

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN



Mr. Wragg invites contributions of any new ideas that readers of this department may wish to present, and would be pleased to answer correspondents desiring information on subjects discussed. Address M. J. Wragg, Waukeo, Iowa.

ORCHARD NOTES.

Spraying is the keystone in successful orchard management. After the trees have been properly selected, planted and grown, it depends then upon whether the orchardist sprays whether his work will be successful. The Northwest as yet has had neither the bitter rot nor San Jose scale, and these two enemies are more than all others combined to the fruit men of the east and south. But we do have apple scab and codling moth, but they may be controlled by systematic spraying.

Top grafting affords a method of growing the tender varieties that are subject to root killing and sun scald. Crabs are especially desirable for this purpose, and the Whitney No. 20, Briar's Sweet and Virginia have been used very satisfactorily. Orchards in which poor selections have been made may be top worked and changed to valuable varieties that will yield profitable crops for many years to come.

In the matter of pruning, Eastern methods are not applicable to our conditions. On account of the danger to the trunks of sun scald, the trees should be headed as low as possible. While this is not as convenient for cultivation as high heading, it protects trunks and makes the fruit easier to gather. As a rule it may be said that our trees do not require as much pruning as trees in the Eastern and Southern states. Dead limbs should always be removed, and where the head of the tree is growing too compact a part of it should be cut out.

The matter of cultivation is always one to be decided by local conditions. Every orchard should be cultivated the first three to five years of its life. Some slow growing crop, such as potatoes, squashes, root crops or sweet corn may be grown, and will pay for the cost of cultivation. After the crop is harvested the ground should be sown to a cover crop and for this purpose a non-nitrogenous crop, such as clover, rye, buckwheat or millet should be used on the black prairie soil. On ground of only medium fertility the nitrogenous crops should be used, as some of the clovers, peas or soy beans. The cover crop will protect the soil from washing and protect the roots of the trees from freezing by holding the snow on the ground, and in the spring will add humus to the soil when plowed under.

Now is a good time to prepare for next year's crop of raspberries and blackberries. Next season's fruit will be borne upon the canes which are now growing. Select the thickest, healthiest growing canes and cut out the rest, with the old canes that fruited this season. Three or four canes in each hill will be sufficient; in this way more vigorous plants will be secured, and this means better fruit next season.

LUMP JAW.

This disease more often affects cattle than other animals. It is due to a fungus, sometimes called the ray fungus. The fungus occurs upon grass and other vegetation and it is only when it becomes introduced into the tissues that it causes trouble. The disease comes from eating and outside sources and is not contagious in the usual sense of the word. Several animals may become affected while on the same pasture, but this is due to all being exposed alike. Some years the number of cases is greater than others, owing to the greater development of this fungus. The disease affects the jaw more often than other parts, due to the fact that the tissues are sometimes broken in the act of chewing and thus permitting infection. Any part of the body may be attacked.

Fussing with the cows may seem small business for a man grown. But life is made up of small things, anyway, and kindness among the cattle is no mark of a small nature. On the contrary, it proves a man to be just as good as the animal he pets; and it all pays the best way, too. Kindness always does pay.

PIG POINTERS.

Burnt corn or charcoal is good for sores. To raise pigs they must be kept in a good thrifty condition. No animal will make so large returns in so short a time as the pig. Care should be taken not to allow the sow with pig to get too fat. So far as can be done the sow should have abundant opportunity for exercise. During the winter special care should be taken to protect the little pigs from cold. Allowing the pigs to sleep in damp quarters often induces cold and rheumatism.

JAPAN PLUMS.

In some sections this fruit is highly praised, in others it is unqualifiedly condemned. But there is good reason for thinking that it has a place in this country and that it will play an important part in the future. At present it is merely adapting itself to a new country. This fruit was introduced from Japan, but is probably a native from China, though it has been found there in a wild state. In Japan it is said to receive little attention, from which it may be inferred that it does not stand high in the estimation of the people. It has not received much attention in Europe and is not likely to. The Domesticas have possession and the conservative inhabitants are not likely to give up their old varieties for something which has not proved better than what they already have.

Late reports are to the effect that these plums are as susceptible as the peach to attacks of the "yellows." This may prove the greatest difficulty of all.

The Japs will thrive where the Domesticas will not, and vice versa. The latter need heavier soil than the former and are a little more hardy. Prof. Bailey once spoke of it as "the most important type of fruit introduced into North America during the last quarter of the century." There seems to be no good reason for disputing this judgment. The fruit has its good points as well as its weaknesses.

At no time in the life of the animal is the influence of liberal or scant feeding so great as when the animal is young. As an animal eats less when a month old than when a year old, so does the giving or withholding of the same amount and value of food produce greater results when the animal is a month old, than when it is a year old. The ratio of effect produced is yet greater than the disparity between the amounts usually consumed by the animal at the two periods. Scant feeding young animals produces that which is all but impossible to overcome by liberal feeding later. The digestive and assimilative organs accustom themselves to conditions and will not readily respond to new conditions. They change slowly, so that by stunting the animal when young, tendencies are produced that are very hard to overcome, causing a condition very difficult to combat with, only by persistent effort.

THINNING THE FRUITS.

The timely and proper thinning of the fruit on the orchard trees is a matter which should receive far more attention than it does. The peach men in Michigan, Delaware and Georgia, and the orange and prune men of the Western coast are well up on the importance of this matter, but the majority of fruit raisers other than those named pay little or no attention to it. In any season when the apple or plum tree sets very full of fruit and the same is not thinned out by frost or insect or by natural means, then the tree should be attended to. Such crops of fruit allowed to mature are always of inferior quality and undersized and often unsalable, while the bearing of such a crop is a most fearful drain upon the vitality of the tree. Man never interferes with the operation of natural law with more benefit to himself and his orchard trees than when he thins out two-thirds of any such crop of fruit. It must not be understood, however, that this principle can properly be applied to large families of children.

There is no excuse for an animal carrying a pair of horns upon the farm. Many a cow gets into winter in poor condition because she has been pestered by the horn fly, which deposits its eggs about the base of the horn, later followed by maggots, which destroy the horn growth. If the horns were not there this would not occur.

TIMOTHY THE HAY STANDARD.

Timothy has become the most popular, the best known and the most profitable hay grass in the United States. This popularity is due not altogether to its superiority in nutritive element, but largely to the fact that it makes the standard hay of commerce, with which all other kinds are compared. It is sold in all markets of the country, and its price is quoted in all the commercial journals. In buying this hay one knows precisely what he is paying for. He knows how much to feed and what results to expect from it. It is graded like cotton, tobacco and wheat, and it is the only hay that is in general demand. For this reason, more than for any other, it is the most profitable, because the sale of it is most certain at the highest prices.

Some folks are terribly afraid of lightning. A great many more are far more afraid of lightning-rod agents. They have suffered more from the agents than from the lightning.

GRAPE VINES—SUMMER PRUNING AND BAGGING THE GRAPES.

Summer pruning is not practiced to any great extent, yet where one desires the best results from his vines it is very important. The growth should be controlled in the summer in order that the strength of the vine will not be wasted in making unnecessary growth. By rubbing off the surplus shoots with the thumb and finger as soon as they appear, and by pinching back the canes after they have formed four or five joints beyond the last bunch of grapes, the whole strength of the vine is forced to the developing of the fruit and remaining parts of the vine.

Summer pruning is especially important while the frame of the vine is being established, but will always more than pay for the trouble and expense involved.

BAGGING GRAPES.

This is done to protect them from the birds and fungus diseases and also to prolong the ripening period. The Concord will keep perfectly sound in bags until late in October, and the Norton's Virginia will keep in perfect condition from three weeks to a month longer.

We bagged many varieties of grapes last year and find that some varieties are benefited by bags more than others. Birds are always more troublesome to black and red varieties of grapes than they are to the white. This year we bagged about half of our Delawares, and fully ninety per cent of those not bagged were destroyed by birds, while those in bags were in perfect condition. The Ives, Concord and Norton's Virginia that were not bagged were also badly damaged by birds, while the Perkins, Niagara and Goethe were damaged very little. Grapes planted in an orchard or near trees and hedges are always damaged more by birds than those planted out to themselves. The bags are put over the bunches of grapes as soon as the fruit is set or when the grapes are the size of small shot. Three pound bags are used for the large bunch varieties, such as the Concord and Niagara, and two-pound bags are used for the smaller bunch varieties, like the Delaware.

The bag is slipped over the bunch of grapes and the corners folded close about the stem and pinned. Bagging is very simple and inexpensive, the bags costing from sixty to seventy cents per thousand, and the pins about twenty cents per thousand.

A man or boy with a little experience can put on fifteen to eighteen hundred bags in a day, so the total cost of bagging a thousand bunches of grapes would not exceed \$1.30. The grapes in bags ripen up more uniformly and always present a much more showy appearance than those not bagged. Bagging will always prevent the grapes from rotting to some extent, but will not do away with the necessity of spraying when the variety bagged is subject to rot to a very great extent.

Did you ever know of a man who went rushing about all over the farm premises looking for the hammer, and scolding every one because "he would like to know who had had that hammer?" and finally finding it just where he had last used it himself? Seems to me I have. And it always appears to me that such a man after having one of these spells ought to sit down all by himself and think some things over; and in his thinking he should not forget to give himself first place.

BUTTER NOT TOO HIGH.

Some of the produce papers are evidently trying to make themselves believe that butter is too high, and that speculators are paying too high a price for the goods which they are putting into cold storage. They are citing as evidence the wonderful pastures and the increase in make over last year. We do seem to be producing a little more creamery butter than we did last year, but the indications are that less dairy butter is being made, and we should remember that we have more people to feed than we had last year, and that all are eating more butter and many are eating less oleomargarine. Don't worry about over-production, but try to avoid under-consumption. The fellows that milk the cows don't think butter too high. We are pretty well acquainted with them, and mark our word, they don't intend to work any cheaper until the other fellows stop going on strikes and putting up combinations. While the customers are cutting down to eight hours a day and marking up coal and lumber and corn binders, the cow milkers must get at least twenty cents where they formerly received fifteen, or they are very apt to permit the calves to do the milking.

When about the farm at work, keep one eye out for low places in the fences. Cattle have sharp eyes for all such spots, and are quick to take advantage of them. Two minutes now may be spent in saving an hour to-morrow, and well spent, too.

WIFE WAS JUSTLY INDIGNANT.

Husband's Failure to "Bawl" at Her Demise Was Too Much.

Mrs. Letitia Tyler Semple, who was mistress of the White House during President Tyler's administration, has just celebrated in Washington her eighty-third birthday.

"The statesman I liked best in my youth was Daniel Webster," Mrs. Semple said the other day. "He was a handsome man and talked well. I remember a banquet one night when the subject of death and dying came up, and Mr. Webster told us a story that was half funny and half pathetic.

"He said that an old woman lay very ill and after a time she went off into a trance. She lay so still in this trance that they thought the end had come, and when she opened her eyes again at last her husband said to her in a surprised tone:

"Why, Mandy, we thought ye wuz dead."

"The poor woman looked at her husband a moment and then she burst into tears.

"An' ye never bawled a bit," she sobbed. "Ye thought I wuz dead and yer eyes wuz dry. Couldn't ye have bawled a little bit, Jabez?"

"The old man was deeply moved, and he did actually bawl then. But his wife said sadly:

"It's too late now. Dry yer eyes, if I'd really been dead and ye'd bawled 'twould have done me some good. But it's too late now."

JUST A "MAGINARY PICTURE."

Grandson Put John D. Rockefeller in Retail Business.

John D. Rockefeller has a little grandson something over half a dozen years of age of whom he is very fond. One day recently this youngster while visiting at the Rockefeller country home at Pocantico Hills, New York, mounted his grandparent's knee and said:

"Grandpa, here's a picture of you that I drewed."

"Ah, yes," replied Mr. Rockefeller, as he examined it. "Very interesting. What am I doing?"

"Coming home from the village store."

"Yes, yes; I see. But what's that I have in my hand?"

"That's a gallon oil can. You've just got it filled with kerosene and are fetching it home for the lamps. Of course," the artist continued in patronizingly explanatory tones, "it's a 'maginary picture.' 'Tain't drawn from seeing you do it, you know. I fought it all up in my own head."

New York Times.

Garden Song.

Forgive me, in that I kissed your lips Too fiercely or too soon: It was the fault of the nightingale Singing against the moon. If Reason answered in a brief eclipse The while I sinned my sin, Opposed to Love, it must always fall Since Love must always win.

The flowers rejoiced in that kiss of ours, Even as they were fair: The great night moths should ravage their hearts, Seeking for golden gain: Bringing them pollen from other flowers, Set open through the night To play their motionless, mystic parts In Nature's marriage rite.

And who was I, to resist, withstand That charm of fragrant bloom? A summer night has a thousand powers Of scent and stars and blooms, Forgive me, in that my errand hand Carried your silted hair, O, lay the blame on the Orange flowers, You know how sweet they were!—Lawrence Hope, in Stars of the Desert.—Smart Set.

Sell Genuine for Imitation.

Prof. Ray Lankester, the British scientist, has brought to light a curious trick practiced by London dealers in osprey plumes. Some time ago the princess of Wales placed herself at the head of a movement to discourage the use of real osprey plumes in order to save the birds from slaughter. The result was an immediate decline in the sale, since fashion could not fly in the face of the princess of Wales. But recently facts have come to the notice of Prof. Lankester showing that among certain fashionable milliners it has become a practice to sell genuine plumes as imitations.

His Demise Postponed.

One of the German attendants at the morgue was standing at the corner of Twenty-first street and First avenue, when his attention was attracted by a man who seemed to be suffering from the effects of a severe jaundice.

"Where's the morgue?" demanded the inebriate.

"I am de morgue. Vat you vant?" said Fred, the attendant.

"I want to be locked up," replied the man with the jaundice.

"But you are not dead. You must be dead first."

"That's so; that's so. I never thought of that," mused the drunk. And as he ambled up the street he looked back, waved his hand and shouted: "So long, old man. I'll see you later."—New York Telegraph.

What True Love Is.

Sincere, serious love is never love at first sight.

When one look—and the first one, too—blinds a man and woman, you may be sure that one single word will soon be sufficient to unbind them.

Lasting love comes slowly, progressively. Beauty is not the mother of love. On the contrary, it is often love which engenders beauty—gives brilliancy to the eyes, gracefulness to the body, vibration to the voice.



TICKLE GRASS
BY BYRON WILLIAMS

The Rose.
Oh, fragrant rose in pungent bed, That bloometh redolent and red, I would that I your secret knew— Oh, rose, red rose, aglint with dew! If I but knew your charm to bloom In soft and odorous perfume, I too would make my fellows glad By smiling where the path is bad!

To-morrow.
The to-morrow of which we dream never comes, but the real to-morrow, upon arrival is merely a commonplace to-day.

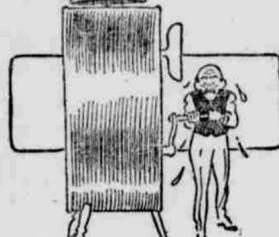
Do to-day the good things you have planned. To-morrow to you may never dawn.

Make to-day count! They may not bite to-morrow.

What a happy world this would be if people lived their pleasures to-day instead of planning them for to-morrow!

"I will LIVE to-morrow," says the fool. And for such as him, there is no to-morrow.

If a man lived to be as old as Methusalem, he would still be planning on the fortunes of to-morrow!



A CEASELESS ROUND.
The receiver had a hard time winding up the affairs of a bankrupt clock store!

Suited a Customer.
Jones usually orders his clothes of a tailor and has strong convictions on the matter, but it was warm the other day and he stepped into a clothing establishment to buy some linen trousers.

The trousers fit well except in the length. They were a trifle too short to suit him, hence were left to be lengthened. The next day they arrived and Jones tried them on to find they were a bit too long.

He was sorry, he said to the salesman, to cause so much trouble, but those trousers were certainly too long now.

The salesman was obliging and promised to attend to the matter. Jones left.

Now it so happened, through an error, that the trousers had not been altered in the first place, but were the same length as when Jones pronounced them too short. This the salesman knew, and he smiled slightly as he wrote an order to shorten the trousers and pinned it to them.

But he did not send the garment to the repair room. He merely kept the pantaloons another day, and returned them without alteration.

Jones found the order, tried them on for the third time and pronounced them absolutely correct.

This is a funny world, isn't it?



A SUGAR BOWL HAIRCUT.
Many a man would give \$10,000 to-day for one of mother's haircuts! Peace to her memory!

Nothing and Something.
There's "nothing to do" for the sluggard In all of this great, wide world! Nothing to win in the battles of life, Of life, where the flag's unfurled! "Nothing to do!"

But there's something to do for the worker Who toils through the thick and thin! Something to do in the charges Of life, where the bravest win! "Something to do!"

He had come on her dozing in a hammock, and when she woke up she accused him of stealing a kiss. "Well," he said, "I will admit that the temptation was too strong to be resisted. I did steal one little kiss." "One!" she exclaimed indignantly. "I counted eight before I woke up."

Triplets Pass Four-Sc.
Triplets 80 years old celebrated their birthday recently in Hill parish of Upham, near Moncton, N. B. The three have lived in the same place all their lives. They are Richard, James and Deborah De Bow, the children of William De Bow. A number of relatives and friends waited upon the triplets and presented to them a purse of money. The triplets are all in good health and appear to have a good chance of reaching the century mark.

Lincoln's Passes Not Honored.
Lincoln's humor got him out of trying situations and tempered his refusal of favors, as happened during the civil war when a gentleman asked him for a pass through the federal lines to Richmond. "I should be happy to oblige you," said Lincoln, "if my passes were respected. But the fact is, within the last two years I have given passes to Richmond to 250,000 men, and not one has got there yet."

It was All Off.
An old bachelor who was very bald fell in love with a pretty widow, whose late husband's name was Robin. One evening the bachelor dropped in to have a cup of tea with the widow. After tea was over she commenced to sing "Robin Adair." The bachelor picked up his hat and said: "Madame, even if your husband did have hair, it's no fault of mine that I haven't." Then he fled.—Exchange.

Don't Miss Seeing Hiawatha.
The great Indian play at Lake Orion July 1 to 7. It is the chance of a lifetime. See announcement in this paper.

How Webster Missed Being President.
The campaign of 1840 had a dramatic and unexpected sequel. Thurlow Weed, before the meeting of the Whig convention, sought out Webster and urged him to take second place on the ticket with Harrison, but the suggestion was rejected with scorn. An acceptance of Weed's advice would have made Webster president in little more than a year.

What Did He Mean?
A Scottish singer named Wilson was being trained for professional singing. One day he sang a love song with exquisite quality of voice, but with insufficient passion and expression. His teacher told him he must put more feeling into it and sing as if he were really in love. "Eh, man," he replied, "hoo can I do that and me a marriest man."

Preserving Cadavers.
In recent European experiments corpses have been kept for a certain time in a bath of chloride of calcium heated to 123 degrees, then taken out and steeped for twenty-four hours in a cold solution of sulphate of sodium. The bodies are transformed into perfect mummies, which may be kept indefinitely.

High Animal Life.
A teacher having explained at length about the three kingdoms then asked if anyone in the class could tell her what the highest degree of animal life was. A bright-eyed little girl raised her hand and answered: "The highest degree of animal life is a graaffe."

Russian Wit.
A Moscow journal prints a letter from a Russian soldier at Port Arthur in which the following sentence occurs: "We have given all our guns names. One of them we call Togo, because it makes so much noise, but hasn't hit anything yet."

Tin Deposits in Burma.
In the province of lower Burma, India, near the Siamese frontier, tin deposits have recently been discovered and valuable coal fields located. The tin ore is said to be of as high a quality as that mined in the Straits settlements.

Late Criminal Defense.
A new defense was sprung lately in an English criminal trial. It was pleaded on behalf of the defendant that he had once received an electrical shock of 2,000 volts, and that it had impaired his mind.

Lightning Kills Four Boys.
Chester, Pa., dispatch: Four boys standing under a cherry tree on a farm near Felton, which they were guarding from pilferers, were killed by a stroke of lightning.

PARK ISLAND, LAKE ORION, JULY 1 TO 7—3 AND 8 P. M.

HIAWATHA

By 20 Native Ojibways in full Tribal Dress: Canoes, Indian Songs, etc. SHAM BATTLE after play in evening. Religious Service in Indian, Sunday.

SPECIAL RATES,
M. C. and D. U. by Orion.

Admission, Adults, 15c; Children, 10c.

GAMES AND FIREWORKS ON THE 4th.

Socialists Start Stores.
The socialists will start three co-operative stores in Calhoun county, to be located at Battle Creek, Marshall and Albion. At present only groceries are to be handled, but later it is figured on making regular department stores of them.

Poisons Valuable Dog.
The dog poisoner is plying his vocation in Battle Creek. And the worst of it is, the valuable and pedigreed dogs are always the victims instead of the worthless curs.