

## AGRICULTURAL HINTS

### THE CAMPHOR TREE.

It Can Be Planted Successfully in Some Southern States.

Camphor trees may be grown either from seed or from cuttings. They are usually grown from seed, as the trees fruit abundantly, and seedlings can be grown more easily than cuttings. The seeds are collected at maturity in October and November, and after drying are packed in sharp white sand or some similar material to keep them fresh until the time of planting in spring. About the last of March they are sown in drills in the seed bed.

The soil of the seed bed should be a good sandy loam mixed with about one-third leaf mold. The seed bed should be kept moist, but not too wet, and should be shaded from the direct rays of the sun if the weather is warm. The best soil temperature for germinating camphor seeds is from 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature of the atmosphere may be ten degrees higher. The seedlings will



CAMPHOR TREE.

A, young leafy shoot, scale one-third; B, flower cluster, life size; C, fruit, life size.

grow well at higher temperature, but are likely to lack vigor and hardiness.

The seedlings may be grown in pots, which will facilitate transplanting at any time, or they may be transplanted in nursery rows early in April when one year old. Plants two years old are generally regarded as best for final planting. At this age they vary from 20 to 40 inches in height.

When set out for ornamental purposes, the camphor tree may be expected to grow, in favorable situations, about as rapidly as a Le Conte pear, and to require about as much room. In Japan, where the law requires that a new tree shall be set out for every one cut, they are not generally set in straight orchard rows, but cultivation there is performed almost exclusively by hand labor. There are no records showing results of regular, orchard planting, hence the distances at which trees should be planted must be determined by the size and form of the trees and the method of cultivation and of procuring the gum. They may be set closely in rows about ten feet apart, and alternate rows cut and reset every five years, thus producing bush-like plants of ten years' growth. They may be planted in checks ten feet square, and alternate trees cut every ten or twelve years, or they may be planted in larger checks, and all of the trees be cut at the age of 15 or 20 years.

There are not sufficient data obtainable upon which to base definite statements as to the best methods of planting or the age at which the trees may be cut with greatest profit for the production of gum. A recent English consular report from Japan states that "although hitherto the youngest wood from which camphor was extracted was about 70 to 80 years old, it is expected that under the present scientific management the trees will give equally good results after 25 or 30 years." Camphor of good quality has been produced in Florida from the leaves and twigs of trees less than 20 years old, one pound of crude gum being obtained from 77 pounds of leaves and twigs.

The trees will endure severe pruning with little apparent injury. One-third of the leaves and young shoots may be removed at one time without materially checking the growth of the tree. The largest proportion of camphor is contained in the older, larger roots; the trunk, limbs, twigs and leaves containing successively a decreasing proportion. When the camphor tree is killed nearly to the ground by frost it sends up vigorous shoots from the base. It may be expected to do the same when cut, especially if cut late in the fall. Experiments are needed to determine whether this growth may be depended upon, or whether it will be more profitable to dig out the larger roots and set out new seedlings.—Lyster H. Dewey, Assistant in Division of Botany, Department of Agriculture.

### FACTS FOR FARMERS.

Rape is said to make good hog pasture.

Bean or pea straw can be profitably baled.

Deep culture of potatoes after they are in bloom is bad business.

Diversify your farming. Never carry your eggs in one basket or two.

The corn fodder shredder is a good thing and so is the shredded corn fodder.

Time spent in preparing the ground for wheat will pay much better than you may think.

The acreage of wheat will be largely increased. That is the way to do things. When a market is good we smother it.

A young man announces in a contemporary that he wants a good strong Christian wife to take care of the chickens and garden. There is a chance of a lifetime for some girl who has strength in her arms and grace in her heart.—Western Plowman.

### HIVES MADE AT HOME.

Those with the Least Fixtures Are the Most Satisfactory.

The kind and size of hive is a most bewildering question for beginners. The hive to meet the demands of beekeepers in general is the one with the least fixtures. The Quimby frame, or one of about that size, has won the favor of the apiarist in this locality. The hive we prefer is made of seven-eighths inch pine planed on both sides, 20 inch square outside measure, and 12 inches in depth, with hand holes in the sides. The upper and lower stories are alike. The front board is 3/4 inch narrower, thus leaving an entrance 3/4 by 20 inches. A slat 3/4 by 3/4 by 20 inches is used to control the size of the entrance. The bottom board has a cleat 1 by 1 inch on each end, to prevent curling around on the under side. If two boards are used they should be matched.

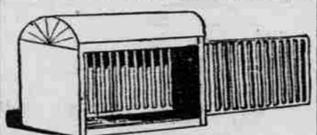
The rabbit on which the frames hang is furnished with improved tin. The alighting board has a cleat 3/4 by 3/4 inch on each end and is 6 by 20 inches. A piece of inch hoop iron 5 inches long is bent almost on a square; one is nailed at each end of the alighting board on the top side by one end; the other end has a three-cornered hole to be hung on two screws, one at each end, at the proper height to bring the top of the alighting board even with the lower side of the entrance. The bottom board as well as the upper and lower stories are held in place by the Van Deuser hive clamp; they may be used without. The furniture for this hive consists of a division board 11 1/2 by 18 1/2 inches, with top bar 3/4 by 1/2 by 19 inches scant measure. It is made of 1/2 inch lumber with a cleat 1/2 by 3/4 inch on each end to prevent curling. The frames are 17 1/2 by 11 1/2 inches outside measure.

The top bar is made so as to form a comb guide and is 19 inches scant. The bottom bars are 3/4 by 1 by 16 1/2 inches; the ends 11 1/2 by 1 1/4 inches. The hive contains the division board and from 1 to 12 frames according to the requirements of the swarm it contains. I prefer an upper entrance to a shade board; it saves the bees going upstairs "on foot" and the result is more honey. When the flow of honey is large, as in the clover and basswood season, the upper entrance should be full size; when the second story is first set on and the flow light, the entrance should be small. When the robbers get in line of battle and when the nights become cold toward fall, the entrance should be nearly closed.—Rural World.

### POULTRY FEED BOX.

It Keeps the Fowls from Trampling Upon Their Rations.

Despite all that has ever been said to the contrary, the idea still prevails in some sections that poultry can get along and even thrive if their food is presented to them in the simplest manner. This is a mistake. Where soft food is given, it is generally trampled upon by all the birds before it is fully eaten, and, in consequence, they are compelled



CONVENIENT FEED BOX.

to devour a more or less amount of dirt, which is usually of such a nature as to be no good to them. In order to avoid this, I would suggest that a feedbox be made, having a door of slats made of laths, as shown herewith; also, on the side opposite from the door, I should have slats, as seen from the inside of the box. Place the food in this, shut the door, and the fowls can reach the food from each side readily between the slats, but cannot soil it. Furthermore, a dish of water can be set within it, and the fowls can reach through and drink, but they cannot pollute it as they otherwise would. By this device, stray cats and dogs have no chance of getting at the food, should it happen to be of a nature palatable to them, and stealing it away from the fowls. The semi-rotundity of the roof is to keep the fowls from roosting on it.—Frederick O. Sibley, in N. Y. Tribune.

### When to Plant Trees.

"Early fall is an excellent time for planting trees," writes Thomas Meehan in the Ladies' Home Journal. "By early is meant as soon as the wood is ripe and the winter buds fully formed. This is usually a month before the regular fall of the leaf. The leaves are stripped by hand. After the wood is ripe it makes no difference whether the leaves are taken off by Jack Frost, the wind or the human hand. In the eastern part of Pennsylvania this would be usually about the 1st of September, and the work of planting can be kept up during October, and often to November or December. But late fall planting in cold climates is as risky as late spring planting. The moisture is dried out by cold winds or hot suns bequeath the great evaporation. In milder climates planting may be a success all winter."

### Mechanical Effect of Drainage.

The mechanical effects of drainage are to deepen the soil and promote its more thorough pulverization. Its first effect is to dry its surface soil by drawing out of it all the surplus moisture, so that in early spring or late autumn it may be worked with the plow as advantageously as at midsummer. A wet soil can never be properly pulverized, and the plowing or working a clay soil, or even a heavy loam, when wet, tends only to puddle it and render it less pervious to water and air. Rain water contains a great quantity and variety of fertilizing substances, and it deposits them in the soil during its passage through it. Both these facts are perceptible to the senses without resorting to chemical tests.—Farmers' Review.

Good clean seed wheat is as important as clean seed of any kind.

### SINGING AMONG THE GREEKS.

The Ancient Greeks Sang Blithely and Were Carefully Instructed.

Our present system of public instruction is not so modern as some would have us believe. Sparta had her state superintendent, who, if distant reports are to be trusted, was an educational despot. But, while he wielded his walking stick freely during official visits, and encouraged his subordinates to ply the rod on all occasions, he was as diligent a promoter of music as is any humane and progressive educator of our era. As a result, the little Lacedaemonians sang blithely, no matter what torment was going on under their tunics. And all over Greece, in those dim days, were schools, ranging from infant grades instructed under Arcadian hedges to the university-extension schemes bartered in buildings uniquely termed "places of leisure." The infants were drilled in their alpha-beta-gammas; the older boys were

### KLONDIKE TREMENS.

The Victim Always Sees Something Good to Eat.

The Seattle Times prints this interesting letter from a Klondiker:

"Dear Friend: You can surprise the dear people of Casper by telling them that I am worth \$75,000, and that next summer I will start back to buy the town. Some people will want to kiss me when I get back who wanted to kick me when I left. It is a bad trip up here, but it is worth making if only money is what a man wants. It is the only place I ever saw where there is so much money that people don't seem to care for it.

"We sit around and talk about good things to eat. That is what everybody is thinking about. If a man gets to talking about fruit he is put out of the camp. We can't stand it to hear it talked of. I have dreamed of seeing peaches as big as a car wheel, and they say when a man gets the tremens up



A NEW FALL MODEL.

Among the most becoming of the new fall models is the blouse composed of interlaced black velvet ribbon. This is to be worn over a silk blouse of some brilliant color, preferably cerise. This gown is of fine black cloth, and the skirt has a trimming of black velvet ribbon to correspond.

taught poetry and gymnastics, with something of arithmetic, geometry and drawing; and adults spent their leisure with rhetoricians and sophists, paying handsomely for the privilege. But music was a sine qua non of Grecian life, in school and in sport, in battle and in burial. The epic and elegiac chantings at festivals, the calm speculations of Pythagoras as to the music of the spheres, the choral outburst of "the great fifth century," the material odes of Tyrtaeus and Pindar, all show the national love for melody of voice as well as for high and harmonious thought. An old-time Greek set down amid the strident, metallic voices of our occidental world would feel that the Furies had seized either upon him or the continent he was visiting.

### Quinine Music.

In 1872 John Stutte, of St. Louis, was seized with a bad attack of malaria, and took quinine to fight it off. One day, during a particularly bad chill, he took 52 grains at a time, and from that moment, it is said, he has not slept a wink. The enormous dose produced such

here he always sees fruit or fancies that he is pulling radishes or shelling peas. This is a hard country to a man. It will make a young man look old in two years.

"You have heard of the golden calf. Well, I have something that beats that; I have a golden dog. A dog of mine died and I have used the hide as a sack for my dust. I have him as full of gold as he was of meat. I sometimes lay my head on his body and dream of what I will do with my 'dough' when I get back to the states.

"My partner has ten one-gallon sirup cans filled with dust. Pneumonia is bad, and many die from it. The scurvy is bad, too, but it don't kill many, after all. If a man could have what he wanted to eat up here it would not be so bad. You can dress warm and fight the cold, but it is hard to be hungry every day and get nothing to eat but the things you detest. My paper has run out, and there is no more in camp."

### The King's White Feather.

The Gazette of Moscow says that while the king of Siam was passing



Uncle Sam—Keep out. We have a "yellow" fever of our own.

ringing noises in his head that sleep had been impossible. Stutte says that sometimes the noises resemble the roar of a great cataract falling hundreds of feet upon rocks below; again they sound like a sawmill where great logs are being ripped apart by buzzing saws, then there are crashes as of thunder and the hissing of escaping steam; always a myriad of hideous noises ringing and echoing through his brain.

### Circus Men Taboo Whistling.

Whistling is tabooed in the dressing-rooms of a circus. That it is an ill-omen is one of the superstitions of the circus people. Somebody is sure to be discharged if anyone whistles, they say.

### American Asphaltum.

Last year the only states that produced asphaltum were California, Colorado, Texas and Utah. Indian territory also contributed some.

through the streets of that city a white feather fell from the plume of his helmet and was picked up by the peasant Toukianow, who is in the service of M. Koch. Toukianow hastened to restore the feather to the chief of police. He was greatly surprised several days later upon receiving from this official, in the name of his Siamese majesty, a casket containing a portrait of the king and a massive gold chain decorated with a token of the same metal bearing the arms of Siam in enamel. Toukianow has not yet recovered from this unexpected piece of good fortune.

### Lake Erie's Big Fish Supply.

It is claimed that Lake Erie produces more fish to the square mile than any other body of water in the world.

—A woman enjoys nothing much better than telling about some other woman's beauty fading.—Washington Democrat.

### WOMAN AND HOME.

#### NEW GAME OF WITS.

It Is Called Character Quotations and Is Entertaining.

The game of "character quotations" is a new-fashioned way of holding the mirror up to nature and of seeing ourselves as others see us. It also furnishes an excellent method of passing a pleasant evening, for when are people so interested as in talking about themselves?

Long slips of paper are handed to each participant in the game, who obligingly affixes his signature to the bottom and passes it on to his neighbor on the right. Beginning at the top of the paper, the neighbor writes his impression of the character and personality of its owner in an appropriate verse of poetry selected at random from some remembered author. If the stanza is comic, so much the more fun; if it is fulsome or sentimental, so much the more confusion for the recipient when it is read to the jeering assembly.

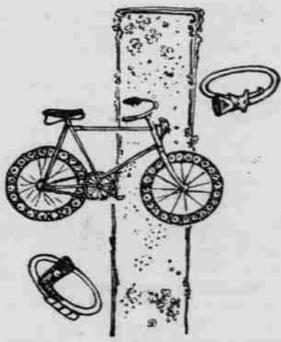
When the first neighbor has written his impression he in turn sends it around the circle, after having folded down his own poetical estimate. If his memory fails him altogether, or no table rhyme comes to mind applicable to a special individual, he is forced by the laws of "character quotations" to compose a stanza himself. At the conclusion of the game, when the papers are covered with scribbling, the man on the right of the lady reads her praises aloud, after which she retaliates with his. Then the real object of the play is seen—to fit each estimate to the proper writer and to proportion future punishment to the nature of the crime.—Chicago Chronicle.

#### SPORTING JEWELRY.

Novelties for the Girls Who Cycle, or Hunt, or Golf.

So great is the love of outdoor sports that all sorts of pretty trinkets come in gold and silver for sporting jewelry. The girl who cycles is wearing a tiny silver bicycle brooch with the tires set in semi-precious gems and the handlebars inscribed with her name and the name of her wheel. The pedals of the bicycle are of a very pretty open filigree work, and the saddle is a little enamel affair, as pretty as it is delicate.

The hunting horn ring has a fox's head curled down over a big open sil-



BICYCLE AND GOLF JEWELRY.

ver horn lined with scarlet enamel. The ring has a little attachment, so it can be made big enough to slip over the hunting glove.

A gold bracelet is a wonderful thing. It consists of a big silver golf stick that is curled to fit the wrist. The handle is a twist of silver. One end is flattened exactly like a golf stick, and a big pearl is set in it for the golf ball.

These little articles come in imitation jewelry, which is just as satisfactory, if the articles are desired for the novelty only. They are the fancy of the hour and the outdoor sporting girl likes to make herself attractive in them.

#### The Culture of Ferns.

It is better to begin with the young plants. Be careful not to over-pot them; wash the inside of the pots clean, and give especially good drainage; use open, rich, fibrous soil, light rather than heavy, and instead of filling the pot with soil to the brim leave plenty of room to hold water. Ferns should never get quite dry at the root, yet it will not do to keep them soaking wet. Many of them, especially the maiden-hair and gold and silver ferns, dislike being splashed overhead, and hot sunshine must never fall directly upon these delicate kinds. Ferns are sure to be killed by little dribblings of water given every day. The same rule that applies to watering other plants is good with ferns: When the top of the soil looks dry fill the pot with water to the brim, so that the ball of soil may have a thorough soaking.—Vick's Magazine.

#### Protecting Women's Feet.

Now a woman has invented a means of protecting the feet of her sex from the trampling of men as they go out and in between the acts at a theater. It consists of an iron case, lined with felt, to be clamped to the floor in front of the seats. The top of the case is rounded, so that nobody can be tripped up by it. When a man rises to leave the theater the women in his row have simply to slip their feet in these cases, and they are safe. The man can walk his way back and forth without hurting them in the least.

#### He Resembled the Cake.

The landlady smiled sweetly on all assembled at the table, and announced that she had a conundrum.

"What resemblance is there between Mr. Binks and the cake that is being served to-night?"

Mr. Binks got red in the face, and they all gave it up.

"I regret to say," said the landlady, with the same sweet smile, "that the cake is a little short to-night."

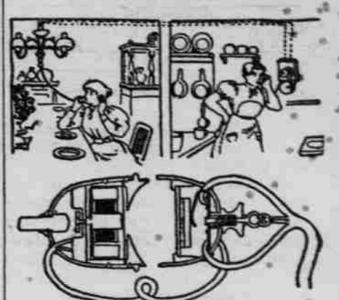
Mr. Binks thereupon made up his mind that it was time for him to move.—Chicago Post.

### HOUSEHOLD TELEPHONE.

It Saves Lots of Stair Climbing and Loss of Temper.

A Berlin firm of electricians has recently placed on the market a combination telephone and electric bell for short distances. The illustration shows its parts and its installation between a kitchen and dining-room. The simplicity of the apparatus is one of its principal points of advantage and its usefulness is evident. The one shown in the dining-room is of an ordinary egg, which at the pointed end has a small push-button for a bell.

The egg-shaped fixture can be taken apart, the short end being the transmitter, the longer end the receiver of this diminutive telephone. The fixture in the kitchen is of the ordinary telephone type and has a bell which rings



HOUSEHOLD TELEPHONE.

when the push-button in the dining-room fixture is pressed. This calls the cook to the phone and the lady of the house may give her orders in an undertone and even in a whisper, which will be plainly understood by the cook. The mouthpiece is a simplified microphone, the membrane being placed just a little above a very small electric magnet. The same magnet is used for the push-button. In other respects this installation does not differ from the ordinary microphone, and its rapid popularity in Germany will be understood when it is stated that the manufacturers sell the apparatus, together with 250 feet of wire, for about eight dollars.

### FOOD AND BEAUTY.

Good Complexion Depends Altogether on Healthy Digestion.

The seeker after rosy cheeks may fill a whole cupboard with lotions, and spend half of her time in the beautifying bathtub, but success will not crown her efforts after beauty unless she turns her attention also to her diet list. Clear complexions do not wait on the fickle, nor rosy cheeks on the morning griddle cake.

The woman who intends to have a good complexion must make a careful study of the food question. It goes without saying that sugary substances must largely be banished from the bill of fare. Candies are, of course, excluded. Cakes follow in their wake. As for pies and all other compounds of flour and grease, they are fatal to clear skins. Bread that is doughy or starchy should rank almost as low as pastry in the estimation of the seeker after good looks.

Alcoholic drinks are banished almost entirely, their effect even in small quantities being a mild form of coagulation of blood in the face, which eventually coarsens the texture as well as ruins the color of the skin. For somewhat similar reasons all sorts of narcotics and stimulants are to be avoided, for whatever excites the nerves or overheats the blood tends toward the final destruction of the smooth peachy texture which is the chief of every woman's ambition to attain.

Whatever has the effect of producing a healthy action of the digestive organs is good for the complexion. Acid and laxative fruits especially, if taken at breakfast, are good. Entire wheat bread and toast rank high among the bread beautifiers. Red and juicy meats, green vegetables, milk and eggs are all conducive to the attaining of a brilliant complexion.—G. H. Dierhold, in Ladies' World.

### How to Roll an Umbrella.

Seize the Umbrella with the right hand by the tips or ends of the ribs, bringing them evenly around the shank (or handle); with the left hand straighten out all the folds, and see that none are left in a bunched or wrinkled shape. Then, with the left hand, commence at the top and bring the hand down on the folds, turning the umbrella with the right hand, keeping the tips or ends of the ribs distributed evenly around the stick. See that the folds roll evenly. Keep the left hand moving down gently toward the right post—the tie or band. When the left hand meets the right hold firmly with the left hand and button the tie with the right. If you desire a very close roll, hold it as before, and with the left hand straighten out the creases or folds, then roll down tightly until you get to the tie or band. Then hold firmly with the left hand, unfasten the tie with the right hand, roll down past the tie, button the tie with the right hand, and if you are an expert you have a close roll on your umbrella. It will lie in neat folds and look as it does when it comes from the factory.—Hardware.

### To Make Caramel Custard.

For six ordinary-sized custards melt six tablespoonfuls of sugar, stirring carefully to prevent burning. Pour into the bottom of the custard cups, give each a sort of whirl that the sugar may also line the sides. Beat three eggs without separating; add three tablespoonfuls of sugar, half a teaspoonful of vanilla, and a cup and a half of milk. Stir until the sugar is dissolved; pour the mixture into the cups on top of the caramel. Stand in a baking pan half filled with water, and cook in the oven 15 minutes. Turn while hot from the cups. Serve cold.—Mrs. S. T. Rorer, in Ladies' Home Journal.