...FOR THE FARM...

SOW DEEP OR SHALLOW?

Just Deep Enough As Good, Common Sense Will Suggest.

Oats should be covered deep enough to get moisture and shallow enough to get the heat and air required for germination. In this they differ from no other crop. All crops require this depth. The plant must have these three things; not one or two of them, but all three.

The earlier oats are sown the shallower they should be covered, because if you put them in too deep they would not get the heat for prompt and quick germination. They should always be covered deep enough to get moisture. Just how deep this is every man must determine for himself. If he is not willing to use his brains in sowing oats or any other grain, he had better quit farming and go to banking or practicing law or medicine or preaching—some business that does not require as much brains as farming. It migh teven be safer for him to edit a paper that furnishes reading matter to while away the farmer's idle hours.

Keeping in mind this law of nature, and applying it, any man can tell just how deep he should sow his oats. The failure of oats to stand drouth, however, does not depend entirely on the depth to which they are covered. It also depends upon the preparation of the seed bed. Here again the laws of nature are immutable and cannot be violated with impunity.

What is required in a seed bed? Several inches of loose or compacted soil, compacted soil, compacted when it is in proper physical condition; that is, when it is not so wet as to exclude the air and form clods in compacting it. A properly formed seed bed will not tolerate any large amount of coarse material lying between the furrow turned over and the soil below; it will not tolerate the existence of clods. Plant roots cannot jump over spaces between clods.

The soil near the surface must be fine enough so as to give the roots full room for development. There must be connection between the soil turned over and the soil below, if water is to be pumped up from the below. It is not always the depth of the covering that makes the difficulty; often it is the character of the seed bed itself.

If the farmer is not willing to give close attention to this, why he had better hire out to somebody else or go into another business.

SMALL POULTRY HOUSE.

Large One Cold and Unhealthy for Fowls.

Those who have been in the business of raising poultry the longest and have given it the closest attention are a unit against great, elaborate buildings. The simplest, most comfortable building is always the best. Two important essentials are that it shall be easily cleaned out, and that it shall contain no harbors for the red mite that cannot easily be reached with a liquid spray.

If the house is difficult to clean, it will seldom be cleaned. If it has a board floor or a dropping board, with nests under it, red mites will get in and cannot be dislodged. They will get under the board floor by the millions, and one cannot reach them with any insecticide, and at night they will make life a burden to the fowls resting in the house.

They get underneath a dropping board by millions, and if there are nests under it, they will fairly swarm in them, and they are safe from harm.

An open room is always best, with perches hinged to the wall, so they can quickly be turned up out of the way when the cleaning is done. Nests should be single, so that they can quickly be emptied and sprayed, and replaced. Small houses are best, because they are warmest and easily cleaned out.

A large house is cold and full of drafts. A dozen small houses connected together by simple scratching sheds are vastly better than one large house, and they do not cost so much. I always advise the building of houses with large scratching sheds attached; then when shut in by stormy weather, the fowls will live in the scratching sheds, and only sleep and lay in the houses. B. B.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

Red Clover Reported on the Decline in the East.

(H. P. Miller.)

Over very much of the East there is complaint that red clover will no longer grow. Many attribute it to the excessive use of acid phosphate. It is probable that this is responsible only in part. It is known to render the soil acid in time, and so unfavorable for the growth of clover.

Where this alone is responsible, lime would correct it, and occasionally a man reports that he gets clover after liming the land, while others do not. With these latter potash is also lacking.

The use of phosphate rock alone enables the wheat crop to draw far more largely upon the store of potash than it otherwise would be able to do; hence the use of the single element fertilizer hastens the exhaustion of the other elements.

At the Ohio station it was found necessary to apply both lime and potash where acid phosphates had been used, in order to get a satisfactory growth of clover.

Again, the dying of the clover in the late summer may be due to the exhaustion of the vegetable matter from the soil, thereby favoring an excessive drying out of the land. This condition prevails upon many farms, where grain is sold and little stock fed. Some farmers report that alsyke is much more certain than the red clover.

An occasional man in almost every county is found who is succeeding with alfalfa, though many report failures with it. One of the causes for failure is the very common practice of pasturing the stubble field after harvest. A farmer finds that he has a fine stand of clover after the wheat is cut, and he cannot bear to see that much good pasture wasted, and so he turns the stock in during summer and fall and the field is grazed bare. Then the winter finds the clover weak, and if it is a severe winter, the chances are that the clover has disappeared in the spring, and the farmer again declares that it is impossible to raise clover.

If, on the other hand, he had kept every hoof off the field and had run the mower over the stubble, as the rag weeds start, the clover would have had the best possible chance to get a strong growth for the winter, and success instead of failure would have been the result. On farms of moderate size in the East careful farmers find that any pasturing of the cultivated fields is a bad thing. Have a permanent pasture and give it attention enough and fertilizing enough to keep it in the most productive state, and never allow any animal on the fields in rotation, except the mules or horses that cultivate the hoed crops.

One of the best incubators made. The construction is worthy of close study.

Then, if lime is used occasionally in moderate amount, the land can be kept the soil from getting sour by using lime about every six years on all fields. Clover may fail from a deficiency of phosphorous or potassium in the soil, and as we producing good crops of clover.

When the soil gets into an acid condition, clover will not thrive, and then lime is indicated. But it is better to keep

An excellent home-made strainer and funnel. This is made from an ordinary wooden pail, and cost only sixty cents.

CHAMPION HIGHLAND BULL, SIR ANDREW.

This bull took the first prize at the St. Louis Exposition.

cannot in any method of culture get these into the soil, we must apply them artificially.

Poultry Work for March.

If you do not get a reasonably good crop of eggs this month, make up your mind that it is your fault.

The early pullets will be doing excellent laying this month, and the late-hatched pullets and the late-molting hens should also get down to work, provided, of course, they have been having the proper care.

For hatching killing chickens, it is advisable to set the early broodies, but it will not be profitable to hold the young stock over for breeding, as they will molt in the fall, and would not be profitable for layers when good prices prevailed.

The duck laying season begins the first part of March.

Keep the incubators hard at work. Chicks hatched this month will command good broiler prices.

Chickens hatched last September, if good, soft, yellow-meated, will find a ready sale.

Take advantage of all clear, sunny days and allow the birds out doors. An occasional outing like this does them a lot of good; but do not expose them to heavy wind-, rain- and snow-storms.

Keep the runs as clear of snow as possible. Keep the fowls indoors as long as snow remains on the ground.

If your houses are large and comfortable, and the flocks are not over-crowded, confinement during winter does them no harm.

If you erred in feeding during the fall and early winter you will now have hens suffering from over-fat, liver disease, indigestion or bowel troubles. Make them exercise—that is the keynote of success in winter eggs and health.

If you notice soft-shelled or double-yolked eggs you may know that your hens are too fat. Put an extra lot of straw on the hen-house floor and make these hens work hard for their living.

When pruning the fruit-trees, which is often done this month, chop up some of the wood into convenient length and char it. If a large wood-burning stove can be secured enough charcoal can be made to supply the poultry during the entire year. It can be saved in a granulated or powdered form, but should be kept in covered tin cans.

Charcoal—a tablespoonful to a quart of mash—should be given at least every other day during this month. It will brighten up the combs and heads, purify the blood, correct looseness of the bowels and aid wonderfully indigestion. It is an ingredient in the diet that should not be omitted.

The incubator chicks that make their appearance in February will need most watchful care the first few weeks. We find getting them well started is half the battle.

Partition off the brooder and divide the chicks. Avoid crowding. Some can be put in a box by the kitchen fire if the brooder is not large enough to accommodate all of them.

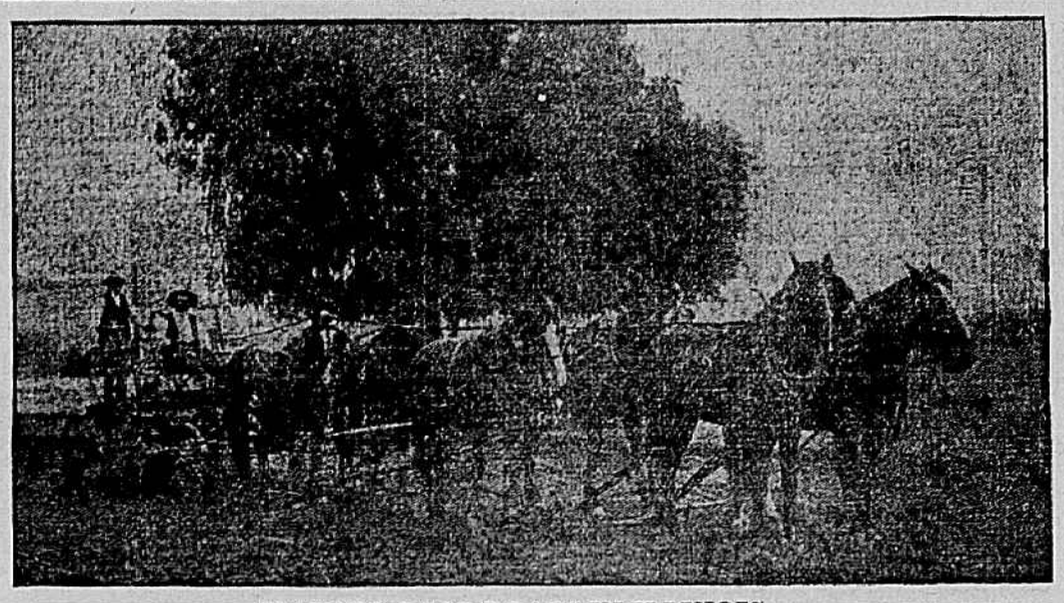
It is a pleasure to feed the greedy little fellows, and if we are not very careful we will feed them too much. You may give a dozen chicks with an old hen all the food they will eat, with no bad results. But when you have, say, one hundred brooder chicks, they have to be managed differently or disease will get a start and wipe them out quickly. They must be fed lightly, and never all they will eat, for the first few weeks. Dry feed is the best. Regular feeding is of the utmost importance. Plenty of grit must be given them for grinding the foods into proper form for their assimilation.

Arrange their drinking vessels so they cannot step in to the water. Wet feet are bad for the little peepers; so is impure drinking water. Give them plenty of warmth, dryness and cleanliness, and don't put the tender little fellows out of doors on the cold ground for many weeks yet, no matter how warm the sun shines.

Keep the Children Cheerful.

We all make mistakes, and one very common mistake made by the farmer and his wife is living so much in the uncertain future and not enough in the present. Planning and working to save the farm for the children is all right, but if we want to save the restless boys and girls for the farm we must study as we go along how to make home a half-way pleasant place for them.

As we grow older we are inclined to forget we once were young. The young folks, overflowing with vitality, must have amusement. If the parlor is closed at home, and harmless games discouraged, they will find social life elsewhere; and when old enough to earn their living the city will be more alluring, because they have no pleasant memories of the home farm life. F. M. W.



MAKING GOOD ROADS IN ILLINOIS.

The ground is made to slope gently from the center to the sides. A hard rain will make this road solid and even.

GREEN ALFALFA.

Keep Cows Away When It is Young and Wet.

Alfalfa is the first thing on the farm to show green in the spring and it is a great temptation to turn the cows on it as soon as it is big enough to eat. Look out or you will have some dead ones. Keep them off when the plant is young, and particularly when wet. It is very dangerous to turn cows on alfalfa if they have been kept on dry feed all winter, as they will gorge themselves with the young feed until digestion is suspended, fermation sets in and they bloat to that extent that they are choked to death or possibly by actual rupture of paunch.

Remedies for this disease, hoven or bloat, are well known, but unless the pasture is near the house, where the animal's distress is observed early in the trouble, it will probably die before help arrives. A good, big dose of common cooking soda will relieve a mild case. Some use a common rubber garden hose well greased and forced down the throat to allow the escape of the gas. Others tie a broomstick in the mouth to hold the mouth open, while in severe cases, some have had complete success by the use of the knife in punching a hole in the paunch.

The best way is to prevent the trouble by turning the cattle in the alfalfa pasture only a part of the day, when the sun has dried the leaves of moisture. Some dairymen even go so far as not to give the cows more than thirty minutes' run in the alfalfa field. If the grass has been cut and is wilted, it can probably be fed in unlimited quantities, though even with some stock, which is exceptionally susceptible, care must be taken not to water immediately after eating.

THE ALABAMA WAY.

Negro children plowing old cotton rows with a pair of two-year-old bulls.

Fowls Must Have Meat.

The majority of early cockerels are sold on the market for broilers or "fries." It is thus important that they reach the marketable age as early as possible to make room for later hatches and the pullets of their own age kept for early layers.

To make the best and quickest gain meat in some form is essential.

To demonstrate how necessary this animal matter is to the health of the fowls, the New York State Experiment Station made a number of experiments. Two lots each of chickens and ducks as nearly alike as possible were usad in the experiments. One lot in each case was fed a ration of mixed grains with animal meal and fresh bones or dried bloood. In the one ration two-fifths to one-half of the protein came from animal sources, while in the other it all came from vegetable sources.

Starting with chicks one-half week old, the chicks fed on animal meal gained 56 per cent. more than those on the vegetable diet, although they ate only 36 per cent. more. They required half a pound less of dry matter to gain one pound, and each pound of gain cost but 4 1-2 cents, as compared with 5 1-5 cents for the grain fed birds. The animal meal chicks reached two pounds in weight (the frying size) more than five weeks before the others; and three pullets of the lot began laying four weeks earlier than any among the grain-fed birds.

The experiments showed even more striking benefits from the animal food in the case of ducks, many of the ducks dying on the vegetable diet until but twenty were left out of thirty-five at the close of the fifteenth week of feeding. These, when fed the meat ration, made rapid gains.

A PERCHERON STALLION,

after having been driven ten miles during the day. This horse is always given from five to ten miles driving every day during the time he is in active service. He is always in fine condition.

MANURE FOR POTATOES

Treatment for Pennsylvania Soil Would Do for Middle-West.

Where I plant potatoes or corn stubble I give the land a good coating of manure as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry to haul over, and cut the manure into the soil with a disc-harrow. This ground is then plowed and rolled, and the disc and spring-tooth harrow and roller used to make fine and mellow. This gives me practically a pulverized seed bed to the bottom of the furrow and eliminates the risk of having a seed potato in an air space made by two clods not meeting, and not able to make any start at growing.

Where potatoes are plowed in—that is, dropped in every other or every third furrow as the ground is plowed—the discing of the surface of the land is especially advantageous, for, as the covering furrow is turned, the fine mellow soil drops upon and settles in around the seed and creates conditions favorable to early and rapid growth. Where the seed is dropped by hand and very thorough subsequent cultivation given this method of planting on "stalk" land is probably more satisfactory than any other.

In addition to the animal manure, cut in as described, I make an application of 400 pounds of phosphorous and seventy-five to one hundred pounds of muriate of potassium per acre.

W. F. M'SPARRAN.

CHESTNUT HILL AND HIGHLAND PARK

Miss Nettie Rennie, of Amelia county, is now the guest of her brother, Mr. Frank Rennie, of Chestnut Hill.

Miss Lelia Winsfield, who has been sick at her home on Highland Park, is now able to be out.

Sergeant Simms, of Fortress Monroe, is now the guest of friends on the Hill.

Miss Lottie Harrison, who has been the guest of Misses Bessie and Lelia Wingfield, of Highland Park, has returned to her home in Ashland.

Miss Ella Rennie, who has been quite sick at her home on Fourth Avenue, is now able to be out.

The roll of honor of Highland Park public school, week ending February 23, 1906:

Teacher, Miss Elizabeth Quinby—Intermediate A.—Maude Tiller, Hertha Marshall, Bettie Ratcliffe, Emily Cross, Bessie Carter, Edith Yarbrough and Roy Cross.

Junior A.—Irine Dunn, Fannie Gray, Marie Todd, Irine Fritzsche, Lizzie Bowman, Gertrude Royall, Lewis Enslow and Keeling Sisson.

Teacher, Miss Mattie Haines—Fifth Grammar.—Sam Marshall, Harold Wilder, Clifford Ritchie, Lewis Ratcliffe, Bessie Anderson, Claire Shafer and Charlie Cross.

Teacher, Miss Rena Carlton—Fifth Grammar—Frank Ritchie, Hunter Christian, Harry Moore, Irving Tragle and Frank Yarbrough.

Eighth Primary.—Herbert Bahlke, Emily Huxter, Ruth Bowman and Thomas Starke.

Teacher, Miss Mary Duncanson—Sixth Primary—Katie Davis, Ira Tyler, Alvina Fritzsche, Rufus Quarles, Russell Satterwhite, Thomas Ratcliffe, William Knox, Clinton Peers, Ruth Wyatt, Johnny Seelman, Mary See, Marie Williams, Bessye Taylor, Marguerite Bahlke and Dick Haller.

Fourth Primary—Ruth Todd, Fannie Sale, Bessie Cross, Eula Gary, Linden Harrison, Prescott Brown, Ragland Layne and Willie Carter.

Mrs. Lillie Wills, of Powhatan county, has been visiting friends on Highland Park this week.

Mrs. Gresham is quite ill at her home near Highland Park.

The "Eastern Tea," which was to be given at the residence of Mrs. W. R. Vawter last Tuesday evening, February 27th, for the benefit of the Ascension Chapel, was postponed on account of the inclemency of the weather.

Miss Alma Vaughan entertained a few friends Friday evening at her home on Highland Park.

Mr. Max Colvin, who has been quite sick at his residence on Fourth Avenue, is improving.

The "Silver Tea," which was given in the lecture-room of Highland Park Church Thursday night, proved to be quite a success. Music and recitations were enjoyed by all, and quite a nice sum was realized.

Mrs. P. D. Small, of Fifth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, who has been quite ill for the past month, is convalescent.

RIDGE HAPPENINGS

After a recent visit to her mother, Mrs. Portwig, of upper Henrico, Mrs. Henry Ford, has returned to her home on West Cary Street, Richmond.

Mrs. Charles Cottrell, of near Deep Run, has been spending some time in the home of her mother, Mrs. Ella Edwards, of "Gravel Hill."

Miss Temple Blackburn, of Ridge, is spending some time in the home of Mrs. Ford, of W. Main Street, in hopes of recuperating after her recent spell of illness.

Miss Lela Pepper spent the holidays of last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pepper, of "Rose Lawn."

Mr. John Browning of Ridge, who has been suffering with rheumatism for some time, is reported somewhat improved.

The entertainment and oyster supper given by the Ladies' Aid Society of Ridge Church, on last Wednesday night proved a great success. Although the weather was quite threatening a large crowd was in attendance. The main features of the entertainment consisted of several recitations by some of the young ladies and quite a number of splendid selections on the graphophone by Mr. James Graham in the church, while the supper was being prepared in the Jr. O. U. A. M. Hall nearby. Miss Jessie Urban was the fortunate one to win the cake, which was offered by the president of the society to the young lady who would beg the largest amount of money. Miss Lottie Wade and Miss Wildie Shepperson were close contestants.

Roll of honor for Ridge school:

Grammar Grades—Florence Badenoch (19), Viola Bartlett (16), Agnes Badenoch (6), Charles Goodman (3), Timberlake Meredith (7), Bennie Oliver (3), Stella Oliver (2), Gladys Pemberton (2), Vinton Pemberton (11).

Primary Grades—Estelle Clarke (4), Mamie Eubank (4), Thelma Tyler (3), Lessie Shepperson (4), Maggie Hawkins (4), Lucy Holt (4), Jennie Franklin (4), Doswell Meredith (1), Frank Shepperson (2), Raymond Matthews (3).

Mrs. R. W. Browning, of "Wayside," has as her guest her niece, Miss Annie Richards, of Lynchburg.

DeWitt Butler, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Butler, of Rio Vista, is still suffering from a badly burned face. The little fellow, who is about eight years old, found a loaded shell in the field near his home last week, opened the shell, emptied the contents on a rock, and with a lighted match ignited the powder with the above result.

GLEN ALLEN ITEMS

Mr. Harry Nash, a former student of the Massey Business College, of Richmond, is now at his home in Hanover county, near Chickahominy.

Miss Alma Burton, of this place, visited Mrs. R. H. Wade, of Broad Street Road, this week.

Mr. Wootson Lawrence, who has been desperately ill for some few weeks, is better.

Mr. Joseph T. Tyler, on the Broad Street Road, continues to be very ill in his home.

Mr. Jerry Jones, of Gayton, continues to improve in his home on Gayton Mines, in the upper end of Henrico county.

Miss Alice Ford visited Mrs. Rosalie Alley, of Chickahominy, last week.

Mrs. M. A. Wade visited friends in this vicinity last week.

Mrs. E. J. Cawthorn was the guest of Mrs. Alice Powers, of this community, last week.

Mrs. John L. Tinsley is much better and is again able to be out at her usual duties.

Mr. C. W. Henley was recently the guest of Mr. R. C. Holman, of Chickahominy, Va.

Mrs. Alice Powers was the guest of Mrs. R. T. Powers last week.

LEE DISTRICT

Mr. Beverly R. Dudley is not well, but has so far recovered from his spell of sickness as to be out, after having been confined at his home, No. 3022 West Grace Street, for a week or ten days.

Miss Louise Carpenter, of Red Hill, Va., has returned to her home after a delightful visit to her sister, Mrs. Temple S. Carpenter, No. 1633 West Grace Street.

Mrs. Mary C. Bowden and son, Mr. William H. Bowden, have moved to Richmond from New Haven, Conn., and are residing at No. 2302 Hanover Avenue.

Rev. B. H. Melton has returned from La Grange, N. C., where Mrs. Melton and children are spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kinsey.

Miss Mamie C. Randall, who has been spending several months with her brother, Mr. William G. Randall, in New York, will leave this week for Baltimore, where she will be the guest of her friend, Miss Exall.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Swain have returned from a most delightful visit to friends at Palm Beach, and from St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Fla.

Mrs. Herman J. Myers is now located in her beautiful new home, No. 2205 West Grace Street, and will have residing with her, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Randall.

Mrs. Valentine Hechler, of No. 2500 Park Avenue, is spending some time with friends in New York.

Mrs. Charles F. Griffin and family have moved to this city from Goldsboro, N. C., and are located at No. 2207 Hanover Avenue.

Mrs. E. Craig Pelouze has returned from Washington, D. C., where she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Vallius for a week.

Little James Taylor, of No. 1704 Park Avenue, was taken to a hospital Thursday to be operated on for acute appendicitis.

While en route to Newport News Rev. Dr. John Alfred Morehead, of Roanoke, Va., paid a brief visit to his cousin, Mrs. J. W. Mitchell, No. 1824 West Grace Street, Saturday.

Mr. Joseph S. Blackwell has left Richmond and engaged in business in Baltimore, where he is division manager for the D. H. Spencer Sons (Incorporated) Tobacco Company, of Martinsville, Va.

Mrs. William B. Tilghman has returned to her home, No. 1603 Park Avenue, from spending a week with her sister, Mrs. F. O. Nottingham, in Portsmouth, Va.

Sometime between the first and middle of April Mr. W. Scott Hunt will open an up-to-date drug store at the Shenandoah.

Miss Maria Bristow, of Southampton county, is in Richmond, spending the winter with Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Mitchell, and attending the Richmond College.

Miss Janie Manning, Jr., No. 1728 Park Avenue, is in Hampton, Va., visiting Mrs. George Ellerson.

Rev. J. T. Riddick has returned to the city from Accomac county, where Mrs. Riddick is at the bedside of her mother, who is critically ill.

Mr. W. A. Timmis and family, of Rock Island, Ill., have moved to Richmond, and are located at No. 1609 Park Avenue, and have as their guest, Mr. Clay Johnston, who may make Richmond his future home.

Mrs. Charles M. Langhorne is much improved after having been quite sick at her home on West Grace Street.

Mrs. Horace C. Chandlee, of Washington, D. C., is visiting Mrs. W. Meade Addison, No. 1409 West Grace Street.

POLE GREEN

Mrs. Mattie Jenkins and Mrs. Julian Bowles have moved to Richmond, where they expect to keep a boarding house.

William Wood has moved on the Brook Road, and opened a dairy.

William Talley and Miss Fannie Gaines, both of Walnut Grove, were quietly married in the home of Mrs. Saunders, Richmond, Tuesday, February 20th. The happy couple will reside near Cold Harbor.

Miss Florence Carter is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. E. L. Luck, at Elmont.

Miss Pearle Talley visited friends near here during the week.

W. L. Southworth is arranging to move his family to Elmont in the near future.

A number of young people went from this community on Wednesday night to attend a dance given in the home of Mr. Warden, near Old Church.

Mrs. Nancy Alexander, who died Saturday, February 10th, was buried at the old home near Bethesda Church on the following Monday.

Miss Essie Glass is able to resume her studies after several days' sickness.

Miss Jennie Tucker spent Tuesday night with Miss Bertie Shelton at Ruel Plains.

Richard Darracott, who lives on the Pamunkey River, was the recent guest of his brother, John Darracott, near Ruel Point.

Joe Perry, of Richmond, spent Wednesday with friends near here robin hunting.

Roll of honor for No. 12 school is as follows: Edna Hicks, Irene Southworth, Iril Via, Mabel Henry, Jennie Clarke, Catherine Southworth, Winnie Via, Ottie Glass, Linwood Atkins, Richard Martin, Herbert Glass.

Mrs. Blunt, of Barton Heights, is the guest of relatives at Atlee.

Joseph Carter, of this place, was called to Elmont last week to visit his daughter, Mrs. E. L. Luck, who was very ill of pneumonia. She is now convalescing.

Mrs. M. E. Baskett, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Nannie, visited the former's daughter near this place.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams, of Portsmouth, Va., are now visiting Mrs. M. J. Talley at this place.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown, of Chesterfield, visited the latter's father at this place recently.

Miss Beck, who has been the guest of friends here recently, is now visiting Miss Ruth Johnson, near Newman's.

Mr. and Mrs. William Melton spent Sunday with the latter's parents near Atlee.

Mesdames King and Jones, of Newman's, spent a few days last week with the former's daughter, Mrs. Harvey Talley, near here.

BLACK CREEK AND BARKER'S MILL

George Stuart, who recently returned home from the hospital in Richmond, where he underwent an operation on one side of his head, expects to be taken back soon for an operation on the other side.

Robbie Talley, of Sunny Side, visited friends near this place Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Hall, of Charles City, is visiting Mrs. Hall's parents at Poplar Grove.

Mrs. Dora Burnette, who has been quite sick during the past week, is convalescing.

Miss Hellen Camp, of Barkers' Mill, was recently the guest of her friend, Miss Jennie Wood.

Mrs. I. L. Gaulding spent Sunday at Poplar Grove.

Mrs. Addie Burnette, who has been somewhat indisposed recently, is again able to be out.

The Black Creek Sunday school will reopen next Sunday afternoon. Every first and third it will be held in the afternoon, and every second and fourth it will be held in the forenoon. It has been closed during the winter months. The following officers were elected for the occasion: M. H. Martin, superintendent; Ollie Peace, assistant superintendent; George Gaulding, treasurer; Roy Alexander, secretary; Miss Jennie Wood, organist.

Mr. Walter Peace, who has been quite sick, is somewhat improved.

ELLERSON PERSONALS

Merrill Roe, of Richmond, spent Sunday with his brother at Hazeldell.

Miss Etta Burton has returned to Richmond after spending several weeks with her mother.

Miss Rena Beadles has been spending some time with her brother at Highland Springs.

Mrs. A. G. Quarles, of Atlee, spent Monday in Richmond.

Mrs. Roe, of Hazeldell, spent several days last week with her mother in Swansboro.

Benjamin Southworth, of Hewlett's was the recent guest of his brother, W. L. Southworth near Newman's.

Wellford Lucord has returned to Beulahville, King William county, after a pleasant stay with his brother near Atlee.

Mrs. Blunt has returned to Barton Heights after spending several days with relatives near Atlee.

Mrs. Saddler, of Hazeldell, has been visiting relatives in Richmond and Swansboro.

ELKO ITEMS

A dance was given at the home of Mrs. W. L. Adams on Wednesday evening, and a large crowd of young people gathered.

Mrs. M. H. Hughes and son, with her sister, Miss Irene Sharpe, have returned to Richmond after a pleasant visit to their father, W. B. Sharpe, in their old home.

During the heavy snow fall of Tuesday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, the home of Mr. Elias W. Whitlock was destroyed by fire, and only a few bed clothes and a trunk were saved from the burning wreck. Mr. and Mrs. Whitlock are with relatives until they can rebuild.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Turner were guests for several days during the past week of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Winn at "Locust Grove."

Henry Raettig, who has been visiting relatives in Wisconsin, returned during the past week, accompanied by his son, Walter Raettig.

UPPER HANOVER

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

ROCKVILLE, HANOVER CO., VA., March 4.—Little Miss Alice Wiltshire, who has been quite sick for several days, is slowly improving.

Mrs. B. D. Cocke is staying with her daughter, Mrs. V. C. Wiltshire, of Hylas, Va.

Miss Rosalind Sutton, of this place, and Miss Alma Burton, of Chickahominy, Va., will be the guest of the Misses Bledsoe, of Hylas, Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Mamie Fitzhugh, of Taylorsville, is spending some time with Mrs. Wallace Fitzhugh.

Messrs. Gilman and Hay were the lowest bidders for the contract to rebuild Howard's Bridge across the South Anna River.

Mr. J. E. Wiltshire visited friends in Louisa county this week.

Rev. Frank Lewis Hardy, of Richmond College, filled the pulpit at Goochland Baptist Church last Sunday morning.

Mrs. M. E. Cocke and daughter visited Mrs. M. L. Walton, of Goochland county, last week.

Rev. Leland Watts Smith preached in Bethany Baptist Church, Saturday and Sunday.

NEW CHURCH DEDICATED

Bishop Wilson, of Baltimore, Conducted the Services.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WOODSTOCK, VA., March 4.—The new Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Woodstock was formally opened today. Bishop H. W. Wilson, of Baltimore, Md., conducted the services both in the morning and at night. This church has been completed at a cost of about $19,000 dollars and is one of the handsomest edifices in the valley.

Mrs. Jenny Lind Green, organist of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore, gave two recitals on the organ in the church last week, which were attended by large crowds.

A Powerful Order.

There are no title of royalty in the United States, but the Orrer of the Grafter has a large and influential membership.—Atlanta Constitution.

STATEHOOD BILL UP TO SENATORS

Chief Interest in the Measure Centers in the Foraker Amendment.

WON'T MISS RATE MEASURE

Railroad Question Seems to Have Lost Its Interest for Senators.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—The United States Senate will devote most, if not all, the week to the consideration of the statehood bill, with a view to reaching a vote on it next Friday in accordance with the agreement arrived at last week. There is a possibility that Senator Culberson may speak to-morrow on the railroad rate question, but if he does this will be only interruption of the consideration of the bill for the creation of two new States. If the Texas senator does not speak, either Senator Nelson or Senator Long will take the floor in support of the statehood bill. If they do not get an opportunity to speak to-day they will find that opportunity Tuesday, and from that time forward, it is expected that the subject will be pressed until the time set for voting to begin, which is 4 P. M. Friday. Senator Patterson probably will close the debate for the opposition, and Senator Beveridge for the bill. These will not be set speeches in the usual meaning of that word, but are sure to provoke so much discussion as to cause the controversy to take on the character of a general debate.

Practically all the interest in the bill centers in the Foraker amendment, and every possible effort on both sides is being made for and against that provision. Even the friends of the union of Arizona and New Mexico admit that the vote will be close, but the opponents of that policy appear more confident of success. Both sides profess to have assurances from the House friends of the joint bill that with the Foraker amendment incorporated in the measure it will be allowed to die, and its opponents insisting that with the addition made the House will be so eager to accept it that they will not even allow the bill to go to conference.

Won't Miss Rate Measure.

The fact that the railroad rate question will not occupy the floor will not be permitted to interfere with the activity on account of it. The bill is still receiving more attention from individual senators than any other measure, not excepting statehood, and it will remain in the foreground until it is finally disposed of, regardless of its place on the calendar. The especial question under consideration now is that as to whether the proposed compromise amendments shall be accepted. The bill will be made the unfinished business as soon as the vote is taken on the statehood bill.

Senator Lodge is still disposed to ask the Senate to take the Philippine tariff bill from the custody of the Committee on the Philippines, but he will not move in the matter until after the Statehood vote.

For the first time during the present Congress, the National House of Representatives is short of work. There is nothing in sight for the present week but the Indian appropriation bill, and, although not regarded as necessary, the consideration of this bill is to be allowed to consume Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Bills on the calendar will be considered to-day under suspension of the rules, and Friday will be devoted to the passing of private pension bills. An adjournment will then be taken until the following Monday. The bill carries a total appropriation of $7,785,528.

May Take Up Army Bill.

Under suspension of the rules to-morrow, it is not unlikely that an effort will be made to get consideration of the bill abolishing the grade of lieutenant-general in the army. This bill has been introduced and favorably reported from the Military Committee since a provision to the same end failed as legislation on the army appropriation bill.

The bill, as reported, goes into effect on its passage, and consequently makes no provision for the promotion to that rank of General Corbin and MacArthur.

The Algeciras conference on Moroccan affairs will continue this week to be the focus point in international interest. The question of the Moroccan bank having been practically passed over, the conferees, by a motion adopted Saturday, will now consider the most important point, the policing of the country. Should agreement on this question be possible an early solution of the whole problem and an adjourned of the conference may be looked for.

Off for a two months' holiday, and traveling as the Duke of Lancaster, King Edward will this week visit Paris, where he will stay at the British embassy until Tuesday. He will meet President Fallieres. From Paris the King goes to Barriatiz, and will stay there until the end of March.

While at Biarritz he will receive King Alfonso and discuss with him the details of the latter's marriage to Princess Ena of Battenberg.

In view of the recent riot in France much interest attaches to the consistory which will be held at the Vatican on March 10th for the purpose of considering the French government's attitude in the matter of the separation of the Church and State. The Pope, it is expected, will formulate a protest against separation, and probably secret instructions will be sent to the bishops in France as to their attitude toward the new law. It is considered possible that at this consistory the Pope will fill the vacancies in the college of cardinals.

The association to prevent corrupt practices at elections will meet in New York March 5th to 7th. The subjects for discussion will be primary and election laws and corrupt practices acts. Among the speakers will be R. L. Borden, leader of the opposition in the Canadian Parliament.

The Decline of Poetry.

The knowledge that poetry is in a bad way is more or less general, but the ordinary reader of current periodical literature probably does not realize how desperate the poet's case really is. We have, of course, heard of the Missouri verse-writer, whose will was recently set aside on the ground that "he wrote poor poetry and signed his name to it." A Missouri judge would, naturally, accept this as evidence of an unsound mind. What he did not suspect, however, was that practically all the editors of our high-class magazines are of the Missouri view. A Boston poet has shown, by an analysis of the files of the Atlantic, Harper's, Century, Scribner's, Lippincott's and McClure's for 1905, not only that the editors are lacking in judgment of good poetry, but that they are distinctly unfriendly to verse of whatever quality. The twelve numbers of these six magazines contained 9,918 pages of "literature" (not including the advertisements); 9,703 of these pages were given up to prose, and but a beggarly 215 to poetry. The Atlantic itself, with all its rich memories of Longfellow, Lowell, Emerson, Holmes, Aldrich and the rest, devoted to the poetic muse only 24 pages out of its 1,790; and it was in 1905 that its editor sent out a card to its contributors requesting that no more poetry be sent until further notice. Other editors are accused of giving repiles to offers of verse such as "the poems enclosed are too subtle for my readers," and "we don't want the best poetry—our readers don't demand it." All which shows on how small a portion of oatmeal American poets have to meditate the muse.—New York Post.