

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

J. P. STELLE, EDITOR.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE—All communications intended for this department should be addressed to Prof. J. P. Stelle, Fort Worth, Tex.

A TALK ON SMALLER FARMS.

Mr. George Q. Dow, well known by reputation to all readers of agricultural literature, writes that farmers all over the country, and particularly all over the South, are, as a rule, attempting to cultivate too large an acreage for their means.

It must be admitted that many farmers are slow to see the changes that have taken place. They decline to accept new ideas, and hence remain about one generation behind the present times so far as relates to progress.

Notwithstanding all these facts there is still plenty of good money to be made at farming, but it must be farming conducted on the modern plan.

Instead of carrying water in cans or pails, or even running it through hose for sprinkling purposes, continues the writer, the only efficient mode of irrigation is to run water through ditches between the plant beds, to be soaked from the sides of said ditches to the roots of the plants, and in the quantity sufficient to have covered the entire surface to the depth of one inch if so put on.

Of course there are other methods than the one referred to by the Home Journal, as flooding a level surface for grass or small grain, and as "sub-irrigation," so called. The latter consists in running water under the beds through porous conduits, to be taken up into the soil by capillary attraction.

Let us my conception should be the wrong one. I have reviewed the authorities in search and find nothing leading to a different conclusion. The only sentence which details the method of the present writer is the idea of a native earth and air temperature found in Besenhand's Natural Philosophy, page 412:

"The lowering temperature which thus renders the soil more compacted, and the stones or bare earth than in the air, whose radiating power is considerably less. The consequence is a considerable difference of temperature between the surface of the ground and the air at a height of a few feet, a difference which is found by observation to amount sometimes to 8 or 10 degs. C., and it is this which causes the dew to form."

Now how is this deposition brought about? The next sentence explains: "The surface of the earth, as it gradually cools, leaves the air which is in contact with it, which thus becomes saturated, and on further cooling yields up a portion of its vapor in the liquid form."

While the following appearing in the Florida Farmer and Fruit-Grower was intended to refer mainly to Florida, it applies with equal force to the state of Texas:

izer can be distributed and worked into the soil at the same time that the seed is sown, if needed, so that whenever the character of the soil will admit, it will be found advisable to use the drill in sowing the fall wheat.

MISTAKES IN IRRIGATION. People sometimes jump to the conclusion that irrigation will not pay on account of tests made by themselves with incorrect methods.

In a paper to Colman's Rural World Judge Samuel Miller alludes to this character of mistake and adds that in irrigation he applies the contents of a three-gallon watering-can to every square yard, which most persons would think a copious drenching.

If such gardeners as sprinkle their soil would only measure the water which they apply, and measure the surface which they wet with it, the simple figuring would astonish them and show that they were not really watering their plants, but only forming a crust about them.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS. This department is devoted to answering such questions as may be asked by our subscribers, which may be of general information. Inquiries of a local character, or those which may be of special interest to a particular section, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Gazette," or "A. G. D.," not for publication, if against the will of the writer, but to admit of direct communication with the correspondent, if deemed necessary. Address as directed at head of this page.

THE DEW-POINT QUESTION. All that has been said on this subject in the last two issues of The Sunday GAZETTE, has been carefully read, and still I am dissatisfied. It is to the theory that the dew-point depends on the relative humidity of the air and earth that I object.

THE HONEY PEACHES. In our special study of Texas seedling peaches, made in the present season, we have found in considerable representation a very peculiar kind that for want of a better name might be called the "honey peach of Texas."

ON DRILLING WHEAT. According to the Breeders' Guide, one of the most important items in sowing wheat is to secure a firm, even stand; to get the wheat distributed evenly over the surface, and if properly managed this can nearly always be done with more certainty by using the drill than is possible by hand.

THOUGHTS ON IRRIGATION. While the following appearing in the Florida Farmer and Fruit-Grower was intended to refer mainly to Florida, it applies with equal force to the state of Texas:

There is no crop but what can be grown in Florida after a fashion and in greater or less abundance, without any irrigation whatever. Some years there are some crops that do not require any artificial supply of water, there is enough furnished by the clouds to make a fair yield and a living profit.

FRUIT IN NORTH TEXAS. Dr. A. M. Hagland's ably conducted and valuable new publication, The Southern Horticulturist, and Farmer, Bryan, Tex., refers to the success of Mr. Wm. McKinney as offering positive proof in an establishment of the fact that fruit growing can be made to pay handsomely in North Texas.

profit. But there is no year when a little more water could not be used to advantage at certain times. We believe Florida would be much further advanced today if we had been absolutely compelled to irrigate from the beginning, as the Californians have. This uncertain, touch-and-try system has more or less of the elements of barbarism in it.

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When the younger McKinney had attained to manhood, he began life as a cotton planter, only to reap disaster and disappointment. He then tried fruit growing, his tastes appearing to lean that way, but in this he was not so successful as he had hoped to be, so he pulled up stakes and moved to Missouri, to try his luck there.

ABOUT FALL BUDDING. In your valuable article on propagating the peach by grafting you say the season for budding is over, giving as a reason that the sap is down. The sap is down a few days before, but on examining my young trees since the fall rains began to live things up I find them more or less sapless, with the bark slipping easily.

THAT FLORIDA PERFUME WORKS. It was this paper and not the Florida Agriculturist that published the facts about the perfume factory. Doubtless the paper in a way more pleasing to yourself than I could make it in my paper, and I give you the privilege of doing it in such fashion as your sense of justice may dictate.

VEGETABLE MATTER IN SOILS. I see that for all crops grown in Texas you are constantly advocating an abundant supply of decomposed vegetable matter in your soil.

WHAT AILS THE KITTEN? I am a little girl eight years old and I have a little kitten only four months old. We have lived in Texas less than a year. My kitten is the sweetest little thing I ever saw, but something ails it.

THE EFFECTS OF FORESTS ON TEMPERATURE. Professor Nuttich of Germany, has been making a careful study of the effects of tree growth on temperature. He has decided that trees, when growing together in considerable masses, have a tendency towards lowering the maxima and raising the minima, and that this is greater from May to September or October than in other months.

THE TREE SPECIES OF NORTH AMERICA—PRUSSIA'S EARLIEST STEAM ENGINE—PETROLEUM A NATIONAL FUEL—A STUDY OF THE HUMAN STOMACH—ELECTRIC MOTORS. Professor Nuttich of Germany, has been making a careful study of the effects of tree growth on temperature.

OLD CROW CROWS. He Returns from Pine Ridge After Seeing White Jesus. RED JESUS WILL COME SOON. Then the Pale Faces Will All be Promptly Extirminated and the Indian Reign.

DEATH TO WHITE MEN. Special to the Gazette. TALLGROW, Tex., Sept. 10.—Old Crow, the Indian chief who went to Pine Ridge agency a few weeks ago in search of the messiah, returned last Saturday, and is telling his red children of the wonderful things he saw in the northland. He says the red Jesus did not appear in person, but his white representative of alderman proportions talked with him frequently and assured him that the messiah would make himself manifest soon; that the pale faces would all be exterminated, and the Indian raised to the highest pinnacle of wealth, greatness and numerical strength; that the prairies and forests would be alive with game and the lakes and streams stocked with fish; in fact, the Indians' future would be an unending Fourth of July.

MOTHER AND CHILD BURNED. Special to the Gazette. DRYDEN, Colo., Sept. 11.—An unusually harrowing accident occurred in South Denver at noon today. Mrs. J. Stewart was tempted to light a kitchen fire with kerosene and a terrible explosion occurred. Her clothing was burned completely off her person, and her body was one great burn. The poor woman's breast burst open from the heat and her eyes were blinded. She lingered a few hours in a few days and her arms at the time of the explosion were also burned to death. The house was also destroyed.

THE OIL MEALS AS COW FOOD. I am lately from a Northern state, where the people are so fond of feeding their horses and cows with oil meals, that I have been thinking of the oil meals as cow food. Here I find oil meals are not on the market, but the dealers in cotton-seed meal assure me that it is the equal of any other meal for horses and cows. Will you please enlighten me on this point. The GAZETTE as to the relative feeding qualities of linsseed meal and cotton-seed meal. G. W. ARMSTRONG, Wood, Tex.

very body, whose low temperature causes the condensation." Simpler than this and yet amounting to the same thing, the definition found in one of our standard school books. Hous-ton's Physical Geography, page ninety-three says: "When the air contains as much vapor as it is capable of holding, it is said to be at its dew-point." So much for the question, what is dew-point? The next question is, is this point constant or does it vary in different localities? It is agreed here. Next, on what conditions does the variation depend? I answer, "On the amount of moisture in the atmosphere, the greater the quantity of vapor, the less the fall required to reach the dew-point. To avoid being tedious, we will quote from Houston again as he states what we wish in the least compass. "The quantity of moisture necessary to saturate the air and bring it to the dew-point varies with the temperature." This we can paraphrase: The temperature necessary to cause the air to be saturated and brought to its dew-point varies with the quantity of moisture. The next sentence before us says: "Cold air requires much less moisture to saturate it than air which is warmer." This paraphrased reads: Air containing a small quantity of moisture must be cooled to a lower temperature before becoming saturated than air, containing more moisture. Is this not fair? It is not satisfactory to me, but I conclude justifiable that most districts have a higher dew-point than those far in the interior.

More Dew-Point Talk. I have read with some degree of care your reply to the inquiry of "H. L." for the dew-point in many teachers, with reference to a dew-point. While admitting much you say, there are points I fail to see. I would say that I have never seen any authority on dew-point in Texas. I think "H. L." gets the true principle from George's Physics, chapter on heat, but not an exact answer.

Humid air coming in contact with a body a little cooler will deposit moisture. Dry air, on the other hand, when in contact with a little cooler will fall to deposit moisture; but on a body very much cooler may deposit a sensible quantity. It matters little whether the air is 5 deg. C. (41 F.), 25 C. (77 F.), or 30 C. (82 F.), on which the cooler body operates.

When air is saturated with water-vapor, (20 deg. F.), it will hold only four grains of Centigrade or 18 degs. Fahrenheit, will precipitate half the moisture contained, as mist, rain, etc. Under the same conditions, (a saturated body of air), a substance one or two degrees cooler might receive a sensible deposit of dew. But suppose the air is only half saturated, then 10 C. (50 F.) would not even cause a fog, and a body one or two degrees cooler than the air would not be likely to influence a thick enough stratum of air to deposit a sensible quantity of dew. A greater difference would be required.

When the air on the Staked Plains was humid, the earth, and particularly the grass, radiated heat at night and received a line coat of dew. Later the air was drier, the ground cooled, and the same change of temperature failed to collect any dew.

What Ails the Kitten? I am a little girl eight years old and I have a little kitten only four months old. We have lived in Texas less than a year. My kitten is the sweetest little thing I ever saw, but something ails it. We read The GAZETTE and was always reading the agricultural paper the first thing and my ma said if I would write you a letter you would tell me what ailed my kitten. Pa said you would not, my attention to such a thing would be better if you were you would better, if I would send stamp to pay the postage. So I have put in the stamp.

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Effects of Forests on Temperature. Professor Nuttich of Germany, has been making a careful study of the effects of tree growth on temperature. He has decided that trees, when growing together in considerable masses, have a tendency towards lowering the maxima and raising the minima, and that this is greater from May to September or October than in other months. The cooling in summer is greatest in beech woods, less in pine and least in fir, increasing with the density of the forest. In the second half of June the air-temperature of forest and open country was found to become equal soon after 5 a. m. and 8 p. m., the maximum was about 0.9 deg. lower in the wood, and the minimum 0.6 deg. higher, while in May to September the difference sometimes reached 2.7 deg. The daily mean was about 1/2 deg. less in the forest.

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Linseed meal, analyzed by Professor Colton, feeds up as follows: Water.....10.97 Oil.....23.88 Albumen.....23.88 Sugar.....32.25 Fibre.....12.69 Mineral matter.....6.25

Following is an analysis-table of cotton seed meal made by the same well-known chemist: Water.....8.96 Oil.....16.05 Albumen.....17.43 Gum.....8.92 Fibre.....8.92 Mineral matter.....8.05

A comparison of these tables will show that of the two substances cotton seed meal is much the richest in albumen, which is the flesh-forming component. From this we must conclude that cotton seed meal is a better cattle food than linseed meal. There is nothing whatever against cotton seed meal for cows.

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scorpion. This settled the question beyond an opening for reasonable controversy. No, don't let them kill your pet kitten. A little while and the scorpions will be gone for the winter, and when they return for next season your kitten will have grown to an age that ought to give it more sense than to try to catch and eat scorpions. But really we are not sure that cats ever get that much sense here. They tell us that cats don't do well in Texas, not being as healthy as they are in many other regions. If this be so it is doubtless due to the fact that they catch and eat scorpions or "stinging lizards."

CIDER WITHOUT APPLES. Please tell me through The GAZETTE how to make cider without apples, or cheap pague cider, and much obliged. G. B. MOODY, Springtown, Tex.

If you desire to make a really good imitation cider, and one that will be entirely wholesome in every respect, the following formula from Professor W. C. Brunson, the noted Chicago chemist, may be confidently relied upon:

Get a good syrup barrel and put into it three gallons of first-class sugar-house molasses and five gallons of hot water. Stir well by shaking or rolling, and then let stand one hour. At the end of this time add thirty-two gallons of pure cold water, twelve ounces of tartaric acid and two quarts of hop yeast such as is used by bakers or brewers. Stir again; that is, shake or roll the barrel about till thorough mixture is the result. Leave with the bung out, a thin gauge being placed over the hole to prevent the entrance of insects. If kept in a place where the temperature stands at 60 to 70 degs. F., it will be good for cider in forty-eight hours. After that it must be kept in a cool place, say 45 degs. else it will soon become vinegar.

According to the same high authority, a good imitation sweet cider may be made as follows:

Put into a clean barrel thirty-five gallons of warm water, twenty pounds stambed honey, one ounce powdered gum catechu, two ounces powdered alum and one pint brewer's or baker's hop yeast. Mix well together by rolling the barrel, and then let stand with bung out two weeks. At the end of that time add one ounce of powdered nutmeg and one ounce powdered cloves. It is now ready for use. If too sweet add good vinegar to suit the taste; if too tart, add more honey.

Another formula recommended by Professor Brunson for making a somewhat fancy imitation cider, and one that would keep longer than either of the others, is thus given:

Warm water.....35 gallons Sulphuric acid.....10 pounds Stir well together and let stand twelve hours. At end of this time pour together in one gallon of water. Pulverized alum.....10 ounces Ground cloves.....10 ounces Pulverized bitter almonds.....4 ounces And when nearly cool, in twenty-four hours it will be ready for use.

The imitation ciders of commerce are made by different formula, and on account of having something put into them to prevent fermentation are generally unwholesome. There is no way of making a passible imitation champagne cider without apples.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

THE EFFECTS OF FORESTS ON TEMPERATURE.

The Tree Species of North America—Prussia's Earliest Steam Engine—Petroleum A National Fuel—A Study of the Human Stomach—Electric Motors. Professor Nuttich of Germany, has been making a careful study of the effects of tree growth on temperature. He has decided that trees, when growing together in considerable masses, have a tendency towards lowering the maxima and raising the minima, and that this is greater from May to September or October than in other months.

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ABBOTT'S EAST INDIAN CORN REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM, GOUT, BRUISES, BURNS, AND WARTS.

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Oil Meals as Cow Food. I am lately from a Northern state, where the people are so fond of feeding their horses and cows with oil meals, that I have been thinking of the oil meals as cow food. Here I find oil meals are not on the market, but the dealers in cotton-seed meal assure me that it is the equal of any other meal for horses and cows. Will you please enlighten me on this point. The GAZETTE as to the relative feeding qualities of linsseed meal and cotton-seed meal. G. W. ARMSTRONG, Wood, Tex.

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