# Rural Economy.

ARTIFICIAL BASS BREEDING.

S. H. Terry, Esq., of Binghamton, N. Y., has kindly forwarded us the following letter on the subject of Breeding Bass. It was written in March last, by Mr. L. M. Crane, of Ballston Spa, to Mr. James Thompson, of the same place:—

DEAR SIR: -As promised, I will endeayor briefly to describe my method of propagating bass. In the first place, I obtained from Saratoga Lake about seventy-five large bass, first having a pond of fresh water covering about five or six rods of ground. Into this pond I put the fish for breeding in the month of May. In June I put into the pond three or four bushels of small pebbles. The bass would take these in their mouths to a selected spot and make for each female a bed about one foot in diameter, on which they deposited their eggs or spawn. The male fish would then take charge of the "nests," or beds, allowing no intruder to approach them, and carefully guarding them from harm. The first year I had about twenty-five or thirty nests. In about four weeks the eggs would hatch and the male would continue to care for the young fish until they were about two inches long, when (if not removed) they would proceed to devour them. I therefore, with a large, coarse, mesh net, drag the pond, taking out the large fish, leaving the small ones, and putting the large fish in another pond. I prefer small ponds, as the fish are more easily separated; but if I had large ponds covering several acres, that I could secure, I should stock them, keeping my small ponds for breeding. You will notice that what is termed "frog

spittle" will not grow in the ponds where the large bass are, as they feed upon it as it starts from the bottom of the pond; but after removing the large fish you will perceive it grows very rapidly. On no account attempt to remove it, as the little bass want it, not only for nutriment, but for shade from the sun in the hot days of July and August.

As to feed the first year, the little bass want no other nourishment than what is most imperceptible insects floating in the water, and the animalculæ. The large fish require live food—that is, little minnows, worms, frogs, &c. They will eat liver, but I have never known them to eat beef.

It is only necessary to feed once or twice a week, and that only during the spring and summer months. In October they will refuse to take any food, and as cold weather comes they will disappear into the mud, where they will lie torpidly till the warm weather of the spring. Of course, I do not wish to be understood that feeding hem oftener than once or twice a week will do any harm; on the contrary, you cannot feed too much—but they will thrive on short rations. I have one bass I call "Old Jake." He will weigh, I should judge, seven or eight pounds. I have seen him take from the hands of the boy eight mediva-sized frogs, swallowing them whole, and then when a pail full of minnows were thrown in, to fight for his share, which he would devour as greedily as though he had had nothing to eat for a month.

have commenced raising trout, and so far. I am inclined to think more favorably of it than bass, but will probably cultivate both My preference for trout is founded upon the fact that they are a more desirable fish for the table, and of more rapid growth. They require, however, more care and better water. Water for ponds should never be supplied through lead pipes. It is sure to kill the fish. The supply for the ponds should, however, be kept under control; otherwise a rise in the stream from heavy rains might cause an overflow should be sufficiently below the ground to prevent being affected by frost.

I should be happy to show you at any ime my mode, and to give you my experience. I am, however, as yet but a beginner in the science of fish-breeding Rural New Yorker.

# DESTROY THE WEEDS AND BUSHES.

Now is the time to declare and wage a war of extermination upon weeds, thistles, briers, bushes and like nuisances in field and highway. August, and the earlier in the month the better, is the season to cut, "kill, burn and destroy" the pests, and every farmer whose premises are infested should constitute himself a vigilance committee and enter upon the warfare with igor and determination. If cut during he present hot weather, many of the enenies will be destroyed, but repeated cutlings will be necessary in some instances. The only way to succeed is to stick to the ork. Don't do it once, and then rest content, but keep "pitching in" every time you have opportunity or see the head of the be above ground. And don't "swear 'em nd let 'em go,"—for it is often the second Pr third cutting that does the business ef-

It is a disgrace to the people and country see so many briers, thistles and evil weeds yards, gardens, fields and along highlys, as one must in travelling a short disance in either country, village or city. A ittle timely attention, with the free use of cythe, hoe and spade, would save the rereach and in many cases prove the best restment, pecuniarily, that could be made the parties interested. See to it, friends <sup>ld</sup> coutrymen, and do not permit a thistle foul weed to blossom and seed on or near our premises, for every plant which malres may produce a myriad. If cutting On't do, dig them out "root and branch, ven if you have to go as near China as do le oil borers. And after clearing your 'n premises, don't neglect the highwayuching the care of which, in this respect ere is a sensible item, this day received om G., of Minetto, N. Y.:-

Farmers, with some few exceptions, were uch gratified when the Legislature of our ate enacted the law prohibiting the varius kinds of animals from running at large a time to be almost a dead letter, much during the past winter.

to the regret of its advocates, it is now in most localities very generally observed, even by those who at first most strenuously opposed it-thus acknowledging its utility. But with all the benefits resulting from the law, it also has some evils attending it, not from any defects of the enactment, although some exist, but from the carelessness and and noxious weeds that were formerly eaten and kept down by animals to remain and ripen their seed, to be scattered by the wind during autumn and winter upon the surrounding fields. Nor is this all. The highways do not have that neat and pleasing appearance they formerly had when the herbage was consumed by animals. Now, this can be easily remedied if all will de-vote a leisure hour during the spring in removing the stone and other obstructions from the roadside opposite their premises, and at least twice during the summer cause all weeds, &c., to be cut down. This, with a sufficient quantity of grass-seed sown, will soon convert them into grass, which can be moved two or three times during the season, serving to bait teams at home or when away to market in town, or to be stored away for winter use. Let all those in favor of the law act in the matter at once, and thus silence the final argument of the they beautify the street contiguous to their farms and homesteads.

#### SOILING STOCK.

Some farmers object to the practice of field and cut their own feed and eat it. this, as to other diseases. When they have enough, they lie down and doing it. Whereas, by the soiling process, they do nothing but throwing the burden of labor upon the orner.

This is one way of stating the case, but is it strictly true in all its relations? It is furnished by the "frog spittle," and the undoubtedly easier to drive cows to pasture and bring them thence than to cut food for and carry it to the barn or herd-house for distribution; yet the question really is, not which is easiest, but which pays the If, in addition to this, cravats and dress best? In the pasturing process there is a hats are discarded, the hair clipped close, The bass become very tame and will take great amount of grass which is trodden all alcoholic beverages strictly eschewed, their food from the hand when presented down, or supposed to be so, drying and animal food reduced to a minimum, and rotting where it grew, without yielding any perceptible support to the soil from which its nutriment and growth were drawn. The droppings of the stock are scattered here and there, over a great extent of surface, exposed to the action of the elements, by which nine-tenths of their fertilizing properties are lost to that from which they were derived. This is what makes poor farms and unthrifty farmers.

By the soiling process, the cattle, if properly provided for, receive their food at stated seasons and in such quantities as circumstances require. They have shade and shelter as needed; waste little of that which is fed to them, and even that little, composted with the stable and yard droppings, returns to the land the sustenance which its production drew from it. This process requires labor, care and constant supervision, but this is really no objection, I intend this spring to build another since all these are amply repaid by increased ound about 120 feet long by 50 or 60 wide. and constantly increasing productiveness. Those who have an ample range of pasture land, with less stock than it will carry, will probably give the cold shoulder to the soiling process, but to such as are restricted in this respect and wish to make every foot of land tell to the best advantage, it offers inducements which it would be unwise to

## PROTECTING TREES AGAINST WORMS.

first to suggest some fifteen years ago, and the crystallizing force had built the of the banks of the ponds. The outlet often referred to since, is the only effectual atoms up; silently and symmetrically does ing note to the Times: "In a recent protection we have yet seen against the the electric beam take them down. Here number of the Times I observe a notice of operation of the worm in fruit trees. We we have a star, and there a star; and a species of silk-spider, stated to have been repeat again, that in not a single instance as the action continues, the ice appears discovered on Folly Island, in the harbor have we ever had a worm in our dwarf to resolve itself into stars, each one of Charleston, South Carolina, by Dr. pear trees where this system was properly possessing six rays, each one resembling a Wilder, of the United States army. As followed. It is simply to bandage the botabout six inches above ground, and two tinues, the edges of the petal become serratinches below. It should be applied in ed, spreading themselves out like fern-February, or as soon as the ground is in a fit condition to go upon. These bandages should be removed at the end of October. As long as this is continued we defy the

> The bug lays its eggs an inch or two above the ground, early in the spring, that is, as soon as the warm days in March will law. Nature "lays her beams in music;" admit of its coming forth from its winter and it is the function of science to purify da,' (1859.) Since that time, however, quarters; the eggs are soon hatched by the sun, being laid on the sun side of the trunk. and the young grub finds its way down to the soft bark beneath the soil, where it gradually works its way in. The bandage prevents both the laying of the eggs and the descent of the grub. Let doubters try it. One man will bandage two hundred trees in a day. We have no doubt it will also protect peach trees in the same way. -Germantown Telegraph.

## SOIL AS MANURE.

Land may be manured by land. Where a soil is rich and deep, it may be carted to another field where wanted, the same as manure, and the first field suffer none—as the under-soil, if very deep, is of no possible use away out of reach. We frequently see people remove rich soil to their gardens. The garden is benefitted, especially where a garden is to be made, and the natural soil is poor. We have known people to remove scores and scores of loads from their rich river flats to their yellow knolls and lean fields without injury to their flats, and with great benefit to the fields where applied. Such manure, it must be understood, is lasting; and it gives consistency to the soil. In a word, this method is only balancing your soil—that is, making it all good.—Rural World.

county, Me, where pickerel were placed calm atmosphere, the aqueous atoms arskinds of animals from running at large eight years ago, and between seven and the highway, and although it seemed eight tons of this fish were caught there exquisite figures. The snow crystals are and even then I gave it an extra stretch

# Scienkikic.

SOMETHING ABOUT SUN-STROKES.

It is rather a singular fact that sunstroke is more fatal and more frequent in the temperate than in the torrid zone. inattention of those owning land adjacent to New York has more cases than Havana or the highways, who suffer the briers, elders Rio, in proportion to population, and even in Quebec the danger is quite as great, in the few days of intense heat allotted to that frozen six-leaved blossoms constitute our region, as in any part of the world. The indications of the thermometer are very imperfect guides in regard to the action of heat upon the animal frame. "The true indication of the force of the solar rays," says Herschel, "would seem to be, not the statistical effect on the thermometer, but their momentary intensity measured by the velocity with which they communicate heat to an absorbent body." It is this "mo-mentary intensity" which causes the phenomenon of sun-stroke, and which seems to be greater in regions without than within the tropics.

When the head is exposed to the sun's rays in times of their greatest intensity, the heat seems often to cause instant inflammatory action in the contents of the skull. The sufferer experiences intense headache, succeeded by vomiting; he then falls few that oppose it, while at the same time breathless, and unless instant assistance be given, turns black in the face and expires. Victims of sun-stroke are most often laborers, and intoxicating drinks strongly predispose to this sudden inflammation of the cranial organs. Any constriction about the neck, from tight cravats or collars, also soiling their dairy stock, in consequence of predisposes to sun-stroke, and generally any the trouble involved in the operation. By depressing agents, mental or physical, the pasturing process, the cattle go to the lessen the resisting power of the body to

Terrestrial radiation of the sun's heat ruminate till called to the milking yard to seems to bear an important part in the render back to their owner payment for production of sun-stroke. At sea, and on their day's keeping. In this way they are small islands, such a result is very uncomsaid to earn their living while paying at mon, no matter how intensely the sun's mon, no matter how intensely the sun's a like mode of composition. -All the Year night and morning for the privilege of rays beat down; while inland, and especially in large cities, where stony pavements and long ranges of buildings combine to add their radiant caloric to the direct action of the sun, fatal cases most often occur.

One of the best protectives against sunstroke is the sun-umbrella, universally used in our Southern cities, but rarely seen at the North, where, during our short but fiery summer, they are even more necessary. strictly but temperately indulged in, we may confidently continue our out-door avocations without danger.

Laboring men who cannot carry sunumbrellas, will find their greatest safety in tetotalism, at least during the heated term, with frequent washing of the head in cold water while at work in the sun, and immediate abandonment of labor on occurrence of dizziness or sickness at the stomach. For one sun-stroke, the most effective plan is removal to shelter, free application of cold water to the head, water to drink if the patient can swallow, and medical aid without delay. In the army it was the practice to dash the whole person with cold water until a revival took place.

#### THE PHENOMENA OF CRYSTALLIZA-TION.

Looking closer into the organization of

forms irregular aggregations of molecules, but it works with order and symmetry. Witness the phenomena of crystallization, to appreciate which, we need go no further than the freezing of water and the formation of snow. Professor Tyndall deftly and delicately dissects a block of ice, by means of a beam from his electric lamp; pulling the crystal edifice to pieces by accurately reversing the order of its The bandage system, which we were the architecture. Silently and symmetrically tom of the tree, with any kind of muslin or the lens to and fro, new star-flowers are tion, perhaps I may be permitted to offer a cloth, and tie it, letting the bandage be brought into view; and as the action conleaves. Probably, few are aware of the beauty latent in a block of common ice.

> scribed. Snow-flakes are not less curious nor less each tiny droplet that hangs in the air gives birth to a slim six-sided column terminated correct. at each end by a six-faced pyramid. These little crystals do not remain isolated. During their descent they cluster together, so forming star-shaped groups. Sometimes six crystals only assemble round a common but in the majority of cases, the crystalline associations are more numerous. On the branches of the primary star, smaller crystals are regularly disposed, and on these snowy star grows more and more compliis made in obedience to the one same law.

web, of the wonderful texture just de-

through it. The molecules arrange themselve to form hexagonal stars. From a two of which are separated by an angle of sixty degrees. From these central ribs, smaller spiculæ shoot right and left with unering fidelity, to the angle of sixty degrees, and from these again other smaller ones diverge at the same angle. These mountain snows. They load the Alpine heights, where their frail architecture is soon estroyed by the accidents of weather. Every winter they fall, and every summer they disappear. While they last, they assume the most wonderful variety of form their tracery is of the finest frozen gauze; and, round about their corners. other rosettes of smaller dimensions often Beauty is superposed upon beauty; cling as if Nature, once committed to her task took delight in showing, even within the narrowest limits, the wealth of her re-

To behold this force in action, you have only to watch the process of crystallization under the microscope—a most astounding spectacle, especially when seen with polarized light. Although the atoms themselves are imperceptible, you witness the rapid growth of their aggregation. Invisible soldiers form into visible battal ions, arranging themselves regularly, as at the word of command. The same troop, that is, the same solutions, never perform by mistake the evolutions proper to others. Alum presents itself in a mass with eight equal triangular faces; sea-salt furnishes cubes; the prisms of rock crystal are equally recognizable. Minerals have a physiognomy, which reveals the constitution of their bodies. Chemistry tells us that hodies which are similar in form are fundamentally similar; that is, if they affect the same crystalline form, they offer

### THE BATHOMETER.

We understand that Mr. Sidney E. Morse, the senior founder of the New York Observer, and the inventor of Cerography, has recently invented, and just patented in connection with his son, G. Livingston Morse, a new and very simple philosophical instrument, which they call a Bathometer. It is intended, as its name imports, to measure the depth of water everywhere, even in the deepest parts of the ocean; and iced drinks, water, soda-water, or lemonade, it does this with a rapidity and accuracy far exceeding that of any apparatus now in use for the purpose.

No line is used, and it sinks, therefore, rapidly with little obstruction from friction. No line being used, its accuracy as a meter of depth is not affected by currents. You throw it overboard, with its appendages, where the water is miles

It goes down like a shot, and as soon as it touches bottom, it turns and comes back to the surface. You pick it up, and the true depth of the water at the point where it struck the bottom is seen on the scale of the Bathometer, just as you see the degree of heat on the scale of a thermometer. You turn the instrument on its side, and then cause it again to assume a perpendicular position, and it is ready for a new opera-

One of the most curious parts of the whole contrivance, is, that with a slight matter, we shall find that force not only change, the same Bathometer can be used as a meter of the depth of water in the ocean, on a scale of an inch to a mile, and in a bathing tub on a scale of more than the tenth of an inch to a foot, the lower part of the scale being used for shallow, and the upper part for deep water. - Observer.

SILK-SPINNING SPIDERS. Mr. J. M. Jones, the author of "The Naturalist in Bermuda," sends the followbeautiful six-petaled flower. By shifting the subject appears to have attracted attenfew remarks bearing additional testimony to a fact which is worthy of record in an economical as well as scientific point of view. When I paid my first visit to the Bermudas, in the summer of 1854, I be-Only think, continues our eloquent coun- came acquainted with the habits of a very tryman, of lavish Nature operating thus remarkable species of spider, which, on my throughout the world! Every atom of the return to England, was identified by Mr. solid ice which sheets the frozen lakes of Adam White as Epeira clavipes. A short the North has been fixed according to this account of its habits and silk-yielding capabilities I gave in my 'Naturalist in Bermuour organs, so as to enable us to hear the repeated visits to the islands have afforded strain. To many persons a block of ice me opportunities of observing the insect, may seem of no more interest and beauty and collecting specimens, both old and than a block of glass; but, in reality, it young, with cocoons, &c. From such obbears the same relation to glass that an servations I am inclined to believe that this oratorio of Handel does to the cries in a species, which belongs to the same genus market-place. The ice is music, the glass as Dr. Wilder's insect, is equally capable is noise; the ice is order, the glass is con- of producing silk of a quality by no means fusion. In the glass, molecular forces inferior to that of the Folly Island spider. constitute an inextricably entangled skein; My attention was first drawn to the strength in the ice, they are woven into a symmetric of the silk by coming in contact with the webs as I forced my way through the cedar-groves, when I found the power of resistance to be something extraordinary, complicated in their structure. When the and I really imagined that the information cold is enough to cause water to congeal, given me as to the capture of the smaller birds in its silky meshes was perfectly

"Having been told by a 'Mudian lady that good housewives sometimes made use of the silk for domestic purposes, I thought I would endeavor to procure a sample fresh from the insect. Seizing the first centre,—the simplest-possible form of star; specimen that came to hand, I allowed it to fall about half-way to the ground, hanging suspended by its thread. Taking a piece of twisted paper, I transferred the end of the thread to it before the spider latter smaller branchlets still. Thus the reached the ground, and commenced winding rapidly while the insect descended. cated, while every additional ramification and I wound away for some time, until at last my specimen seemed disinclined to Our great English lecturer also tells us continue the supply, when, severing the that snow, perfectly formed, is not an thread, the insect was allowed to escape. THERE is a pond in Roxbury, Oxford irregular aggregate of ice particles. In a Now, this thread of silk, which, by-the by, was of the most beautiful color and texture, built upon the same type as the six-petaled it only proved the more its strength and

flowers, which show themselves within a elasticity. The cocoons are composed of block of ice when a beam of heat is sent | the richest silk, far surpassing, I think that afforded by those of the Bombyces while from the abundance of these insects central nucleus shoot six spiculæ, every in the Bermudas, I have not a doubt, if collected together, and kept within proper enclosures, they would prove a source of much profit to the owners, and a benefit to manufacturers of silk material; for the spider, unlike the caterpillar's process, emits several threads at once, which, united, form a strand of considerable strength."— Every Saturday.

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Rever and Aguais not the only consequence of the

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