

AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

Sowing of Seeds.

Wherever the soil is in proper condition to work, and crumbles before the plow, or when stirred by the spade or fork, a large share of the hardy seeds may be sown. The larger share of seeds are sown in rows twelve to fifteen inches apart, and it is well to have a marker that will make furrows at these distances. Nearly all of the root crops, parsnips, early beets, carrots, onions, both seeds and sets, leeks, caryots, etc., also radishes in cold frames and in the open ground, are best sown in this way.—*American Agriculturist.*

Crossing With Wild Turkeys.

The turkey is naturally the most shy of all our domestic fowls, as indeed it has been most recently reclaimed from the wild state. The hen loves to make her nest and rear her tender brood with as little disturbance from man as possible. The domestication process has affected the hardness of the turkey, and its size has been diminished by continuous breeding from small or immature stock. In the wild state the dominant male will always be the largest and best bird in the flock, and will insure the perpetuation of his excellences. It is therefore a good plan for turkey breeders to occasionally mix their breed with a strain of the wild variety. This improves both hardness and size.—*Eastern Cultivator.*

Mulberry and Windbreak.

The Russian mulberry is so good a nurseryman's tree—so easy to raise even in the most trying climates, and so pretty in leaf—that it is still boomed as valuable for extensive planting. Little is said now about the fruit, which is delectable, or the wood, which amounts to nothing; but the twiggy trees are valued for windbreaks. They are too eagerly eaten off by cattle when small, and too bare in winter to fully suit this purpose. Evergreens make the best windbreaks, and if they become open, some underbrush of barberry, purple willow or other plants that cattle let alone, will make a perfect and enduring shelter from storms, summer and winter. Young seedlings of spruces, arbor vitae, white pines and other evergreens cost very little, and if set out two feet apart convenient to their intended site, and protected from cattle and weeds till three or four feet high, they can be transplanted entire and with certainty of success.—*New York Tribune.*

Rubbing Dry.

Rubbing dry after heavy exercise or hard work, which causes the animal to perspire freely, is a luxury that few farm horses ever enjoy. As a rule owners do not understand the benefits derived from such practice, and those who know or admit that it is beneficial are prone to think that they have not the time, or cannot afford to take the time, to attend to it. The good results from such work are many and various. There is no better way to remove all dirt from the hair than when it is loosened up by the moisture. A thorough rubbing when the skin and coat are damp is worth half a dozen of the kind of groomings that horses usually get with the curry-comb and brush. It will also prevent that harshness of the hair which follows when the sweat is left to dry upon the animal. In the matter of preventing colds a good rubbing at this season of the year, when horses have been heated up to the sweating point, will more than repay for the time and trouble that it requires. It also has a good effect upon the health and general condition of the horses to give them this attention. The labor of exercise that causes horses to perspire must necessarily be of a wearing nature, and the relaxing effect upon the nervous system of a thorough rubbing will produce good results. The legs of a horse should not only be rubbed dry with a rag, but the hands should be used freely over the muscles and tendons, which will prevent soreness. The farmer's horses are entitled to as good treatment in every way as those which are used upon the race tracks, and the owners of running and trotting horses would about as soon think of letting their horses go without feed or water as without a thorough rubbing after each time they are warmed up.—*Texas Stockman.*

Pruning Fruit Trees.

We occasionally meet with persons who think that trees, in order to bear properly, should be pruned every spring. Similar persons think they cannot start the year aright without a dose of spring physic of some kind. The trees may need pruning, but at this season or at any other, one rule should be observed. No branches, large or small, should ever be cut away without a reason for it. One should be able to say to himself, why will it be better for the tree to remove a certain branch than to let it remain? If this rule were observed there would be much less pruning than at present. We are not of those who object to all pruning because it is unnatural; such should remember that all cultivation is unnatural. When we place a tree by itself and prevent other trees and other vegetation from encroaching upon it and checking its growth, we depart from nature. The first step in cultivation is to relieve the tree or other plants from the need of struggling with others for a place in which to grow and spread their above ground portions as well as to develop their root system in its search for food. To nature there is this constant "struggle for existence." Whatever manner we use to plant in this struggle is "agin' nature." One who wishes to cultivate fruit trees, intelligently, be there but a large orchard, should have a working knowledge of the principles as well as the mechanical operations of tree culture in the fruit garden," by P. Barry. Its name is misleading, but it includes all that one needs to know about fruit culture, from the raising of the plants from seed to their planting and treating in the orchard, and gives the reason for every step. It is the most thorough work of its kind, and is a library of information.

Enemies of Plants.

Some of the most considerable misdoings of plants newly set out are caused by these enemies of the various night-flying moths.

They eat during the night and during the day lie concealed under rubbish or beneath the surface of the soft ground. They choose low, succulent plants and grapes, feeding on cabbages and corn only as by accident they come to them or for lack of something else. Cutworm injuries to cabbages may be averted by planting them only when there has been clean culture for several months previous, but this is not always convenient to do. As soon as ground infested by these worms is plowed and harrowed or by the birds may be trapped by making small heaps of weeds and grapes at little distances apart, under which they will collect and hide and where they may be found for several mornings and destroyed.

The cabbage plant louse is often destructive, and so numerous as to cover the whole plant and hinder its development, or at least seriously effect its market value. Again, the Pyrethrum powder dusted from a hand bellows has been found the most efficacious remedy, as it reaches more than the sprinkled insecticides.

The cabbage root worm is the larval stage of a fly about the size of a common house fly. It is a white maggot, pointed at the head, footless, the body gradually increasing in size toward the hinder end, where it is squarely cut off. When full grown it is about one-third of an inch in length. For a remedy it is recommended to dip the roots of the plants in a compound of one part kerosene emulsion to twelve or fifteen parts of water at the time of planting.

Club root rarely or never attacks cabbages planted in virgin soil, but is most common in soils which have been occupied by cabbages in previous seasons. For this disease the various insecticides have been tried without any good effect. When once the fungus has entered the root there is probably no remedy. As a preventive, chloride of lime is recommended. Make a solution with not quite enough water upon the powder to dissolve all of it and thoroughly stir it; then, taking one part of this solution to two or three parts of water, apply to the roots of the cabbage at planting and to the soil immediately about the roots.—*New York World.*

Farm and Garden Notes.

Stock and red clover are the soil's friends. The most solemn joke is all the world is farming just for fun.

It is none too early to begin to plan for the next crop campaign.

Use the whip very little, and never when the animal shies or stumbles.

Carelessness in monetary affairs is the prolific source of a thousand evil consequences.

Never leave a horse standing unhitched. It is the way to make them runaways.

Do not storm and fret. Be quiet and kind, and the horse will be so, too, in most cases.

Give the horse a large stall and a good bed at night. It is important that he lies down to rest.

The world will not honor our draft for a living unless it has got a deposit of industry to our credit.

If one is ashamed of his occupation, the occupation will be very likely to return the compliment.

The arbor vite is one of the very best ornamental shrubs that can be planted. It should be given plenty of room.

Both asparagus and rhubarb will stand heavy applications of manure with profit, especially when early maturity is wanted.

Hens do not eat their eggs unless they learn the habit from having eggs broken in the nest. Never use stale eggs as nest eggs.

For the small farmer there is no question but that with good management small fruits can be made much more profitable than grain or stock.

One of the important requisites to success with farmers to-day is to avoid large farms. The small farm well tilled and a small herd well filled are what we need.

Many farmers in Western New York gave up the wool business as unprofitable long ago, but still keep sheep, and say that keeping the mutton breeds is one of the best paying branches of farming.

Fresh earth in the henery for scratching and dusting is indispensable. It will cleanse the feathers and skin of impurities, effete matter and lice. It should not be overlooked; fresh once every three days is sufficient.

Milk may be canned just as you would fruit. Bring the milk to the boiling point and fill your jars to the brim with it, then shut air tight. This will keep any length of time and be just as good when opened as when it was put up.

Don't trust to your memory when planting an orchard with several varieties of fruits, but make a diagram and preserve it for future use. The trees may not bear for four years, when the location of each variety may then be forgotten.

A Western breeder states that, if farmers will devote their attention to the mutton breeds of sheep they can clear larger profits, even if the wool from such sheep is burned, than from sheep that are kept principally for the profit expected from wool.

The question of "heredity" in the "bee business" is a matter that practically relates more to the bees than to their keepers. A man may have had the bee-keeping blood in his veins for generations and still not be able to become a successful bee-keeper.

Every farmer is interested in good roads. None but experienced road overseers should be selected, and the tax required for road repair if properly applied is money well invested. Good roads save valuable horses and avoid loss of time by the farmer.

In feeding poultry one must be very careful not to use damaged grain or sour leavings. The latter will often cause dyspepsia and bring on a half dozen other diseases. Warm feed only on cold days should be given. In warm weather do not rely too much upon the above diet. A change is desirable and will work a benefit to the digestive organs, which are usually at this time of the year.

A book on palmistry was published as far back as the sixteenth century.

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS.

Renovating Mahogany.

To clean your mahogany table, take a piece of white castile soap, some lukewarm water and a very soft rag, and wash the table. Do not be afraid to use the soap. Then rinse off the soap with clean water and polish with a soft cloth and the table will shine like a mirror. Your arm will feel pretty tired when it is all over, but the high polish on the table and the satisfaction of knowing that you have not destroyed the veining of the wood with any furniture polish will soon rest it.—*Brooklyn Citizen.*

Renewing Satin Ribbons.

"Satin-finished ribbons can be washed and dressed over to look almost as fresh and bright as new. Take lukewarm water with hard soap and dip the ribbons up and down, stripping them smoothly with the fingers until the soil is removed; then rinse in pure water in which a little granulated sugar is dissolved. Be careful and do not rub the ribbons so as to give a wrinkled look by creasing. After rinsing lay a soft cloth on the table and draw the ribbon on the wrong side back and forth till nearly dry; then iron with a cool flatiron on the wrong side, and you will have some nice clean ribbons, with no cost of any amount, that will keep fresh as long as new ones. Take care of the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves."—*New York World.*

Medicinal Uses of Turpentine.

For medicinal purposes turpentine may be employed in many ways. For pain in the stomach, bowels, kidneys or bladder, dip a large piece of flannel in hot water and after wringing it, saturate it with turpentine. Lay this cloth on the seat of pain and cover with another piece of flannel or a towel. If the patient be in great pain, at the end of twenty minutes or half an hour wring the flannel from hot water again and saturate it with turpentine. It is a rare thing that more than the second application has to be made. In severe cases it is better to apply the turpentine with lard rather than hot water. Mix the turpentine in the proportion of a tablespoonful to an equal quantity of lard and spread on the flannel. This preparation can be kept on for hours without disturbing the patient, whereas that made with hot water will, as a rule, have to be removed in half an hour or less time. Where bloating of the bowels occurs from accumulation of gas, ten drops of turpentine on a lump of sugar or a teaspoonful of granulated sugar, taken internally—three doses in twelve hours—will afford relief. In severe cases the dose is often as large as a teaspoonful; but this should be only by a physician's advice. In bloating of the bowels in dysentery, half a teaspoonful of turpentine in a dose of castor-oil will relieve the patient.—*Housewife.*

Decorative Novelties.

Cravat cases are made of leather board, but twenty inches long and ten inches wide; and may be covered on the outside with either linen, satin or leather, and on the inside with satin. There should be two narrow ribbon bands, one stretched across the top, and the other near the bottom, to hold the neck-ties in place. The case when folded is twenty inches long and five inches wide. Ladies may use any piece of choice leather they may have; or, if they have long evening gloves, that are passe as gloves, the wrists may be utilized and a single large initial letter in silver, with the entire name engraved upon it in fine writing, fastened upon the outside of the cover.

Some ingenious young lady has painted, in rich dark shades, on silk gauze, a very lovely butterfly, which is to be cut out and mounted as a fan.

Leather is coming into use more and more as its beauty and durability is better appreciated. A very handsome malmbrquin may be made from golden brown leather with a light suede brown conventional design applied on it. The fringe should consist of lozenges of wood in two sizes, covered with the darker shade of leather, depending from narrow strips of the suede leather. The smaller lozenges are made to hang a trifle shorter than the large ones and are used alternately with them.

A round foot-stool of olive-green leather had a running vine around it in Japanese gold thread. The entire center was embroidered in French knots with gold silk. The stool rested on brass claws.—*Housewife.*

Recipes.

CURRENT CAKE.—Stir together one cup each of sour cream and sugar, one-half cup of currants, one and a half cup of flour and one teaspoon of soda; flavor with nutmeg and bake in buttered tins.

VEGETABLE SALAD.—Take the four sliced potatoes, two carrots and two turnips which have been cooked in the corned-beef soup, chop and mix two cups of cabbage and two of celery and arrange in alternate layers with the cooked vegetables in a salad dish, adding mayonnaise dressing flavored with fresh lemon juice.

CORNER BEEF SOUP.—Let seven pounds of cheapest cut of corned beef be soaked and parboiled so as to remove the surplus salt, then simmer slowly three hours. Let the liquor stand until all the fat rises. Skim off the fat. Add a quart of tomatoes, two carrots, two small white turnips, two onions and four large potatoes, all pared and sliced thin. Let simmer one hour. Strain and serve the soup hot, reserving the cooked vegetables for a salad.

YOUNG CARROTS IN BUTTER.—Wash them well, then rub them dry with a coarse kitchen towel, boil them in plain water about fifteen minutes; drain off the water. The skin will be somewhat discolored, but with a coarse towel, quickly handled, the outer skin may be removed, showing the golden color of the toothsome vegetable to an advantage. Quarter them, put them in a hot vegetable dish, add a liberal quantity of butter, a little pepper and salt, and serve.

POTATO CROQUETTES.—After boiling ten large potatoes till they are done, drain and mash with three ounces of butter and the yolks of four eggs. Cool these mashed potatoes by spreading them out upon a plate, after which they can be shaped into the form of a croquette, rolled in cracker meal and dipped into beaten eggs. After rolling these croquettes once more in cracker meal they should be fried brown in

plenty of hot fat. They are then ready to be served, which should be done upon a folded napkin.

MAYONNAISE OF FISH.—Boil a pickered in salted water with lemon juice in it; be careful that the fish does not break. When done let it get cold; remove the bones carefully and cut the flesh into neat, smooth bits the size of a thimble. Let them stand for an hour or so in a little oil and vinegar or oil and lemon juice. Then dress some nice lettuce with Mayonnaise sauce and arrange the bits of fish around the dish, mixing with them canned shrimps cut in small pieces. Put more Mayonnaise sauce over the whole. Celery may be used in place of the lettuce.

An Embittered Poet.

Edgar Allan Poe, the poet, says a writer in *Harper's Magazine*, was about five feet eight inches tall, and had dark, almost black hair, which he wore long and brushed back in student style over his ears. It was as fine as silk. His eyes were large and full, gray and piercing. He was then, I think, entirely clean-shaven. His nose was long and straight and his features finely cut. The expression about his mouth was beautiful. He was pale and had no color. His skip was of a clear, beautiful olive. He had a sad, melancholy look. He was very slender when I first knew him, but had a fine figure, an erect military carriage and a quick step. But it was his manner that most charmed. It was elegant. When he looked at you it seemed as if he could read your very thoughts. His voice was pleasant and musical, but not deep.

He always wore a black frock coat buttoned up, with a cadet or military collar, a low turn-over shirt collar, and a black cravat tied in a loose knot. He did not follow the fashions, but had a style of his own. His was a loose way of dressing, as if he didn't care. You would know that he was very different from the ordinary run of young men. Affectionate! I should think he was; he was passionate in his love.

My intimacy with Mr. Poe isolated me a good deal. In fact, my girl friends were many of them afraid of him, and forsook me on that account. I know none of his male friends. He despised ignorant people, and didn't like trifling and small talk. He didn't like dark-skinned people. When he loved, he loved desperately. Though tender and very affectionate, he had a quick, passionate temper and was very jealous. His feelings were intense, and he had but little control of them. He was not well balanced; he had too much brain. He scoffed at everything sacred, and never went to church. If he had had religion to guide him, he would have been a better man. He said often that there was a mystery hanging over him he never could fathom. He believed he was born to suffer, and this embittered his whole life.

Fighting a Ratel.

The ratel is described by Mr. Boyle as a "little, long nosed, savage creature" of South Africa. Its way of fighting is certainly novel, but it can scarcely be called amusing. Mr. B. tells a story of this animal as it was told to him by a native of the country:

It was the first time I had a shotgun. My father was with me, but in returning home he stayed to chat with a friend. I saw the ratel creeping round an ant hill. He cantered off not very fast, and I fired at an easy range. The brute turned heels over head, just as they do for hours at a time when they are playing.

If you have seen ratels in a cage you must have been amused by their performance. But it was no fun this time. He came back. I had no second barrel and no knife. It was awkward.

The creature paused once, as if in pain, but never took his eyes off me. I did not think of running, but clubbed my gun and stood prepared to meet a spring. It was the oddest chance that no one had ever told me how the ratel fights. Almost every boy in the veldt knows it, but I didn't. To wait thus, expecting a leap breast high, is to give him exactly the chance he wants. Hesitating not a second, the ratel glided swiftly in and seized my feet. I hacked him with the butt end, kicked at him, shouted my loudest, but he gnawed with the pertinacity of a bull dog. At every blow his teeth closed like a vise. I seized his long tail, wrenched and twisted it, but the ratel will not quit hold if he be cut in pieces.

Not a moment, I suppose, the struggle lasted. The muscles of my instep were cut through, and I tumbled backward—not full length, but against the ant hill. That saved my life, probably.

The brute let go, as it does when its victim drops, to spring upon his throat, and rip his stomach with his hind claws. But I lifted myself upon my elbows, and lay across the summit of the mound. That might only have prolonged the struggle, but my father ran up at the moment. I was many months in bed, and many more on crutches.

The Pecan Tree.

Pecan trees grown from nuts taken from trees growing in the vicinity of other pecan trees or of pignuts, will be more or less mixed with the latter. But if they are from nuts from isolated trees, most of them will closely follow the parent in characteristics. The pecan is what the botanists term monocious. Every tree produces both the male and female flowers separately, and the pollen of a tree will either fertilize its own pistillate flowers, or, still better, those of other trees. At blooming time the pollen flies long distances in the air and may fertilize the pistillate flowers after being wafted for hundreds of yards or rods. Generally the experience of those who have planted fine pecans collected in the woods, is that among the seedlings there will be one tree in 100 or 500 that will produce nuts as fine as those of the parent tree. If the nuts planted were extra fine I would let the tree bear, and then top-graft all the inferior ones with the finest; but if the young trees are only one or two years old, and wood of very fine kinds can be obtained, I would graft the seedlings. For the greenish-white worm that destroys the buds, although I have no definite knowledge of it, I would, on general principles, try spraying the trees with the kerosene emulsion or paris green mixture. This would certainly destroy the tent caterpillars which do a great deal of injury to the pecan.—*Rural New Yorker.*



AN HONEST DOCTOR.

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Women Sold. According to the reports from Hodeida, one of the largest ports of Arabia, on the Red Sea, slaves are still smuggled across from Africa in large numbers, and in spite of the activity of the British, French and Italian cruisers. It is charged that the Turkish officers connive at the trade and receive bribe money amounting to \$2 a head on the slave importations. In this part of Arabia, slaves from the Zanzibar coast and the Sudan were formerly introduced in large numbers, finding employment chiefly in the harems and at domestic service. The blockade has practically cut off these sources of supply, and most of the slaves now imported are Galla and Abyssinian girls, who can be taken to the coast at the narrow part of the Red Sea and shipped across in a night. Most of these girls are destined for the harems, and the more attractive among them sell at the comparatively cheap rate of \$120 to \$200 apiece.

Among the hereditary jewels belonging to the duke of Cumberland, are Queen Charlotte's pearls, valued at \$750,000 and about which for twenty years Queen Victoria and the Hanoverian king quarreled with majestic dignity. The queen maintained that they belonged by right to England. The king insisted that they should have been sent to Hanover in 1837 on the death of William IV. The other jewels belonging to the duke are valued at \$2,000,000. His gold and silver plate weigh twelve tons.

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