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The ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN is designed to be, as the name indicates, a husbandman in every sense of the term, embracing in its columns every department of Agriculture, Stock-raising, Horticulture, Social and Domestic Economy.

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AGRICULTURAL.

THE PLEASURES OF FARMING.

It is a pleasure to an intelligent man to be the owner of a good farm and to carry on the business of farming, if done properly. No other pursuit is so well adapted to afford health and happiness. To have sweet milk and fresh butter and eggs, and vegetables and fruits from one's own garden and orchard, and poultry, mutton and bacon of one's own raising, to live upon—is very agreeable. To see the pigs, lambs, calves and colts increasing, the crops growing, the stock improving in value, the fruit trees bearing their scarlet and golden harvests, and everything prospering as it generally will under wise management—affords any good man pleasure.

But the farmer, to enjoy pleasure, must manage his business well. He must plan wisely and execute promptly. He must be a sort of military man in this respect. He must lay the plan of his campaign, at this season of the year, and carry it out as thoroughly as possible. To enjoy farming, one wants the best of everything—the best cattle, horses, sheep and swine, and fruits and crops. He should be ambitious to have the best, and should strive for it constantly. His crops should be put in in the best manner. He should have the neatest and best kept meadows and pastures, the finest orchards and gardens, and neat farm buildings, and everything should show an air of tidiness and order dictated by an intelligent mind.

It is not necessary to have expensive buildings. Any, however cheap, if put in the proper places, surrounded by neat fences, and the grounds adorned by shade and forest trees—will look well. The passer-by will be pleased at the outlook. He will see there the evidences of a happy home. The house sits back a few rods from the road, on a little knoll, so the water drains easily from it. Shrubby and shade trees are planted in the yard. To the right or left of the house, and a little back of it, the barns and stables are built with some system. The garden and orchard are convenient to the house, and everything is arranged in order. The farmer has taken pleasure in forming his plans, and now takes pleasure in seeing how neatly everything looks. His wife and sons and daughters and neighbors feel the influence of these admirable arrangements. It has cost no more, or but little more, than to put up everything in a slipshod, haphazard manner. It would sell for two or three times as much. But homes should never be sold. They are sacred places. They should be made for one's children, and children's children. How dear are all of the associations of our childhood days! Why break them? Why let strangers intrude and desecrate places that are the holiest on earth?

If farmers would exercise this care and foresight and taste, in making their farms and homes attractive, there would be a stronger love for country life. There is too much inclination among the young people of the city, and yearly our cities are increas-

ing in population and influence, at the expense of the country.

Could parents see what we are compelled to see almost daily as we go from our country home to our office in the city, they would spare no labor to endear farm life to their sons and daughters. Could they see the debauchery, open and notorious, incident to all cities, they would shudder. Could they see the young men, yes, and young women, too, that parade city streets, bearing every evidence of vice and intemperance and degradation, that a few weeks or months or years ago came fresh and pure from country homes, and then consider that such perhaps may be the fate of their own kith and kin, if country life is not made more attractive—would they not say it is our highest duty to attach our children to farm life, to favor innocent amusements, to patronize good books and papers and libraries, to help elevate the tone of society, to carefully consider the tastes and wishes of young people, and to give them proper direction, so that the dangerous period of youth may be passed in safety, and the rocks which have shattered the barks of tens of thousands of generous youth, may be avoided in the voyage of life which all must travel.—*Rural World*.

A NEW WAY TO KILL GRASSHOPPERS.

On Saturday last we were visited by Mr. Ferdinand Reimann, a farmer of German birth, living in the town of Butternut Valley, who imparted to us a new, cheap, and we believe effective means of killing grasshoppers, which though too late to be included in the report of the grasshopper commissioners, is still of sufficient importance to be entitled to the widest publicity.

It is well known that the ordinary coal oil is one of the surest means of killing grasshoppers, and during the payment of the bounty in this country it was used quite extensively to kill the insects before marketing them. And coal oil is the chief of Mr. Reimann's plan for killing the grasshoppers. He says that the smallest particle that will adhere to one's finger, if touched upon the body of an insect will cause almost instant death. He takes a piece of cotton cloth a yard wide, and about twenty feet long. One side he fastens to a rope, the ends of which extend over the cloth a foot or two. To the bottom of the cloth he fastens, say one foot apart, lead sinkers, of sufficient weight to keep the cloth firmly stretched. The cloth is then soaked in coal oil until thoroughly saturated, and with a man at each end this apparatus is slowly dragged over the ground occupied by the insects. Every grasshopper touched by the oil is instantly killed. The cloth is soaked from time to time, as one's judgment dictates. Mr. Reimann says the first soaking consumes a good deal of oil, but afterwards much less is required and he estimates that one and a half to two gallons is all that is necessary to kill the grasshoppers on eighty acres. The process is to be applied as soon after hatching as possible, when the grain is small. Where it touches the grass or weeds more or less oil adheres, and this kills such insects as come in contact with it.

This process is very much preferable to that of dragging a burning rope saturated with oil over the grain, for it does comparatively little damage to vegetation, while this is the chief objection with us to the other process.

Mr. Reimann tried the method last spring, and it worked to his complete satisfaction, destroying the grasshoppers upon his premises, and what injuries sustained by his crops were traceable to insects that came upon him from other localities.—*Mankato Review*.

There is much uneasiness in many sections lest the warm weather should prove fatal to the fruit crop.

They are using corn for fuel in some parts of Kansas.

EFFECT OF CAMPHOR ON SEEDS.

Certain curious and all but forgotten experiences of much interest to agriculture and gardening have been lately revived by a German savant. Very many years ago it was discovered and recorded that water saturated with camphor had a remarkable influence on the germination of seeds. As of many other useful hints, the stupid world took no notice of this intimation; but a Berlin professor, having seen the record of it, appears to have established the facts that a solution of camphor stimulates vegetables as alcohol does animals. He took seeds of various sorts, some being three or four years old, and possessing a slight degree of vitality, and placed them between sheets of blotting paper. Some of these he wetted with pure water, and others with camphorated water. In many cases the seeds did not swell at all under the influence of the simple moisture, but in every case they germinated where they were subjected to the camphor solution. The experiment was extended to different kinds of garden seeds, old and new, and always with the result of showing a singular awakening of dormant vitalism and a wonderful quickening of growth. It also appears from the professor's researches that the young plants thus stimulated continued to increase with a vigor and vivacity much beyond that of those which were not so treated. On the other hand, when pounded camphor was mixed with the soil, it appeared to exercise a rather bad effect upon the seeds. The dose in this latter case was possibly too strong. At all events, this action of camphor is worthy of an examination by seedsmen and gardeners, and even farmers might determine how far wheat and barley may be profited by the strange power this drug appears to possess over the latent life of vegetable germs.—*Horticulturist*.

FLORICULTURE.

HARDY PLANTS.

We use this term with reservation, inasmuch as the capabilities of endurance possessed by many novelties cannot at first be ascertained, and we may include also some subjects which are known to endure but a slight degree of cold. Under this head we place what we regard as the grand acquisition of 1875—the splendid hybrid *Lilium Parkmanni*. The immense size and rich color of this lily place it far above ever the magnificent *L. auratum*, which was one of its parents. Other bulbous hardy plants of merit are the *Tulipa Eichleri*, from Georgia, with bright crimson flowers, and intermediate in character between *T. suaveolens* and *T. oculis solis*; *Galanthus Elwesii*, a snow-drop of Asia Minor, related to *G. plicatus*; and *Crocus Crœwei* and *C. veluchensis*, both Grecian, both spring-flowering—the former allied to *C. biflorus*, and having white flowers with purple stripes, and the latter varying in color from purple to pale violet and white.

Amongst hardy perennials *Cypripedium japonicum* perhaps deserves the first mention, not only for its beauty, but for its singularity of structure. Its two broad nearly opposite rhombic-ovate plaited leaves give it a very distinct aspect, whilst its large flowers, with the lip suffused with pink, render it at the same time ornamental. This is from Japan, and has been obtained for us by the New Plant and Bulb Company. *Caltha polypetala* is a showy perennial, allied to our own marsh marigold, an attractive but somewhat plebeian flower from the Caucasus; *Mertensia alpina*, a boraginaceous plant from the Rocky Mountains, with its brilliant blue flowers, should be a welcome and brilliant addition to our rock plants; while amongst the Bellworts Mr. W. Smith's *Campanula*, an accidental hybrid between *C. fragilis* and *C. pumila alba*, producing its grayish-blue flowers abundantly on dwarf erect stems, and *Wahlenbergia Kitaibellii*, a decumbent plant with remarkably showy

heads of violet-blue flowers, may be recommended for the same purpose. The French gardens have an *Iris gigantea*, said to be from Central Asia, and which grows five feet high or more, and bears white flowers striped with brownish-yellow near the base of the outer segments. A choice plant of garden origin, falling into this category, is Mr. Noble's *Gynierium argenteum pumilum*, which rejoices in perennial dwarfness, and has all the feathery beauty of its more stately ancestor. *Clematis Viticella erecta*, a French garden variety, bears very large deep blue flowers, and grows about a foot and a half high.

Of the shrubby series we have in Mr. Jackman's *Clematis alba magna* gained without doubt the finest of all the white-blossomed varieties of the noble and popular climber, the sepals being so broad that any two meet together across the intervening one, and thus form a more solid-looking flower than we get in the case of any other variety. *Cytisus Laburnum aureus*, a sport with rich golden-hued leaves, will be a most telling plant in shrubberies and plantations. Besides these we have *Balbisia verticillata*, which though one of the Geraniaceae, has large regular golden-yellow flowers, as if representing a monster *Hypericum*; *Hymenanthera crassifolia*, a small-leaved New Zealand evergreen with white berries; *Ligustrum Roulei*, a pretty evergreen with bluntly rounded leathery leaves, and white flowers; *Viburnum Sandankwa*, an evergreen from Japan, with largish oblong-ovate leaves, and corymbs of white blossoms; and *Cedrela sinensis*, a Chinese tree with fine pinnate leaves, and found to be hardy in the climate of France.—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

TENDER PLANTS THAT HAVE FROZEN.

The disastrous effects which tender plants, which have become frozen, are subject to, is generally known to cultivators; but how or why freezing produces the effect it does upon plant life, is not so easily ascertained, and all attempts heretofore made by scientific men to solve the question, have been at most, only partially successful. In practical experience it is found that the length of time and the degree of cold to which plants are exposed, affect them in proportion to the duration and intensity of these conditions, which points therefore, to the speedy restoration of a suitable temperature, as the best means of restoring plants that have been unfortunately exposed to frosts.

But the thawing out should in all cases be moderately gradual, and one of the best things to do when plants have become frozen, either in the dwelling, conservatory or open air, is to sprinkle the foliage with cold cistern or well water, as the temperature turns to rise. In the dwelling or conservatory, however, it will be necessary to start the fire in the stove, furnace or flue the first thing of all to give temperature an ascendancy, but it should for several hours not be allowed to rise above an ordinary suitable degree.

Some advocate shading the plants from the sun and light for some length of time, but the policy of so doing has never been apparent to me, while I have frequently had proofs to the contrary; and the sun's rays striking upon the plants with gradually increasing heat, in a great measure aids in their recovery.

There is a great difference in plants as regards their ability to resist cold, and while some the slightest frost will injure beyond cure, others will bear various degrees, and even alternate freezing and thawing again and again, with impunity. Avoid handling plants in a frozen condition as much as possible, as the injury to them will be heightened should the leaves become bent or be roughly brushed over. To restore flowers that have become frozen, place them in cold water until they have thawed out.—*Ex*.

GERMAN florists dye mosses and grasses in a great variety of unnatural colors.