

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.

DEAR SIR:—As promised, I will endeavor 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.

As to feed the first year, the little bass want no other nourishment than what is furnished by the "frog spittle," and the most imperceptible insects floating in the water, and the animalculæ.

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.

I intend this spring to build another pond about 120 feet long by 50 or 60 wide. I have commenced raising trout, and so far I am inclined to think more favorably of it than bass, but will probably cultivate both.

DESTRUCT THE WEEDS AND BUSHES. Now is the time to declare and wage a war of extermination upon weeds, thistles, briars, bushes and like nuisances in field and highway.

It is a disgrace to the people and country to see so many briars, thistles and evil weeds in yards, gardens, fields and along highways, as one must be travelling a short distance in either country, village or city.

Land may be manured by hand. 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—

There is a pond in Roxbury, Oxford county, Me., where pickered were placed eight years ago, and between seven and eight tons of this fish were caught there 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.

SOILING STOCK.

Some farmers object to the practice of soiling their dairy stock, in consequence of the trouble involved in the operation.

This is one way of stating the case, but it is strictly true in all its relations? It is 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;

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.

PROTECTING TREES AGAINST WORMS.

The bandage system, which we were the first to suggest some fifteen years ago, and often referred to since, is the only effectual protection we have yet seen against the operation of the worm in fruit trees.

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 admit of its coming forth from its winter 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.

SOIL AS MANURE.

Land may be manured by hand. 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—

Scientific.

SOMETHING ABOUT SUN-STROKES.

It is rather a singular fact that sun-stroke is more fatal and more frequent in the temperate than in the torrid zone. New York has more cases than Havana or 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 region, as in any part of the world.

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.

Terrestrial radiation of the sun's heat seems to bear an important part in the production of sun-stroke. At sea, and on small islands, such a result is very uncommon, no matter how intensely the sun's rays beat down; while inland, and especially in large cities, where stony pavements and long ranges of buildings combine to add their radiant calorific to the direct action of the sun, fatal cases most often occur.

One of the best protectives against sun-stroke 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.

Laboring men who cannot carry sun-umbrellas, will find their greatest safety in tetotalism, at least during the heated term, which 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.

THE PHENOMENA OF CRYSTALLIZATION.

Looking closer into the organization of matter, we shall find that force not only 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.

SILK-SPINNING SPIDERS.

Mr. J. M. Jones, the author of "The Naturalist in Bermuda," sends the following note to the Times: "In a recent number of the Times I observe, a notice of a species of silk-spider, stated to have been discovered on Folly Island, in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, by Dr. Wilder, of the United States army.

Snow-flakes are not less curious nor less complicated in their structure. When the cold is enough to cause water to congeal, each tiny droplet that hangs in the air gives birth to a slim six-sided column terminated at each end by a six-faced pyramid.

flowers, which show themselves within a block of ice when a beam of heat is sent through it. The molecules arrange themselves to form hexagonal stars. From a central nucleus shoot six spiculae, every two of which are separated by an angle of sixty degrees.

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 battalions, arranging themselves regularly, as at the word of command.

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.

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 deep.

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.

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elasticity. The cocoons are composed of the richest silk, far surpassing, I think, that afforded by those of the Bombyces; while from the abundance of these insects 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.

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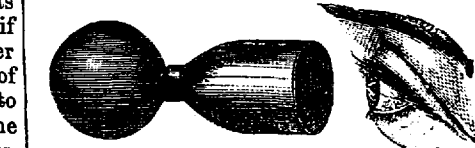
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Miscellaneous.



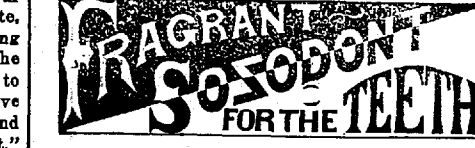
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