GROWING VEGETABLES BY AN ELECTRICAL PROCESS.

SINCE electricity became a science various efforts have been made to determine what effect, if any, it has upon the growth of plants and vegetables. Many heated discussions have attended the tests by those who have entertained opposite theories, and it is therefore particularly interesting to know that the experiments carried on for some time at the government agricultural station at Amherst, Mass., indicate that the use of electricity by the farmer is a distinct stimulus to nature and exerts a marked influence upon the germination of seeds and the growth of farm produce.

The A B C of the scientists' argument in favor of the use of electricity on the farm is that roaming around loose in the atmosphere there is a vast fund of electrical force, which, by means of specially devised apparatus, can be attracted to earth and distributed through the ground in which the farmer has sown his seed. The apparatus by means of which the electricity is caught and harnessed for the use of the farmer has been thoroughly tested at Amherst and has proved to be a complete success. Briefly described, it consists of a number of copper spikes which are elevated at the top of a fifty-foot pole. These spikes gather the electric fluid and convey it to the foot of the pole, where it is caught by wires thrust a few feet beneath the ground and distributed over as much of the earth as the farmer desires. So much electricity is there wandering around loose in the atmosphere that one of these poles can catch and distribute enough to electrify several acres of ground.

With this apparatus experiments have been made which may be summarized as follows: After seeds had been subjected to electrical treatment for a period of twenty-four hours it was found that over thirty per cent. more seeds were germinated by the aid of electricity than in a like quantity of seeds sown in ground that lacked the electrical stimulant. As the scientists in charge of the experiments wished to make a very complete test, the electric current was applied to seeds that were allowed to stay in the ground for forty-eight hours. It was found that 20 per cent. more seeds had germinated in the electrified ground than in the soil where the seeds had been left to sprout under normal conditions, and in seventy-two hours this percentage had dropped to 6, thus showing that the use of the current for the purpose of stimulating germination under all the tests was a decided success.

Seeds subjected to only a temporary current of electricity were found to show the effect for a few hours and then resume their normal growth. To produce a constantly beneficial effect it was necessary for the electricity to be applied hourly to germinating seeds or growing plants. In order to obtain a specific illustration of the effect of electricity 100 seeds of the horse bean were sown in moist sawdust, twenty-four of the seeds having been previously selected as seeming nearest to resemble each other. On the radicle of each of these was placed a dot of indelible ink one centimeter from the tip. The beans were sown and received hourly stimulation, lasting about thirty seconds, for a period of forty-eight hours. The growing plants were carefully measured, the dot of ink being a constant point from which their increase could be determined. It was found at the end of twelve hours that the gain per cent. by the use of the electric current was 19.11; at the end of twenty-four hours the gain per cent. was 41.36; at the end of thirty-six hours the gain was 42.11, and at the end of forty-eight hours 20.47. Repeated experiments on the same line produced almost precisely the same result.

Another interesting experiment was made by planting in two sections of ground, the soil in both of which had been carefully selected to insure it being exactly alike, seeds of the following varieties: Parsnip, lettuce, carrot, turnip, radish and onion. To one section of ground a mild current of electricity was applied. The following day the plants in the electric plot began to appear, the turnips sprouting first. The rapidity of growth of those planted in the electrically treated ground was far in advance of those planted in the ordinary ground. The second day plants broke through the surface in both plots, those in the electric garden showing considerably the more rapid growth; the foliage was rank, and when harvested was nearly twice as high as that of the non-electric plot. The roots also were larger and showed a marked difference in favor of electricity. One peculiarity was that in the electric plot for every pound of roots very nearly a pound of tops was produced, while in the other case for every pound of tops there grew 1.6 pounds of root, but the difference in the total was all in favor of electricity. With reference to the other vegetables, the lettuce proved a failure in both plots. The carrots showed a marked superiority in the electric bed over those of the non-electric. The onion plants came up in both beds and grew finely for a time, then blasted, and not one developed, either electric or non-electric, this being the only case of all the vegetables tested where no tangible results were obtained.

Next to the parsnips, the radishes gave the best results. They grew rapidly, those in the electric garden being always ahead. The tops were rank and the roots were crisp. When the best of the radishes in each plot were pulled, washed and weighed, it was found that the six largest roots taken from the electric plot weighed two ounces more than the six largest taken from the non-electric plot. They were larger individually, the tap-root longer, of a finer flavor, of better quality, more brittle, and every way superior to those raised without the aid of electricity. The accompanying illustration shows clearly the superiority of the electric over the non-electric radishes. The two largest radishes taken from the electric row weighed fourteen ounces, while the two largest from the non-electric row weighed ten ounces, or four ounces favoring electricity.

Besides the electric treatment of the ground the electric light has been utilized for stimulating the growth of plants, and the general effect has been to hasten the maturity of lettuce, spinach and similar products. It has been found that the electric light has the stimulating effect of daylight upon the plants, and entire crops in the forcing plots have been increased 50 and 60 per cent. In short, the Amherst experiments have proved that by means of electricity nature can be forced to do double duty without lessening the worth of her products.

WHY FEW RETIRE NOW.

Increased Demands of Society Keep Men in the Harness Until Death.

London Figaro.

Every year it becomes more and more difficult to retire from business. In fact young men at the beginning of their career, do not talk nowadays of making a fortune, and then devoting themselves to politics or the frivolous pastimes. They seem to recognize that they are giving themselves a life sentence when they enter business, and that even a large number of good conduct marks will only curtail their labors without putting a stop to them altogether.

There is a great deal said about the weight and power of money, but it is nevertheless true that at no previous period of our history has the earning or acquiring of money been so small as the spending capacity of individuals would seem to imply. As an economic authority has pointed out, the professional or business man accustomed to live in a certain degree of luxury cannot now retire, because the money he has accumulated is of so little value in the market that his income will be at once reduced to a serious extent, and instead of being rich, he finds himself a comparatively poor man. Had he only himself to consider he might not perhaps hesitate to lay aside his wig or his tassel or his ledger, and in every sense of the term retire; but if he is a family man he finds himself overweighted by heavy charges for education, for dress, sport and luxuries in general which are now scarcely distinguishable from necessities except by their cost, so much has one become accustomed to them. Looking at the bills for all this, the middle-aged man sees that he must do his harness, and the more successful he has been the more is he reluctant to throw up his income and live on the miserable interest of his savings.

So that it is only the poor who can afford to retire—that is to say, of course, the rich poor, who have an ambition above most ease and comfort, and who are satisfied to remain in a humble station rather than fight with fortune for social advancement. Thus it happens that, while the man with five thousand pounds drops his tools or his shop apron forever, the man with five hundred thousand is working harder than ever before in order to enjoy the glory of being a millionaire. Even then he very seldom stops. Most of the world's busiest men are millionaires, and they work partly for recreation, but more especially because they know that their brains, with money behind them, can earn far more than the money alone.

Altogether, although it is impossible to define "a fortune," there is no doubt that the requirements of fortune-hunters have risen considerably during the last two or three decades. People who would earlier in the century have been well satisfied with hundreds per annum now feel poor with anything less than four figures, and there was a serious discussion lately in one of the sixpenny ladies' papers whether one could marry on seven hundred a year. Making a fortune is as easy as ever it was, perhaps easier, but, on the other hand, there seem to be more demands on the purse than there used to be. This is attributed largely to the changes that have taken place in society of late years. The aristocracy of birth has become poorer owing to the fall in the value of land from which its income is so largely derived; while the aristocracy of money has sought to make up for the lack of blue blood by the most lavish expenditure, and unfortunately it is the rich who set the fashion and the poor who have to make desperate efforts to follow them, or else the fashionable world and live in comparative obscurity.

Deaf and Dumb Beggar (at unexpectedly receiving a quarter)—Oh, thanks, thanks.

Benevolent Passer—Eh? What does this mean, sir? You can talk.

Beggar (in confusion)—Y-e-s, sir. Ye-ve, sir. I'm only babbin' this corner for the poor deaf and dumb man wot belongs here.

Benevolent Passer (quickly)—Where is he?

Beggar (in worse confusion)—He's—he's gone to th' park t' hear de music.

WHY GRANDSIR LONGED TO GO.

Dear Grandsir sat in his easy chair,
And the summer breezes were in his hair—
In his hair so silvery white.
Through the leaves above the sun stole down,
And its breeze-moved rays made glorious crown—
Most glorious crown of light.

Dear Grandsir's thoughts were all of love—
They carried him to a world above,
Above to a realm most fair.
Anticipation the kind old eyes lightened;
Anticipation the weary face brightened,
And out from the heart breathed a prayer.

"My Father! I have so weary grown,
Lingering here in old age alone;
Dear Father, hear my plea.
I long to meet on the other shore,
My sweetheart of the days of yore—
That wife, so dear to me.

"Thou didst take her so many years ago,
And we laid her there where the violets grow;
And the joy of my life laid, too.
I've reared our children as best I could;
I've done my duty as father should,
But now, that duty is through.

"Our children now have older grown,
And I am left here all alone—
Alone 'neath this dear old tree.
Its shade doth temper the glare of the sun,
And it steadfast stands—the only one
That has constantly stood by me.

"Our children are good and true and kind,
Keeping their father ever in mind—
A duty all children owe;
But they cannot constantly be with me—
They have not time. So I seek this old tree,
And here live in the long ago.

"Even my grandchildren, day by day,
By other cares are drawn away,
Leaving the old man behind.
His step is feeble, his speech is slow,
He lives in an age of long ago—
I see it. I am not blind.

"And so, my Father, I long for rest—
To be with those that loved me best.
In those happy days that have flown,
I've lived Thy life, I've observed Thy law.
Thy will not mine, shall the balance draw;
But, Father—I'm here alone."

And who can tell what the angels knew,
As they took that soul so tired and true,
Out from that world-weary breast?
When we found him there 'neath his dear old tree,
It made us as sad as we well could be,
For we knew not, he longed for rest.

We could not see on the other shore
That gladsome greeting of friends gone before—
That white robe and that starry crown;
But this we knew, and it comforts us now,
Expectant gladness wreathed his brow,
As Grandsir life's burden laid down.

H. A. STANLEY.

THE MOST WHOLESOME MEALS.

Mrs. Rorer Tells the Best Foods for Different Times of Day.

In the January Ladies' Home Journal Mrs. S. T. Rorer writes at length to show that Americans eat too much meat, but says she does not want to be understood as condemning meat entirely. Individually, she uses "all (with the exception of pork and veal) in moderation, and toward the close of the day. From long experience," she says, "I have found that a heavy morning's work can best be accomplished on a breakfast composed of a well-cooked cereal and fruit, with, perhaps, a cup of French coffee, or cereal coffee, and a piece of well-toasted whole wheat bread. The noonday meal, especially if work is to be continued in the afternoon, should be composed of a cream soup, with whole wheat bread, an omelet, some of the lighter forms of nitrogenous food, in the proportion of one-third to two-thirds carbonaceous food. Fruits, again, may be partaken, if they agree—a baked banana, a baked apple, peaches, pears, or any of the very ripe, sub-acid fruits.

"After the day's work is over, and one can take time to rest and thoroughly digest a meal, dinner should be served. A warm beef soup, stimulating rather than nitrogenous, should form the beginning of the meal. This may be followed by some light entree, either of fish or vegetable, then the red meat, either boiled, broiled or roasted (never fried), with its accompanying vegetable. With beef serve potatoes or macaroni as the starchy food; with mutton or chicken, rice. A green vegetable should be added for its salts, and this may be onions or young peas, beans, cauliflower or spinach. The salad should follow, and with it a tiny bit of cheese, with a piece of whole wheat bread, a bread stick or a water biscuit. Then a simple, light dessert may be served."

Reform in Funerals.

Detroit Free Press.

At the meeting of the pastors' conference in Grand Rapids, it was decided to unite the forces of the clergymen for a reform in the conduct of funerals, and a formal set of resolutions was adopted, to be read before the congregations next Sunday morning. It was recommended that no Sunday funerals be held; that the sombre black mourning attire be discarded entirely; that funerals be more private, and that public displays be avoided; that the people do not go to such inordinate extremes in funerals when they cannot afford it; and that funeral sermons be shortened, as the clergymen do not believe that funerals should be made the occasion for extended oratory.

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YOUR SYSTEM THAT IS ALL WRONG. HUDYAN will make it all right again. You have dreams. HUDYAN gives you sweet and peaceful sleep. You know that there are other men on earth who are more manly than you. HUDYAN remedio-treatment for a week will alter this. You ought to be as strong as your next-door neighbor. HUDYAN will give you the vitality that it needs to make a whole man. But remember that it is only

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Grand Forks, Crookston,
Winnipeg, Helena,
Butte, Chicago,
Philadelphia, Washington,
New York, Boston,

And All Points East and South.

TIME SCHEDULE.
In Effect Sept. 12th, 1897.

TRAINS LEAVE SEATTLE.

For Spokane, Rossland, St. Paul and East ..... 4:00 p. m.
For Portland ..... 9:30 a. m.
*For Olympia ..... 1:00 a. m.
*For Aberdeen ..... 9:30 a. m.
For Tacoma, 7:30 and 9:50 a. m., 4:00 and ..... 7:00 p. m.

TRAINS ARRIVE AT SEATTLE.

From Spokane, Rossland, St. Paul and East ..... 11:50 a. m.
From Portland ..... 8:05 p. m.
*From Olympia ..... 6:05 p. m.
*From Aberdeen ..... 8:05 p. m.
From Tacoma, 8:35 and 11:20 a. m., 6:05 and ..... 8:20 p. m.
*Daily except Sunday. All others daily.
This card subject to change without notice.
Through tickets to Japan and China via Northern Pacific Steamship Company.
For rates, routes, and other information call on or address

L. A. NADEAU,
General Agent, Seattle.
City Ticket Office, corner Yesler Way and First Avenue.
Depot Ticket Office, corner Western Avenue and Columbia Street.
A. D. CHARLTON,
Assistant General Passenger Agent.
No. 255 Morrison Street, corner Third, Portland, Or.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY
—AND—
SOO-PACIFIC LINES.

New Tourist Car Service to the East.

Commencing February 3, and every Thursday thereafter, through tourist car,

Seattle to Portland, Maine, Without Change.

Also daily tourist to St. Paul; every Sunday to Toronto and every Wednesday to Boston.

These cars are models of comfort and elegance.

Train for all Eastern points daily at 9 a. m.

Steamers to Japan and China, and Honolulu, Fiji and Australia every four weeks.

For rate and other information apply to R. W. MCGINNIS, Freight and Passenger Agent, 609 First avenue, Seattle; or to E. J. COYLE, District Passenger Agent, Vancouver, B. C.

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SHORT LINE
—TO—
Vancouver, New Westminster and all points in British Columbia.
The Shortest and Most Direct Route to the
CARIBOO and KOOTENAY MINING DISTRICTS

Taking in all the principal mining points en route.
Through Parlor Cars daily between Seattle and Vancouver, B. C.
Train leaves Seattle daily, 9:00 a. m., arrives 5:25 p. m.
Train leaves Seattle daily, except Sunday, for Issaquah at 5:00 a. m.
Train leaves Seattle for North Bend and all intermediate points Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 5:00 p. m.
All passenger trains arrive in Seattle at 5:25 p. m.

F. A. ALLEN,
Gen. Freight and Pass. Agt.
R. W. PRICE, Agent, Union Depot, Seattle.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY City Ticket Office 612 First Ave.

Leave		Arrive
4:00 p. m.	Overland Express	10:30 a. m.
8:15 a. m.	Pacific Coast Lines	6:15 p. m.

Japan-America Line
STEAMSHIP RIOJUN MARU
For Japan, China and All Asiatic Points
About February 14th.

THE EVERETT & MONTE CRISTO RAILWAY.

The only route to the popular and promising districts of Gold Basin, Silver Creek, Martin Creek, Riverton, Clear Creek, Goat Lake and Monte Cristo. The scenic route for tourists, hunters, camping parties.

For rates and other information apply to nearest local agent, or
E. N. BAIRD,
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They overcome headache, nervousness, tiredness and sleeplessness, and banish "pains of a thousand kinds." They are "Lady Bountiful" to girls at womanhood, to women at the commencement of expectancy, and a known remedy for nervous troubles. Correct disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels. Cure constipation. Sold by druggists, or sent by mail, Price $1.00. Dr. Mott's Pennyroyal Co., Lockport, N. Y.

For sale by Stewart & Holman.

ZO-ZO. CURES IN 3 TO 7 DAYS. PRICE $1.00—EXPRESS PAID. CLOSSON & KEITH.

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ARE YOU A WEAK WOMAN?

DO YOUR NERVES TREMBLE?

DOES YOUR BACK ACHE?

Do you feel any of the effects of past neglect of the laws of health? The thoughtlessness of boyhood and the ignorance of girlhood ruin thousands of lives. They take away nature's vitality, which is the groundwork of health.

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Its power is felt instantly. The blood pulses with life from it. A valuable book for either sex will be sent free upon request. Consultation free and invited. Call or address

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Rooms With or Without Baths.

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