

COMMERCIAL PICKINGS.

The treasury department has decided that the appraised value of goods in the value of the goods in the foreign port of exportation at the time of shipment.

Over 100,000 tons of iron ore is to be made available as far as Birmingham. As a canal will be inadequate, important changes must be made in the river bed.

It is estimated that thirty per cent. of the iron manufactured by Tennessee is sold outside of the southern states. It is said to be the favorite iron with pipe, plow and stovemakers in the east and north.

On a canal at Frankfurt, Germany, reports that the best sugar product of all European countries this year is estimated at 3,015,000 tons, against 4,780,000 tons for the previous year, which was an abnormal year.

San Jose, Cal., shipped more fruit during the third week of last September than in any other week on record. The total was 4,639,300 pounds.

QUEER ROYAL PERSONAGES.

QUEEN AMELIE of Portugal is studying medicine. SIRD MUSTAPHA, eldest son of the bey of Tunis, died recently of diabetes at the age of fifty-nine.

LORENSKA is reported to be alive, this time by Father Andre, a Catholic missionary at Bonoma, on the Zambesi, who says that the Matabeli king is with some thousands of his people in the Matabeli country near the Kafue River.

LILOUOKALANI, the deposed queen of Hawaii, had a good many curious characteristics, one of the most pronounced of which was a perfect passion for the collection of rope knots made by sailors of different nationalities who visited her domain.

SULTAN MOHAMMED AGHA KHAN of Poona is indignant with the earl of Dunmore for maligning his grandfather. In a book on the Pamirs the earl says he granted free passes to Heaven by letters addressed to "My Brother Gabriel." This, the sultan says, is not true, yet the earl persistently refuses to suppress the statement.

ROD AND GUN.

YORK county (Me.) farmers are telling of a snow-white deer that has been seen in that region several times of late. An eighty-year-old fisherman of Amesbury, Mass., caught a lobster four feet long and weighing twenty-five pounds at Salisbury Beach a few days ago.

BLACK bears are reported to be much more numerous than usual in the Blue Swamp region this fall. They are doing much damage among the crops and stock on farms thereabout.

ENGLISH ideas of sport: "Her majesty's buckhounds are expected to commence their hunting early in October. The red deer intended for sport with the royal hunt will be captured in Windsor park about the end of the present month."

ETOPS Undertaken for Health's sake Will be rendered more beneficial, and the fatigues of travel counteracted, if the voyager will take a course of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

HEARD—"I wonder why Mrs. Longstone dismissed her old family physician and called in Dr. Brown. I don't know. Dr. Brown advised her to take a two-mile walk every day, and keep her lips tightly closed."—Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegram.

THE same of politeness was reached by a mining superintendent who posted a placard reading: "Please do not tumble down the shaft."—Tit-Bits.

HE'S CATARH'S Cure Is taken Internally. Price 50c. Brown—"Our candidate says the salary of the office is no objection." Jones—"I suppose he has his eye on the perquisites."—Brooklyn Life.

VANAS sweetens toll, however rude the sound.—Gifford.

Your Happiness

Depends upon a healthy body and a contented mind.

Your Health

Is seriously in danger unless your blood is rich, red and pure.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier Prominently in the Public Eye.

Hood's Pills cure all liver ills, biliousness, headaches, etc.

Mother Goose

A lively little child's book containing ten beautiful lithographic pictures in color, black and white drawings and lots of snappy jingles.

Sent Free to any mother who will forward a two cent stamp and her name and address to Richardson & DeLong Bros., Philadelphia.

FARMER AND PLANTER.

FARM HOMES.

Value of Sanitary Surroundings to the Health of the Family. The value of health to the family, the community and the nation has come to be understood and appreciated as it never was before.

Public sanitation has made great progress, and while efforts have been confined more largely to cities, boroughs and large towns, it has been gradually extended in its influence until it has reached the rural districts and farm homes.

Sanitary administration, whether in a rural or urban community, deals with the highest interests of humanity in the social state; it aims to provide a safeguard to every individual, protect from the perils of disease, promote public prosperity and happiness.

There is nothing so disastrous to the public welfare, nothing so productive of personal misery and suffering, as disease and death. The prevention of disease is far better than its cure, since by that means is eliminated those factors, suffering and misery which have been determined by a proper observance of the laws of sanitation.

It has heretofore been accepted as a matter of fact that about so many persons must die of such diseases as diphtheria, typhoid and scarlet fever, but now it is understood that these diseases can be very largely limited by taking proper care in the disposal and destruction of the waste material of the sick.

There are germs in the air, germs in the soil, germs in the water, germs in the food, germs in the clothing, germs in the furniture, germs in the house, germs in the street, germs in the farm.

It is these germs that are the cause of that class of disease called zymotic, or infectious. It is the infectious diseases that are the death-producers in the world.

Disease germs take their habitation in filth, which is a reason why in the low, filthy portions of cities, and in those dwellings where living beings are crowded together like bees in a hive, infectious diseases take their hold, and frequently cause an extremely large death-rate.

There are also certain classes of diseases that are induced by fungi, or mold, the very lowest form of vegetable life, which is contained by spores and germs in the air, in the soil, in the water, in the food, in the clothing, in the furniture, in the house, in the street, in the farm.

The atmosphere is an agency in the production of disease; it is believed that the country possesses the great advantage of pure air, green fields and sparkling waters, but these blessings can be and often are neutralized by the contamination of green manure, dirt, the air of a home in the country, or a farm home, may be rendered a very hotbed of disease by confinement, the unsanitary condition of cellars, drainage, sources of water supply and surrounding conditions.

Twenty years ago the state board of health of Massachusetts made a searching and thorough examination into the condition of health and causes of sickness in farmers' families of that state, and derived the following conclusions: "As regards longevity, they are second to no class or community."

"Farmers' wives are not as long-lived as their husbands." "The chief causes of sickness are: "First, overwork and exposure, the women being more frequently overworked than the men."

"Second, improper and improperly cooked food." "Third, the location of dwellings, their houses, especially in reference to drains, privies, cellars and proximity to barn-yards and hog-pens."

"Fourth, want of cleanliness about their houses, especially in reference to drains, privies, cellars and proximity to barn-yards and hog-pens." "Fifth, impure drinking-water, largely due to the preceding cause."

"Sixth, bed-rooms improperly ventilated, and on the ground floor, with the too general use of feather-beds." "Seventh, insufficient recreation."

What is true of farmers in Massachusetts may be supposed to be true of farmers of Connecticut and other states, although great changes have been made in both states since the report referred to was made. If, then, as has been shown, filth, the lodging-places of disease germs, is permitted to exist in or about the farm homes, the sanitary conditions are imperfect, and steps should be taken to remedy them.

Bacteria are also agencies of disease, and find lodgment under filthy conditions. Sanitation demands that every precaution should be taken in the cases of infectious diseases, that the spread of disease germs be prevented. Take even a case of tuberculosis, or consumption, and it is fully possible that if the matter expectorated is not disposed of by being ejected into water and then buried, but, as is sometimes the case, be ejected upon the floor, even in minute quantities, it contains the germs of the disease which when dried and disintegrated may be taken up by the atmosphere, and floating therein find lodgment, by inhalation, in the passages of the lungs, and thus generate a new case of the disease.

Sanitation has advanced far beyond the mere apprehension of these germs, nuisances which conspicuously offend the senses; and the deadly miasmas, typhoid fever, cholera, consumption, etc., do no longer threaten the presence of their victims by appreciable signals until they have succeeded in passing the guards and gaining possession of the citadel. They do not herald their approach by any impression on the senses, do not announce their presence by any odor, taste or touch, but they silently enter, trench their selves in the vitals, and begin their fatal work before the consciousness of their presence.

Cleanliness is the foundation upon which the structure of health is to be erected, and which has wiped away many fearful scourges. So unless farm homes are cleaned in every respect, and well-ventilated drains properly constructed and all sources of filth attended to, the sanitary condition is not what it should be, and in the case of infectious diseases, unless proper means of disinfection are employed, the germs of disease will still lurk about the house, and may be transmitted to other individuals and communities.

Two things should be exercised at all farm homes, that as nearly perfect sanitary conditions as possible may be secured.—Wm. H. Yeoman, in Farm and Fireside.

The most marked increase of value in this country has been in the land.

WOOL AND MUTTON.

An Interesting Matter for Consideration.

I have read again and again, with unabated interest, the letter of R. M. Bell in your September 15 issue. No one can write with more authority on the sheep. The high commission he so ably filled a few years ago, of investigating the sheep business in the south, under the auspices of the department of the United States, gave him an incomparable opportunity to know the sheep situation in the south, and to know the possibilities; while his thorough acquaintance with the northern side of sheep raising gives him opportunities to draw comparisons, and institute forecasts beyond any expert of our day.

Mr. Bell is thoroughly satisfied with Mr. Bell's prognostication that in some day, ere long, we shall have a new sheep with best mutton and wool qualities. If Mr. Bell could be induced to move south and go into the sheep business, he should soon be in the type.

There could hardly be devised a better scheme of legitimate money-making and a more beneficent innovation than for a syndicate to buy a large tract of land south, where there is a goodly amount of herbage, clear, natural streams, and dry "fence" for the sheep, and put Mr. Bell in charge of it. I designate no area, although I know several most eligible ones. Only let one go far enough south for fields ever green, and not too far so that railroad rates should not be too much to impair the profits of early lamb and mutton.

Already the gulf coast, between New Orleans and Mobile, Ala., has won for its wool a most enviable reputation, the famous "Lake" wools, practically a natural production, again, Col. Mark Cockerill took the premium for wool at the first World's fair, in London, from sheep raised in Madison county, Miss., at a much later date. Mr. Scott (if I am right in my recollection) exhibited wool in Boston finer than any that had ever been imported there, which had been clipped from his sheep in Kentucky, from a breed known as the "Kentucky" wools. More need be said on the score of wool, so far as the capability of the country to produce it is concerned.

And I have no trouble to explain the peculiar merits of the "Lake" wool, in the fact of a cross of the Spanish Merinos (introduced away back through Spanish administration) with the native sheep. That produced a type blending extreme fineness and softness of wool and retaining the healthfulness. Never feeding on grain, but succulent, nutritious herbage the year round, there seems to be a wool of evenness of quality, so differentiated from a change of feed from grain to grass, and vice versa.

A word as to quality of southern mutton, and I will let one instance suffice, since all practical sheepmen will deem it conclusive: About 1874, Col. Tom Dabney, of Hinds county, Miss., told me that Gen. John Breckinridge, who had been his guest, told him that his mutton was quite the equal of any he had eaten in Kentucky. Col. Dabney's mutton was either from thoroughbred or grade southern sheep of which now, after such a lapse of time, bred and raised on his plantation in Mississippi. So much for the quality of southern wool and mutton.—M. K. Hilliard, in Farm and Fireside.

Economy of Time. Economy of time should be a farmer's constant study. How many of you readers know how to manage fall work to good advantage? Anybody can mow and plow a field of oat stubble, but how many can do so and manage to plow their corn stubble in the fall? Yet by that means the green stubbles will rot better and cover the soil, and leave them to dry and harden all winter; the same with the green weeds and their seeds—they make that much fertilizer instead of the usual annoyance.

The best means to that end is to use a corn cutter and shoveler. These machines mean a man and team, with a boy to drive, can cut and shoveler six to ten acres per day, leaving stubble of a hundred or more hills in compact rows one way across the field. This does not mean the corn stubble, but the corn cut and shoveler, which is to be measured and plowed before the corn crop really leaves the field, giving employment to teams that are usually idle at this season. It also leaves the corn crop in compact form to hulk and draw off these matters. I believe to be of great importance and not generally understood in all sections reached by your journal. Any hint that will help the farmer will help the world's best friend as he is helped and encouraged, will all the rest get a benefit.—F. W. Barr, in Farm and Fireside.

HERE AND THERE.—You can never get rid of weeds if you permit them to ripen their seeds. A lick with the hoe in time saves nine or ten weeks from disfiguring the field.

It is to the advantage of farmers and hog raisers to encourage the demand for lean meat, as it is not only better food for man, but it is more cheaply produced.

No self-respecting farmer should keep a damnable cock under any circumstances. When this folly is perpetrated it simply shows that a certain class of people are not all dead yet.

Chickens that have ample range, and of breeds that fully enjoy such enlarged liberty, are the most profitable, because they get a large amount of free lunch, and keep healthy and strong by rustling.

Sheep are great weed destroyers, but they should not be kept solely for that purpose. When kept for wool or mutton, or both, a goodly amount of suitable food is needed, or failure results.

Turkeys are at their best about the Christmas holidays. During spring and summer their flesh is not so good. Any time during winter they are, if fed as they should be, the king of dinner dishes.

European countries are buying largely of American horses for military service. Here is a point for the horse raiser; find out what kind of horses these military monstrosities want and produce them.

Those who have not already provided comfortable winter quarters for fowls should do so immediately, or sell out and quit the business. A man has no right to keep fowls in a constant state of warfare with the elements, and if he does he deserves to suffer from an egg famine.

It is a remarkable fact, but one the less true, that the successful farmers are readers of agricultural papers and agricultural literature of all kinds. They make a study of their business, and by keeping posted on what is being done in the farming line are always able to take advantage of improved methods.

Alfalfa should never be planted in an orchard. The roots go deep down into the subsoil and force where the roots of the trees already have sole way. The roots of alfalfa plants for below those of the tree, eating of their supplies, and weakening or totally destroying them.

BUILDING AND SCIENCE.

REMODELING A HOUSE.

One instance in which the Operation Proved Satisfactory. Advice to people about to remodel old houses: Don't. Generally speaking, the cost of remodeling and thoroughly improving an old house equals, if it does not exceed, the cost of building a new one of superior accommodations and better appearance. Labor is the largest item of expense. In remodeling much of the labor is expended in tearing down before the work of building up commences.

For the sake of "old associations" is not a good reason for remodeling, because "old associations" features are usually destroyed. When the heights of stories must be changed the waste of material is so great that the purpose of remodeling should be dismissed at once.

Where practicable, the most satisfactory disposition of the old house is to build a new house in front of it, using the old house as a rear extension, and the old house as a rear extension. Inexpensive changes of its exterior will sufficiently assimilate the styles of the old and the new.

But there are plenty of exceptions to the general advice given above. One is when the owner has a colonial house of good design he may be advised to repair and enlarge it, improving the interior with modern plumbing and conveniences, even changing some of the exterior and interior ornamental features, always being careful to preserve the original spirit or style of the old house.

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THE HUMAN HAND.

It Grows Old in Forty Years and Loses Power of the Coarse.

The actual amount of dexterity in the human hand has been measured with more or less accuracy, and its value in mechanical employments traced from youth to age. How the hand grows old, gradually losing its skill, has been described by Sir James Crichton Broome, the British labor student, who has made a long course of investigations in an English rural town. The high period of skill and endurance, this authority says, is from 30 to 40, the hand after that beginning to lose its muscular delicacy and its suppleness.

Between the ages of 17 and 18 the hand of a boy grows into the hand of a man and first becomes valuable from a commercial point of view. If a workman is temperate and industrious and continues to improve in his trade his hand's dexterity increases until he is 30.

After 40 the muscles do not respond nearly so readily and certainly to the orders of the brain, and the quality and quantity of the work done begin to fall off. What a man's especially fine health, and one especially dexterous can often keep up his degree of skill long past the age of 40, such a man is an exception. This comparatively early aging of the hand is an interesting and remarkable fact as it is after 40, as a rule, that a carefully used brain becomes the most valuable. Practically, no British statesman of the highest rank are over 40; most of them are above 50, and often 70 years of age.

On the other hand, the highest paid workmen, with hardly an exception, are under the age of 50 years. The scale of wages in the button trade, for example, is a good indication of the tenacity of the hand to grow old so early in life. At his very best, in his prime, a skillful button maker can make 6,340 ivory buttons a day on his lathe. For this he receives 45 shillings a week, or about \$11.25. At 43 years of age he can only make 2,000 buttons a week, or \$0.50. When the workman is 45 years of age he can seldom make more than 30 shillings, or about \$7.50, this providing that he still carries on his trade.

Of course, this is only the case in the trades where one hand is used continually and systematically. A Sheffield knife forger, for instance, strikes something like 38,000 blows with his hammer daily. An enormous amount of muscular and nervous force is required for this, and it is no wonder that the strain on the nerve centers and the muscles becomes visible in a few years. In farming or the sea-faring life, or some other occupation in which the energy is more equally distributed over the entire body, the hand does not lose its cunning so early. Oftentimes it retains its skill until the faculties generally commence to give way.

It is the sedentary occupations that tell, and the only remedy for it is such exercise as will divert the nerve current from the already overtaxed hands.—N. Y. World.

HOW WE GO TO SLEEP. The Secret Drop Into the Arms of Morpheus One by One. Now physicians and physiologists come to the front with the astounding statement that a man goes to sleep peacefully instead of altogether and simultaneously, as it were. That is, the senses do not all themselves untriedly and at once into a state of slumber, but cease to receive impressions gradually, one after the other. At first the sight ceases, and next the sense of taste loses its susceptibility to outward impression.

Even then, the individual being almost in a state of unconsciousness, three senses still remain in a condition of activity—smell, hearing and touch. It is the sedentary occupations that tell, and the only remedy for it is such exercise as will divert the nerve current from the already overtaxed hands.—N. Y. World.

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HEADWEAR NOTES.

The Spanish broad-brimmed hat has not changed either in style or material for over three hundred years.

The old-fashioned bowler hat was made with a body of rabbit's fur, the outside nap being of beaver. The white stove-pipe often worn in this country in summer is made of felt with a small beaking. Best specimens of medieval helmets, at least eleven pounds in weight, are preserved in the European museums.

The first hatmakers in France are mentioned during the reign of Charles VI, who ruled from 1380 to 1405. The cardinal's red hat is emblematic of his readiness to shed his blood in defense of the church and its doctrines.

When King Canute ordered the waves to roll back, he thought he was talking to a surfer.—Texas Sittings.

Don't's COURT.—He—"I thought you saw the play before?" She—"Oh, I was with a theater party that time."—Puck.

Love is the most beautiful form of egotism, egotism the ugliest form of love.—Florence Blaxter.

"Here," said the tailor, as he invented himself with a coat of his own making, "I have a new suit for you."—Indianapolis Journal.

FRIEND—"Your son, I understand, has literary aspirations. Does he write for money?" Father (holily)—"Occasionally."—Fleegle Blaxter.

Under modern conditions a diplomacy without an army is very much like a bluff on a hot-bath bath.—Detroit News.

By satire kept in awe, they shrink from ridicule, though not from law.—Byron.

YANK—"That man Wheeler keeps horsing about, he no?" Crimshaw—"Horse, my share of the horse keep him. He's in the very business."—Yonkers Statesman.

HAIL, social life! Into thy pleasing bonds I come to pay the common stock, my share of service, and in glad return, to taste thy comforts, thy protected joys.—Thomson.

WIFE—"I don't believe I can ever wear my sealine cloak as it is now." Husband—"Why don't you have it made over into a bicycle sweater for winter use?"—N. Y. Herald.

"I wish I were a little sea." Who knows of joy so best. Since it, through nature's favor, is born with a wave within its breast.—Washington Star.

KNOWLEDGE. Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment when rightly used. The many, who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embraced in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its possessing in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectively cleaning the system,