

FARM AND GARDEN

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

Fruit Trees for Profit.

From Farmers' Review: It is out of very great importance that we buy the right kind of trees if we would secure profit to the planter. Some ten years ago we bought 50 pear trees. Half of them have died since that time and nearly all have blighted badly. One, a Duchess de Angely, planted near the south door of the kitchen, has never blighted, and is the only one of several Duchesses that has done any good. Last year it was heavily loaded with large luscious pears. Two years after it was planted we concluded to put a porch over the door and to the west of it. Not wishing to dig it up we left one board short in the floor so that it would not be disturbed. The top leaned to the south and away from the porch. Some predicted that it would do no good there; but it has never been affected with blight or sun scald. The tree leaned enough to the south so that the leaves protected the body from the sun. Each spring it is laden with heavy clusters of blossoms as beautiful as white roses, and its glossy green leaves during summer make a fine shade.

The Keffler pear trees have also blighted badly and some have died; but more are living than of any other kind. They have also borne more fruit than all the other kinds put together. This, however, amounts to only about four bushels all told. But they are only now old enough to bear good crops. We hope that people now living will yet get something from them. It has been said that the Lincolns never blight, and ours did not for several years. But last year they blighted badly—fully as badly as any other pear trees. We have taken pains to cut off the blighted portions two or three times during the summer. They blighted worse during May and June when the young twigs are tender. The winter Bartlett's and Idahos all blighted and died out in two years or so.

Apple Trees—Many of our apple trees turn out to be inferior fruit, some good for nothing. Other trees bear fall fruit, when we ordered winter fruit trees. This makes our orchard almost a failure. Ours is not the only orchard that turns out so. Almost every one that has put out an orchard will tell of their failure to get the kind of trees they had ordered. Possibly one reason for the failure is that apples that are winter apples in one locality are fall apples in another so that anyone contemplating putting out trees should inquire of neighbors who have bearing orchards what kinds are giving satisfaction. If possible buy only from nurseries direct. What is better is to go to the nurseries and get the varieties you want. There is no use paying high prices to agents for trees that they claim are superior to the trees of other agents. We have bought trees from such men paying fancy prices for them, and found that they were in no way superior to the trees we might have purchased at a lower price.

Peach Trees—There are so many kinds of peach trees that it is very difficult to know what to buy. At first we bought 35 different kinds, but later discarded many of them. Possibly the ones that proved worthless with us would do well in other states or even in other parts of this state. The early and late Crawfords, Susquehanna, Washington Cling, Levy Late, or Henrietta Foster and some others bear no fruit worth the name, though we had many hundred trees. But Crosby and Champion always bear when any peach trees have fruit on them. Crosby overbears and needs much thinning. Champions have generally just enough or need some thinning. Elberta is a fine looking tree, but bears little fruit for us, and that little rots more than does the fruit of some of the other trees. We have discarded them, yet others tell us that they do well in some other parts of the country. For profit neither too early nor very late peaches pay so well as those ripening in August and September, except a few trees for table use. By getting a few of the very earliest and very latest we prolong the peach season to four and a half months. Peaches are exceedingly healthful fruit, after one gets use to eating them.

In buying peach trees it is very difficult to get them true to name. It is very provoking, when one has cared for, trimmed and cultivated trees for years, to find them Crawfords instead of some better fruit. Some of them even do not bear any peaches. And the trees are about as worthless that bear big crops of early peaches that rot as soon as they are off the trees. We find that the best way to avoid this condition of affairs is to bud them ourselves from bearing trees. Then we know we get the kind we want. The next best thing is to get them from nurseries known to be reliable. There are men engaged in the nursery business that will sell only fruit trees that are true to name. Character is worth

something in a nurseryman as well as elsewhere.—Mrs. L. C. Axtell, Warren County, Illinois.

Peat Bog Pasture and Meadow.

From Farmers' Review: The utility and great value of a peat bog in a large pasture for cattle are not generally understood. I have noticed numerous such bogs in my travels by rail and wagon. Often they are surface ditched until a fall of 5 feet to the mile is obtained. Cattle will tramp the ditch bottom in hot weather to cool their feet and muddy their tails to switch flies. They will so tramp its bottom that the next strong shower will carry off the loosened soil until hard-pan or hard rock is reached. Retramping will make pits in the stream, which soon become little waterfalls and later large ones, until the recoil of falling water undermines the water course.

Bog pasture has much alluvial deposit among its peat, producing a fodder that is astingent and that will counteract any acrid plants that may grow in other parts of the field. As meadow bog land is the most productive known to me. The hay on it is astingent and absorbent and for barn use where bran is fed plentifully cannot be equaled for fibrous growth, especially for growing animals. To be profitable such hay must be cut before it is done growing. It will then be eaten clean. If allowed to reach full maturity its value is lessened. If it be cut in its most vigorous growth, the roots will still be active and will soon cover the soil again with sweet new grass, which will catch the moisture that comes up from below, keep the sun from scorching the roots and make an aftermath big enough to mow.

When a young man on my father's farm, I was employed with a team to draw clay from a large cowyard, which contained much latent clover seed, and spread it thinly over a peat field, to make what we called a "cow hospital." Here were kept such cows of a nervous temperament as were troubled with dysentery. When they were considered cured of their trouble and their usual flow of milk was restored, they were returned to the herd, clean, lively and with hair glossy curled by cow licks. Farming now in Iowa we get the same results from similar sources. We have enlarged our pastures with the above results in hay and grass. In times of drouth they are extra good, the bog sponge supplying moisture all the summer, if never allowed to be "bare bottom" or cut late to let the sunshine dry the grass roots.—Richard Baker, Jr.

Crop Conditions.

Government crop reports state that there have been heavy precipitations of either rain or snow which have furnished an abundance of moisture in all parts of the United States save central and western Texas, where rain is much needed. These precipitations coupled with cold weather have considerably delayed spring work.

But little progress with corn planting has been made since the first of the month, except in the extreme southern districts, where it is nearing completion in some sections. Slow germination and poor stands are generally reported from the southern states.

A general improvement in the condition of winter wheat is reported, except in portions of Ohio, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Texas, where damage by insects is more or less apparent, the last named state reporting unfavorable effects of drouth. On the Pacific coast the outlook for winter wheat continues promising, but the crop needs rain over a large part of California. Some spring wheat has been sown in portions of Iowa, Nebraska and southern Minnesota, but none has yet been sown in the Red River valley.

Oats seeding is well advanced as far north as the Ohio valley, and some seeding has been done in Nebraska. In the east gulf and south Atlantic districts the outlook is promising, but the crop is being injured by drouth and insects in Texas.

Reports of fruit prospects are favorable, except from California, where severe frosts have injured grapes and other fruits in the northern and central portions of the state.

Glass Test of Paris Green.

A very simple test, which will enable one to distinguish a good proportion of adulterated samples at once, including many of those not detectable with ammonia, is to take a very small portion of Paris green—what one could easily pick up on the point of a pen-knife—place this upon a piece of glass at an angle; jarring the lower edge will cause the little pile of green to move down the inclined surface, leaving behind it a bright green track, if the sample is pure; but in the case of many adulterated or impure samples, the track would be white or pale green. The glass test is particularly useful in comparing a number of samples, and after one has acquired some experience it becomes quite reliable. It does not enable one to detect the recent forms of arsenic adulterations, and, like the ammonia test, should never be considered as conclusive evidence of purity.

Agricultural Opportunities in Brazil.

Readers of the Farmers' Review who have been infected with a desire to develop the resources of South America should read the following letter published in the Rio News of Rio de Janeiro, concerning the inducements offered by Brazil to agricultural immigrants. The letter is as follows:

"A letter has been laid upon our table from the director of the agricultural department in one of the most prominent institutions of learning in the United States, in which he asks our impression as to the desirability of Americans entering farm life in Brazil. Although there are countless openings here for labor and capital in the development of agriculture, we cannot say that they would be suitable or congenial for young Americans. In the first place, language, race, and institutions are all radically different and would at first be obstacles; but to these, of course, an energetic, intelligent young man could adapt himself if he tried. But farm life as he understands it does not exist in Brazil, nor will he find in this country the inducements for agricultural enterprise which exist in the United States. Climate and custom will stand in the way of personal manual labor; consequently, he must bring capital to enable him to play the role of a gentleman planter, directing his laborers, but not joining in their toil. Then, too, the cultivation of tropical products involves a new experience. He will have a new type of labor to direct, new conditions of weather to study, new markets with which to familiarize himself. But the really serious obstacles, in our opinion, are artificial rather than natural—unsettled and frequently disturbed political conditions, latent jealousies springing from inherited antagonism of race and religion, crude ideas of taxation by which the development of general agricultural industries or small farming has been rendered quite impossible, a depreciated currency which unsettles values, hampers trade, and nourishes speculation, and, lastly, deficient protection from the courts. There is no lack of opportunity for enterprise, but the man who devotes himself to the development of an industry is not appreciated except as a source of revenue through the imposition of taxes. And one of the worst features of the system is the imposition of interstate import and export taxes, which confine the producer to purely local and restricted markets. An example of this may be seen every day at our ferry station, where chickens, eggs, vegetables, plants, fruits, etc., are compelled to pay an export duty to the state of Rio de Janeiro before they can reach a market in this city. The result has been that many vegetable gardens on the other side of the bay have been abandoned, because they are no longer profitable. A year or two ago, some Minas Geraes planters began producing potatoes and found a ready market for them here; but an export duty was immediately imposed upon them, and the industry was checked. Conditions like these will always operate against the settlement of this country by energetic planters until wiser and more liberal counsels prevail. In southern Brazil the climate is not unsuitable to Americans and north Europeans, and there are industries available which would amply repay them for their capital and labor; but as yet we cannot advise them to come."

Ammonia Test of Paris Green.

Paris green dissolves freely and wholly in ammonia, becoming a beautiful blue liquid; while a majority of the substances formerly used in adulterating Paris green are insoluble. This, therefore, is a very ready means of recognizing most of the crude forms of adulteration. If upon treatment with ammonia any of the material fails to dissolve, the same is adulterated. This test, however, is not conclusive, since white arsenic and a number of other substances used in adulterating Paris green, especially in these later years, are soluble in ammonia and would escape detection if this method alone were depended on. Ammonia then affords valid grounds for rejecting a sample if any portion of it is insoluble; but other means must be used to be sure of its purity, even if apparently pure by this test.

As a general thing farmers do not make enough use of clover about the hen yard and nests and in the feeding of the fowls. How many go to the trouble of cutting dry clover for any such purposes? Yet in nearly all cases it is far ahead of chaff, even for packing purposes. If cut fine it makes a good center for the nests of laying hens and a still better center for the nests of sitting hens. It is far preferable to whole straw in which the young chicks may become entangled. Some egg sellers use cut clover for packing eggs that are to go by express using the cut clover in the part of the package containing the eggs and using excelsior only on the outside to separate the eggs from the outside of the packages. Some chicken raisers use cut clover on the floor of the brooder and say it is superior to sand or dirt.

In the London schools, last year 37,000 girls were taught to cook.

Redskin Barbarism

STORY OF APACHE CRUELTY IN THE WEST.

A veteran who was on the trail in New Mexico previous to the outbreak of the civil war relates a story of a Philadelphian, which was the experience of many unfortunate travelers with the Apache Indians in the southwest. The veteran at the time was the guest of officers at Fort Fillmore, long since abandoned. The Philadelphian, E. J. White, arrived at the post in an ambulance, with his wife and child and two servants, a man and his wife. Mr. White had been appointed at Washington as sutler for the military post of Fort Buchanan, several days distant from Fillmore. White had never been in the Indian country and laughed at the fears of the people at the fort, who warned him of danger from an attack of prowling Apaches. He said he could not wait for a stronger party to come along and would start for his destination the next day. Mrs. White was a beautiful young woman of one of the eastern cities, who had never left her father's roof until she started with her husband for the wilds of the mountains. The ambulance left the next morning. "At daybreak on the morning after that," says the veteran, "we were aroused by the rapid beating of the drum. Two men had arrived at the post from the west. They said that about twenty miles from the post they came across the dead bodies of two men and the fragments of a wagon which had been set on fire. Evidently there had been an attack by the Indians and the travelers had been taken by surprise. Immediately a large party was organized and we started for the spot, well armed and mounted on the fleetest horses at the post. We had at our head two of the most noted scouts of the southwest. They rode forward without a word. We arrived at the scene of the massacre in about two hours, and found that the story was too true. No traces of Mrs. White or her babe could be found, and we knew she had been carried off a prisoner to a fate worse than death. We hastily buried the two men and started on the trail of the savages. The trail led toward the Florida mountains, which extend into Chihuahua, Mexico, and we knew a long chase was before us, with poor chances of ever coming up with the Indians. There were fifteen Indians in the party, as our guides found

by counting the tracks of their horses. We rode at the height of speed all day, not stopping for food or rest. In the evening we entered a valley that extended farther than the eye could reach to the southward. It was a bright moonlight night, and all night we rode through the valley. The weaker horses gave out, but the main body pushed on, stopping only to water the horses at a mountain stream and snatch a quick lunch from a small store with which we were supplied. It was the longest and hardest ride I ever knew, and yet we seemed far behind the fleeing savages. At daylight we reached a stream of water and there the quick eye of our scouts discovered the dead body of Mrs. White's babe. The babe had been killed by the Indians out of wanton cruelty. At the spring our guides decided that we should rest while they pushed cautiously ahead without any attendants. They believed the Indians would be found in camp along the valley, and the approach must be with the greatest caution. We waited for hours. Our patience was sorely tried, but in the evening we had a chance at the savages. The party of which I was a member was lying in the rocks, with the camp of the Indians directly before us, and each man had singled out his savage. The Indians were stretched on the ground around a smoldering fire, and they paid no attention whatever to our whippoorwill's cry. We opened fire from both sides of the camp at the same instant, and then rushed forward. Seven of the Indians lay dead. Several of the sleeping forms leaped to their feet and disappeared in the shadow of the trees. Upon arriving at the camp we found to our sorrow that Mrs. White was dead. One of the fleeing demons had stabbed her to the heart, and her servant was treated in the same inhuman manner. Both bodies were warm, but the savages had accomplished all the harm possible, and several of the Indians escaped entirely. We buried the bodies in the shadow of the mountains, and out of reach of wolves and coyotes, but our hearts were sad as we returned to the fort. A year later a watch case with the initials "E. J. W." engraved upon it was recovered from a captured Apache."—Utica Globe.

"TICKET NO GOOD"

How the Chinaman Had Applied the Lesson He Had Learned.

The army woman, who has been married 10 years and moved 13 times, told an experience the other evening which was appreciated by many who were present. She was talking about Chinese servants, who, by the way, are much like monkeys or parrots, imitative, but not original. She said: "Now, there was Sam! That almond-eyed fellow could cook for 'further orders' and he was willing and industrious, but he simply would not wait on the door! Honestly, Sam seemed to have been suddenly stricken deaf, dumb and blind every time the bell rang. Well, you know how things are in these army posts. The servant is obliged to do all the work; so I made up my mind if that Chinaman could be taught I'd teach him. I put him into the awkward squad and proceeded to drill him. I went to the door, rang the bell and had Sam respond. Then I told him how to open the door; to make a low bow; to hold out the salver for the cards—I used my own, of course—and to show people

into the parlor. I worked away on Sam nearly one whole day, and considered him 'fit for duty.' Shortly after this one of the men of our acquaintance said to me: 'What's the matter with that Chinaman of yours? Is he crazy?' You can imagine my surprise at such a question, and naturally I asked what was the matter.

"Why, the other day I came up to make a call," he replied, "and that slit-eyed son of Confucius answered the bell; made an elaborate salaam; held out the card received and got my card. Then he began to scrutinize the little pasteboard in a most inquisitive way. He picked it up, looked at the name, turned it over, and then threw it in my face, exclaiming: 'You go hellee! Ticket no good.'"

The card wasn't like mine, that's all."

The delusions of childhood bloom into flowers of youthful disappointment, and ripen into the wrinkled footprints of old age.

Bonus for Those Who Marry

One Way of Combatting The Growing Divorce Evil.

A society whose undertaking is to provide a bonus for those who marry is tending to make life in East St. Louis more interesting and also to encourage habits of thrift in those who enter into an obligation to pay the bonus, says the Globe-Democrat. The first man to become a beneficiary of the association drew \$500 the other day, and is convinced that the objects for which the society is formed are extraordinarily excellent, and, in fact, is not backward in the use of much more commendatory language, such as is commensurate with a gift of \$500. A wise and useful provision in the instrument under which the association is organized makes it necessary for those who marry to wait for two years before they are given the \$500. It will be seen that while this encourages matrimony it also discourages divorce. It suggests that still greater restraint might be put on the impulse to appeal to the divorce court by providing for a series of premiums on a happy and

continued wedded life, to be paid at intervals. Of course, it might be worth more money for some to fulfill these requirements than others, but this could be overcome by a board of equalization. After a careful study of the situation the society might offer greater inducements to those who seemed to be entitled to them. As membership in the society is open to both husbands and wives, the influences toward faultless domestic behavior are doubled. The possibilities of this new and promising means of combatting a growing evil are recommended to those who are making a study of divorce.

Naval Academy at Annapolis.

The new naval academy at Annapolis will be a fine structure. When completed the building will have cost \$3,000,000 and will be finer than any government structure outside of Washington. It will accommodate 500 cadets.