

Rural Economy.

WINTER CARE OF COLTS.

Colts, perhaps, are generally the worst neglected stock on the farm. No profit is expected from them for a year or two in advance. They are fat in the beginning of winter, from having had nothing to do but eat on the rich pasture through the summer.

The rule is, keep your colts thriving constantly until they are fully grown. They do not require food to fatten them like a steer, but to make muscle and bone. They should never be tied on a floor in a stable long at a time. Nor should they run in the same yard with other stock among cattle, as they are very liable to be gored, and when they master the cattle they drive them too much.

Colts are a necessary evil on a farm. There is no other stock so costly to keep; so hard to confine within proper limits; so destructive to fences and enclosures; so uncertain of giving an ultimate profit, and so utterly worthless in case of being disabled by accident.

FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK.

The annual meeting of the Fruit Growers' Society of Western New York will be held at the Court House, in the city of Rochester, commencing on Wednesday, the 24th day of January. It is designed to make this one of the most important and useful gatherings of fruit growers ever held in the country.

THE LARGEST FARM IN THE WORLD.

M. L. Sullivan, Esq., of Champaign County, Illinois, owns seventy thousand acres of as good land as is to be found on the face of the globe, twenty-three thousand acres of which is under fence and active cultivation, while the remainder is used for herding purposes.

PLANTING FOREST TREE SEEDS.

In reply to a special request, the editor of the Gardener's Monthly gives the following directions for gathering, saving and planting the seeds of our forest trees:—Tree seeds that have pulp should be washed at once on gathering, and dried in the shade gradually also.

darkness are the three essentials for successful raising of tree seeds. Seeds that are usually spring sown, and are found to "damp off," should be sown very early, so that the young wood may get hard before the hot weather comes.

The Soft Maple will not keep more than a few weeks good enough to grow. It should be sown as soon as ripe in June. Not so deep, — on the surface, and slightly covered with sand, is the best way.

IMPORTANCE OF GRAVEL STONES FOR FOWLS.

Did you ever dissect the gizzard of a hen, turkey, goose, or duck? The gizzard and gravel stones in it, serve the purpose of teeth, in reducing the food to small particles, in order to facilitate digestion. The feed is swallowed in chunks, or the grain is received into the crop unbroken.

BEST VARIETY OF FOWLS.

The Scottish Farmer gives the following estimates as to the value of several varieties of fowls:—For chickens for the table—nothing like the Dorkings. For size or egg—nothing equal to the Spanish, but they do not lay very regularly.

WATERING PLANTS WITH IRON.

It is stated as a new discovery, that wonderful effects may be obtained by watering fruits and vegetables with a solution of sulphate of iron. Under this system beans will grow into nearly double the size, and will acquire a much more savory taste.

TO TRY-OUT LARD.

A farmer's mode of trying-out leaf lard, one which produces few scraps, is to add to every 10 lbs. of rough lard a table-spoonful of saleratus during the process of trying-out.

Scientific.

THE MAGNESIUM LIGHT.

The time has been when the sun was considered a very important agent in "all the things done under it." Particularly dependent upon his rays was photography. A dark, drizzly, sunless day was death to art. The disappointed operator requested his customers "to call some other time," and as to printing negatives taken under more auspicious skies, it was dull work and discouraging.

THE DIAMOND.

The diamond, like most other jewels, is found generally in granitic gneiss, and in torrents of rivers distributed over the whole world; but they are mainly to be found in tropical countries. It would seem that where the sun shines with the greatest splendor, where the vegetable and the animal creation put on their most gorgeous colors, there also in the depths of the earth the vivid lustre of this gem shines the brightest, and assumes the largest proportions.

The pictures thus formed are (as will be seen by the specimen printed in this number of the Photographer) very peculiar. The details are distinct in all important parts, while there is a grand massing of shadows which reminds one of Rembrandt's best compositions, and a softness and richness which belong to no other style of photograph.

The value of this light in photographing "interiors" is obvious, and has already, to a certain extent, been demonstrated. The dark bowels of the pyramids, so long subjects of description, have been made (despite the want of air under which these depths labor) visible to the spectator, who can now sit in his comfortable, well-lighted room, and see all that the actual explorer of those labyrinthic beholds, after leagues of travel and weary hours of hot, perspiring, dusty toil.

It may be interesting to ask why this light from burning magnesium wire is thus efficient, while the strongest gaslight fails of producing any effect upon the sensitized plate.

Dr. Thomas Woods has communicated to the Philosophical Magazine, an account of experiments undertaken for the determination of the thermal equivalent of magnesium. From these experiments it appears that this metal exceeds all others in the amount of heat developed by its combustion.

When magnesium wire or ribbon suffers combustion, this relatively enormous amount of heat is concentrated in a small space, and acts upon a trifling amount of matter; it therefore follows that the intensity of the heat or light or actinic vibrations produced, must be excessive, and that we might expect to find, what we do in fact discover in its rays, an unusual abundance of those quick waves, high notes, or actinic beams of light, which are potential in affecting the sensitive film.

A DRUNKARD'S BRAINS.

Hyrtl, by far the greatest anatomist of the age, used to say that he could distinguish, in the darkest room, by one stroke of the scalpel, the brain of the inebriate from that of the person who had lived soberly. Now and then he would congratulate his class upon the possession of a drunkard's brain, admirably fitted from its hardness and more complete preservation for the purposes of demonstration.

THE GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.

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of the gem very brilliant. The table cut, such as we find in old diamonds, is much less sparkling, as it has a very much less number of facets, and a great expansion of table or flat upper surface. The Indian diamond-cutters leave as much of the gem as possible when cutting; an instance of this was seen in the Great Exhibition of 1851, where the Koh-i-Noor was exhibited, in which the cutting followed apparently the original outline of the stone.

CITIES OF BASHAN.

Nothing related of this giant race is more wonderful than the number of their strong cities. What, to a modern Colenso, gazing down from the heights of Anti-Libanus upon the broad desert region before him, would appear more incredible than the record that in Argob, one of the little provinces of Bashan—about thirty miles by twenty—Jair, a chief of the tribe of Manasseh, who completed the conquest of Bashan begun by Moses, took no less than sixty great cities, "fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; besides unwalled towns a great many!"

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