

The Bloomfield Times. HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Pigs and Snakes.

A farmer living on the west side of the Ohio river, in walking about his farm, discovered a nest of rattle snakes in the hollow bark of an old tree, about which several large pieces of rock lay scattered. Having heard that pigs were hostile to snakes of all kinds, and not caring to attack the nest himself, he thought he would try the experiment and see a fight. He drove several pigs in the vicinity of the nest, and watched the result. The pigs soon seemed to scent the reptiles, and commenced to root eagerly about the spot. In an instant half a dozen of the vicious serpents emerged from their hiding place to attack the intruders, who manifested a zealous disposition to give battle. A snake would rear itself to the height of the back of the pig, shake his rattle, and plunge his fangs into the animal with lightning like celerity, and then dart away, pursued by the pig, who dexterously received the sting, upon the fleshy part of the jaw. Over and over again this would be repeated, until the pig got his fore foot upon the snake, when he would deliberately rip the reptile in twain and then devour him. This slaughter continued until all the snakes were disposed of when the pigs grunting contentedly, and without any signs of being disturbed, waddled off in search of other provender. The eye witness of this singular contest which was not without its exciting features, declares himself convinced that a pig is impervious to the poisonous bite of any kind of serpent.

Waste of Land.

If a farm of 160 acres is divided by fences into fields of ten acres each, there are five miles of fences. If each fence is one rod wide, no less than ten acres of the land are occupied by them. This is equal to 6 1/2 per cent. of the farm, and the loss of the land is exactly equal to a charge of 6 1/2 per cent. on the whole value of the farm. But nearly every fence row in the country is made a nursery for weeds, which stock the whole farm and make an immense amount of labor necessary to keep them from smothering the crops. Much damage always results to the crop from these weeds, and if these expenses are added to the first one, the whole will easily sum up to 20 per cent., or a tax of one fifth of the value of the farm. To remedy this, we would have fewer fences, or we would clean and sow down the fence rows to grass or clover, and mow them twice a year. Ten acres of clover or timothy would at least supply a farm with seed and a few tons of hay every year. We would, in short, consider the fence rows as a valuable part of the farm, and use them as such.—American Agriculturist.

Lice in Stock.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman gives the following simple plan to rid cattle and other stock of lice. If effective it is the most economical and easily applied application we have heard of. The plaster alluded to was of course ground gypsum. A farmer neighbor at our elbow says well-dried road dust will do as well: "I once rid my stock which was badly infested with lice, by sifting ground plaster along the back and neck. Two or three applications did the work effectually. The plaster should be very fine and dry. Another method which I have used with great satisfaction is with carbolic acid. One ounce of carbolic crystals, one pound of common bar soap, melted together by the addition of a little water. Let an animal be washed in a strong suds made with this, and it is sure death to all parasites, and will cure all skin diseases. Both these remedies are simple, harmless and effectual. Lice will live for a long time in the woodwork about the barn; it is a good plan to whitewash about the lean-to, and prevent their spreading in that way."

How to Cook Old Fowls.

For the possible benefit to some young housekeepers, we wish to tell them how to cook an old chicken. Prepare as for roasting, then boil three hours in a covered pot, with one quart of water, to which add two tablespoonfuls of vinegar, after which put into a pan in a hot oven for about one hour to brown. The liquor in the pot to be prepared for gravy; should the water boil away too much, more should be added. The result is, the meat is as tender as a young chicken, and some think richer and better.

Raw potatoes scraped, are a sure remedy for botts in horses.

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CHARLES H. SMILEY, Attorney at Law, New Bloomfield, Perry Co., Pa. Office with C. A. Barnett, Esq., on High Street, north side, nearly opposite the Presbyterian Church. August 26, 1877.

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