

Natural and Distorted Growth.

True taste cultivates an admiration of beautiful natural forms: false taste distorts these into artificial and grotesque conceits. A tree possessing natural and graceful symmetry cannot but be pleasing to a true and cultivated judgment; cut or sheared into the shape of a stiff cone, a hay-cock, or a peacock or bear, it becomes at once an object of distorted ugliness. It is, however, quite common, all through the country, to see trees, and especially evergreens, tortured into unnatural forms. Most common of all is to trim the trunk up to a bare stem five or six feet or more high, giving the appearance of trees on stilts, instead of allowing the graceful sweep of the lower branches on the surface of the lawn. Others, again, are sheared back into the appearance of a solid mass, and where a number of trees are thus treated, the door-yard appears as if filled with a number of small hay-stacks. Such practices may be fitly compared to pinching the human body out of shape, as practiced by semi-barbarous people. If the trees threaten to grow to large, and any cutting back is required, let it be done with a knife and not with shears, so as to preserve, in some degree at least, the natural free outline. In some landscape gardening, arched gaitways are represented and commended, where trees are bent out of shape and sheared into unnatural forms. If an arch of verdure may be had, let it be made of natural climbers and twiners, so as to partly but not wholly conceal a properly and simply formed structure of iron or wood. If this way there would be no incongruous distortion and obvious unfitness of material to intended purpose. We have seen at flower shows ill-directed attempts to build temples of roses, and sometimes they have been made into the shapes of human beings, eagles, flags, etc. The mind at once revolts at the sight of solid and massive structures attempted with so fragile and delicate materials as flowers. Nearly as unfit is the attempt to build solid gateway arches of delicate foliage. There is another practice, much less objectionable, but still carried too far—the abundant planting of weeping trees. These are mostly unnatural to some extent, and if employed at all, the most graceful should be selected, and sparingly introduced. They sometimes assist in the variety of a sky outline. Many of them came in the first place from an unnatural twist of a branch, propagated and continued by grafting. We are glad to witness every attempt at improving and ornamenting the grounds which surrounds a home, even if these attempts may deviate considerably from the rules of criticism; but most pleasing of all are neat, finished, and tastefully planted grounds, with as much of natural and graceful beauty as can be brought together with so much simplicity that no display of oddity or twisted conceit can find a place. Purity and fitness should be obvious, and if much care and skill have been used in the management and keeping they should not be seen by the eye of the spectator.

In the Sahara.

All of one's preconceived ideas vanish before the facts of experience. The Sahara is not a desolate plain of moving sand, with no signs of vegetation, but a cultivated country, fruitful as the garden of Eden. Like our "great American desert," it has been greatly blessed. El Sahr, as the Arabs pronounce it, is indeed a vast archipelago of oases, offering an animated group of towns and villages. A large belt of fruit trees surrounds each of these villages, and the palm, the fig, the date, apricots, pomegranates and vines abound in the utmost profusion. Ascending the Atlas Mountains by a gradual slope to the region of high tablelands, we come to the land of the Mozabites, or Beni Mozab, and then comes a gradual descent for 300 miles to the vast stretch of treeless country known as the great desert. The rivers have an inclination of about one foot in 400. Many of the streams are dry, except after rains, when they deluge the country. Gushouts are fired as soon as the torrents appear; all objects are removed, and soon, with a terrible noise, the flood rolls on. The Saharian city stands, as if by magic, on the banks of the waters which rise to the orchard or kitchen garden; yet what is more beautiful than the pink and red of the apple blossom, the pure white of the cherry and pear, and the deep rose of the peach? Cherry trees literally white with blossoms are of no rare sight, and what is more charming, than the graceful branches clad in spotless purity? Then, too, the fig tree in thick clusters upon them in no less pleasing to the eye than gratifying to the taste. These are many varieties of trees which are planted in yards and lawns which have no mere slightly appearance than an apple tree, without its wealth of fragrant bloom, or its silicious and luscious fruit. On the continent, fruit trees are planted along the sides of highways and lanes, and the fallen produce is looked upon as common property, provided the traveler does not trespass for it. Even in suburbs of cities and large towns, where but a few feet of fertile soil is available to each home, and where one would suppose that each inch of ground would be made available, the front yards are planted with evergreen trees, or purely ornamental shrubs, to the utter exclusion of apple, pear or plum trees—any of which would be far preferable in every respect.

AGRICULTURE.

GROWING HOPE-RADISH.—If we look through our markets and see the chunky stuff sold for horse-radish, it is clear that not one in a hundred knows how to grow it. Horse-radish well grown is as profitable as any garden crop, but we think there is not much profit in the scrubby stuff referred to. To have good horse-radish, a garden near or close to the house is best, but by no means wet, though one which gardeners would call damp and cool will be by no means objected to. It cannot very well be ground too rich, and if subsiding the ground is to find favor it will surely be in favor with this crop. Now the object in raising good horse-radish is to have long, straight roots, and good culture is to get these. In raising horse-radish every piece of the root which a little of the crown grows. Generally pieces an inch or so long are set just beneath the soil, and one or more are set in a row, with care, with leaves, and others go down to make or root roots. These are then forked or wisted and give the wretched roots we see. The proper way is to make holes with a dibble, posts, or crowbar so as to let the small pieces which are to be set in the holes, and wait. The result is that in a couple of months a sprout will start upwards to the surface, and this sprout in time becomes the straight, clean root we have spoken of. The second season after planting they will be in marketable condition, and should be all taken up and marketed that season and a new plantation made in like manner on the same ground. From the pieces left in the ground by the digging of the old roots many will come up, and these are generally relied on to form the succeeding crop. These roots should be stored in a box, or they can be regarded as nothing but weeds, which everything that comes up where it is not wanted is set out. The rows must be made about eighteen or twenty inches apart, and the pieces to form roots be planted in the furrows, and the soil between the distance, however, between the rows is to be regulated by the method of culture. Where the plow is used to clear up between the rows they must be wider than when grown as a garden crop. The richness of the ground will also regulate the distance to put the sets apart, and should be kept in mind, as followed, one need never be without a good relish for fish, roast beef, or any of the multitudinous dishes where a little pugnacity is not to be despised. But how few persons follow them, and indeed how few have even horse-radish cooking hints. It can be raised with other things for the market, and as we say above, will be found as profitable as anything they can take to market, when the amount of labor and profit is reckoned.

PLANTING POTATOES.—Nearly every rule which has been commonly laid down for planting potatoes, according to circumstances, and different experimenters often come to partial or conflicting conclusions as external influences may have varied. For example, in the use of large and small seed, and of cut and uncut potatoes, the prevailing difference may result from controlling causes. In nearly all conditions it is better to cut the tubers, and thus obtain fewer stalks in the hill than by whole planting. But if the planting be done late, and the soil happens to be unusually dry in the time of a drought, a cut potato may dry up and fall to rot, while a whole one, with its protective skin of a whole one will prevent wilting, and sufficient moisture and nourishment be afforded from it to start a good growth. The continual rule may therefore be laid down, to plant whole potatoes only in a dry soil, or in time of dry weather, which all good farmers will know how to avoid. For similar results from small or large seeds vary much with circumstances. Very small cut potatoes should be employed only when the soil is fine, moist condition, and early in the spring. With the favorable chances we have obtained as large potatoes from cut seed of tubers as large as a robin's egg as from those weighing a quarter of a pound, and with a slightly smaller product per acre. The small sets were kept moist by a fine soil which surrounded them till they had sent up strong shoots. But as these favorable conditions are not likely to occur very often, it is always safer to employ seed of fair size, and to plant deep enough to escape surface drying. In view of these general principles it will be seen that there is little advantage in the frequent practice of cutting a few eyes of dry growing tubers in a hill. These would be more likely to dry up in a soil not quite moist enough, than if the same number of eyes were allowed to remain on a single piece. These remarks are made from many trials under the varying conditions mentioned above.

FRUIT TREES ON LAWS.—The question is often asked why fruit trees are not more generally planted on lawns and in gardens, instead of purely ornamental trees. The idea seems to prevail that fruit trees must be confined to the orchard or kitchen garden; yet what is more beautiful than the pink and red of the apple blossom, the pure white of the cherry and pear, and the deep rose of the peach? Cherry trees literally white with blossoms are of no rare sight, and what is more charming, than the graceful branches clad in spotless purity? Then, too, the fig tree in thick clusters upon them in no less pleasing to the eye than gratifying to the taste. These are many varieties of trees which are planted in yards and lawns which have no mere slightly appearance than an apple tree, without its wealth of fragrant bloom, or its silicious and luscious fruit. On the continent, fruit trees are planted along the sides of highways and lanes, and the fallen produce is looked upon as common property, provided the traveler does not trespass for it. Even in suburbs of cities and large towns, where but a few feet of fertile soil is available to each home, and where one would suppose that each inch of ground would be made available, the front yards are planted with evergreen trees, or purely ornamental shrubs, to the utter exclusion of apple, pear or plum trees—any of which would be far preferable in every respect.

IRON FOR FRUIT TREES.—The scales which fly off from iron being worked at, forges, iron trimmings, filings, or other iron filings, are very valuable, which they must remove whenever they step outside the ghetto, and must step aside to the left when they meet a Moslem, and are not allowed to ride a horse. The men are handsome and the women uncommonly pretty, and do not cover their faces; neither do the Kabyle women, as is the custom of other women of the Sahara. Among the Kabyles of the mountain region a passport or arnya, from a sheik or a marabout, brings protection and hospitality.

DOMESTIC.

THE WARDROBE.—White or light feathers may be cleaned by taking four ounces of white soap, cut small, dissolved in four pints of water, rather hot, in a large basin. Make the solution into a lather, beating it with rods or wire, then introduce the feathers, and rub well with the hands for five or six minutes; after this soaping, wash in clean water, as hot the hand can bear, and shake well until dry. To color feathers blue, wash well in soap and water, dry in the air, then dip in warm water, and then dip them in hot alum water; after this dip them in a solution of indigo composition called chemie blue, and immerse the feathers in the alum and the dye water alternately, till the requisite shade is obtained. A small piece of paper or linen moistened with turpentine, and put into a wardrobe or bureau for a single day, two or three times a year is recommended as a sufficient preservative of every description of dress or wearing apparel against injury from moths. Sandal wood or pieces of cedar also answer a very good purpose in this way.

SHREWDNESS AND ABILITY. Hop Bitters, so freely advertised in all the papers, secular and religious, are having a large sale and are being planted all over the country. There is no denying the virtues of the Hop plant, and the proprietors of these Bitters have shown great shrewdness and ability in compounding a Bitters whose virtues are so palpable to every one's observation.—Examiner and Chronicle.

OMELET.—Three eggs, white and yolks beaten well and separately, one half cup of milk, one tablespoonful of oil, one half tablespoonful of pepper and salt by taste; divide the milk, stirring the yolks in the first half, and the whites in the second, just warm enough to melt the butter. Butter the frying-pan, have it hot, then pour in the mixture, after stirring all together, into the pan. The omelet is made neat by stirring the whites in the last time before putting out to cook, fold when brown on under side.

WINDOWS AND WINDOW SILLS.—Throw open your bedroom windows top and bottom every morning before you leave your room; order your sitting-room windows to be similarly opened before breakfast. The fresh air comes in at the bottom and drives out the bad air at the top. When a carpet is being swept, have the window open at the top and bottom, for the fresh air coming in at the bottom, drives out the dirt and dust at the top. Every cleaning day, the window sills should be washed outside well scrubbed with soap and water and sand, also the sockets of the window sills.

POTATO CREQUET.—One pound mashed potato, one egg; one tablespoonful of milk; a little pepper and salt; a few spoonfuls of bread crumbs and cracker dust. The potatoes must be mashed when thoroughly dry. When mashed throw in a small quantity of salt, a little pepper and the yolk of an egg. Stir the yolk with the potatoes over the fire till thoroughly dry. Flour the board well, take a little of the flour; make them into any shape. When the crequet is well fried, roll in cracker dust, roll the crequet in it; throw over all a little bread crumb or cracker dust.

NERVOUSNESS, and all derangements of the nervous system, are usually connected with a diseased condition of the blood. Debility is a frequent accompaniment. The first thing to be done is to improve the condition of the blood. This is accomplished by taking VEGETINE. It is a nerve-medicine, and possesses a controlling power over the nervous system.

GOOD YEAST.—In two quarts water boil three potatoes pared and cut up, and a handful of fresh hops tied in a cloth; boil till the potatoes are done, take out and mash, put back in the water, add one cup salt, one of white sugar; let me to a boil and, when milk-warm, add one cup of yeast, or other good yeast. Stir in a moderately warm place to rise; when light, put into a jug or jar and set in the cellar.

OLD-FASHIONED TAPIOCA PUDDING.—Two eggs, one quart milk, one cup butter; spices of nutmeg and cinnamon to taste; a little salt and a bit of small teaspoonful of butter, melted. Wash and soak the tapioca in a little water till rather tender; then put it in the milk, and place on back of the stove and soak one hour; then melt butter in dish and pour in the beaten eggs, milk, well strained, and spice; bake one hour quite slowly.

—A Cough, Cold, Catarrh, or Sore Throat requires immediate attention, as neglect oftentimes results in some incurable Lung Disease. "BROWN'S Bronchial Trochies" will almost invariably give relief. Imitations are offered for sale, many of which are injurious. The genuine "BROWN'S Bronchial Trochies" are sold only in boxes.

TILDERING OF WHEAT.—My experience and observation, as well as experiments, all lead to the conclusion that wheat does not differ; that one grain brings forth a perfect one; one stalk bearing from twelve (the lowest we ever counted) to eighty-six perfect grains found on one stalk last season.

PROFESSOR PROCTOR, the eminent English astronomer, says that he finds the interest in astronomy in this country more widely spread in America than in England, more people attending lectures here, and reading and thinking more upon such subjects.

SEVERAL cases are reported in which scarlet fever, measles and other venereal diseases have been spread by cats and dogs.

To clean lantern globes and lamp chimneys; rub briskly with a soft cloth and dry ashes from grit.

HUMOROUS.

"AND I can't understand this doctor business at all," one of them was saying as two women passed into the post-office yesterday. "What's the trouble now?" "Well, the old man's growning around again."

"HEAVEN knows, but it has cost me fifty cents for a prescription. That's where the mystery comes in." "Every time my old man is a bit ailing the doctor he comes and looks at his pulse, counts his pulse, and orders his slings and chicken soup."

"AND when I wake up with a chilly backache, a bad'nuth and a dizzy head, and I faint away over the breakfast, the doctor he comes in, tracks up my clean floor, soars my canary into a fit, and goes away saying, 'You look like a lovely hand, but you're not like to wash for our family!' I tell you I believe them doctors is all one-sided, and after this my old man has got to put up with smelling at the camphor bottle, while I drink the slings!"

THEY were playing a game they call euchre. She held both bowers and the king, and two aces of other suit, but she was a novice at the game. A young man who was teaching her looked at her cards and warmly exclaimed, "What a lovely hand!" She looked into his eyes and murmured, "You may have it, if you want it." All the rest of the evening he wondered if he was the victim of a leap year proposal.

THE soft and silky appearance given to the hair by the use of Caroline, the natural hair restorer and dressing, is now improved and perfected, is the subject of general remark by all who have witnessed its effects upon the human head. Sold by all dealers in drugs.

A YANKEE came running down to a pier just as a steamer was starting. The boat moved off some four or five yards, as he took a jump, and coming down on the back of his head on deck, he lay stunned for two or three minutes. When he came to, the boat had gone the best part of a quarter of a mile, and, raising his head and looking to the shore, the Yankee said: "Great Jehosophat! what a jump!"

A TEACHER was endeavoring to ascertain the extent of her children's knowledge of numbers. She asked the question and asked, "Would you rather have three paper bags with two oranges in each, or two paper bags with three oranges in each?" all but one little fellow expressed themselves without preference. The teacher asked this pupil for his decision, and he was persistent in liking the first way. His reasoning in this was, "So I could have more bags to bust!"

HOP BITTERS, which are advertised in our columns, are a sure cure for theague, biliousness and kidney complaints. Those who use them say they cannot be rightly described as medicine. Those afflicted should give them a fair trial, and will become thereby enthusiastic in the praise of their curative qualities.—Portland Argus.

A SOCIETY journal gave a prize the other day for a piece of poetry, to be twenty lines in length, without the letter "H" occurring in it. The Honorable Billy sat up all night with his head in a muscadine-meal poultice, pegging away like anything, and by daylight he actually pulled it off, and the result of his poetic rhapsody, "The Honorable Billy's Address to the Society of H.," "You might improve it still," she said. "How?" "By leaving out all the other letters, too."

A YOUNG man with an extremely powerful voice was in doubt which branch of the art to adopt. He went to Cherubini for advice. "Suppose you sing me a few bars," said the master. The young fellow sang and sang, and then he said: "Now?" said he, "What do you think I am best fitted for?" "Auctoneer," dryly replied Cherubini.

"MAMMA," said Henry Thomas, a bright little fellow, "I'm going to be an oculist. Mamma, have my eyes?" "No, my darling. Why do you ask such a foolish question?" "Because my foot's asleep."

As one pound of Dobins' Electric Soap, (made by Cragin & Co., Philadelphia), will do the work of five pounds of any other, it is really the cheapest, though it costs a little more per pound.

BRIDGET (to caller): "Will ye kape still a minute while I look at ye? No, missis hain't to home. She told me, if a woman come with a wart on the indy av a red nose to say she wasn't home; an' ther's no mistakin' that wart."

A CINCINNATI widow sued a doctor for cutting up the body of her husband and not saving the pieces, damages \$11 and \$5,000; but the jury held that doctors' husbands had had damages enough.

"I wish I was dead," is an expression not unfrequently used by the dyspeptic and other persons who, through disease, the depressed spirits unfixing the mind for anything and almost driving him to despair. Be of good cheer, there is life and health left for you yet. Take Simmons' Liver Regulator. It regulates the liver, dispels drowsiness and restores health. Look well that you get the genuine, prepared by J. H. Zedlin & Co., enclosed in a white wrapper, with a red Z on the front. "I can recommend your medicine. All the health I enjoy, and even my life, I may say, is in consequence of the Simmons' Liver Regulator. I would not take \$1,000,000 for my interest in the medicine." "W. H. Williams, Lecturer State Grange, and President Florida Co-operative Stock Co., P. O. H., Welborn, Florida."

GREEN BUTTER.—Well mashing and pound in a mortar four anchovies; all some parsley, and through a sieve with two ounces of fresh butter; mix the whole well together, and serve. Anchovy paste will do as well as anchovies. To be eaten with thin crisp toast.

To neutralize the sting of a goat or mosquito, rub the part affected with a little cerumen—that is, ear-wax.

EVERYTHING conducive to the better condition of the baby is sure to attract attention; and hence it is that Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup is becoming more and more appreciated, as its wonderful influence in subduing the diseases of babyhood becomes recognized. Price 25 cents.

THE eye is the index to the soul. When a man asks you to get off the ruins of his new plug hat, you can tell by looking in his eye whether he wants cash down for the damages or will take an indorsed note running six months.

BOSTON has the champion mean man. He was obliged to have a large stable hoisted from the street to a third story window, and caused it to be done at night, when the crowd that always enjoys such a sight couldn't have seen the affair even if they had known about it.

The time has passed for the "Elkirs," "Cardials" etc. for the Baby, and Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup is now the established and reliable remedy. Price 25 cents.

The rooster crows when the egg is incubated, because he knows the hen likes to have her lay set to music.

"Now this is what I call business," remarked a Brooklyn undertaker, as an unfortunate gentleman stepped into his store and died.

Some Entomologists have discovered that wheat will retain its germinating powers even when subjected to a temperature of eighty degrees below zero, centigrade.

Tall waves are often caused by submarine earthquakes in apparently fine weather, without any relation to hurricanes, although often accompanying them.

Guard Against Disease. If you find yourself getting bilious, head heavy, mouth foul, eyes yellow, kidneys disordered, symptoms of piles forming, you are in one of the stages of Kidney-Wort. Use it as a few drops—don't wait to get down sick.—LEADER.

A Valuable Gift Free. A book on the Liver, its diseases and their treatment sent free, including treatises upon Liver Complaints, Torpid Liver, Jaundice, Biliousness, Itch of the Skin, Dropsy, etc. Address, Sanford, 162 Broadway, New York City, N. Y.

The Voltaic Belt Co., Marshall, Mich. Will send their celebrated Electro Voltaic Belt to the afflicted upon 30 days' trial. Speedy cures guaranteed. They mean what they say. Write to them without delay.

A CARD.—To all who are suffering from the errors of indigestion, of nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, etc., we recommend a medicine that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered in the mountains of South America. It is a self-administered remedy; see to the best. JOSEPH J. S. M.A., Station B, New York City.

KIDNEY-WORT PERMANENTLY CURES KIDNEY DISEASES, LIVER COMPLAINTS, Constipation and Piles. Dr. R. H. Clark, South Hero, Vt., says, "I have cured many very bad cases of Pile, and have never failed to act efficiently." Nelson Partridge, of St. Albans, Vt., says, "It is of priceless value. After sixteen years of great suffering from Piles and Constipation it completely cured me." C. E. Hagon, of Berkshire, says, "One package has done wonders for me in completely curing a severe Liver and Kidney complaint."

HOSTETTER'S CELEBRATED BITTERS. Fortify the System. And you are aware of disease. The finest tonic for this purpose is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which restores digestion easy and complete, contracts all weakness, and keeps the bowels in order. It is a tonic and health-giving, and its effects are such that not only the body is invigorated, but the mind is also benefited. Sold by all Druggists and Dealers generally.

MAKE HENS LAY. An English Veterinary Surgeon and Chemist, now traveling in this country, says that most of the Hens and Cattle Powder, here are worthless trash. He says that "Bird's Nest" Food, "Poultry" Food, "Turkey" Food, etc., are all worthless. Nothing on earth will make a hen lay but a good quality of Food. Send for a list of names of the best Food for Hens, and for all other Poultry. S. S. JOHNSON & CO., Bangor, Me.

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GREAT BARGAINS IN WATCHES AND CLOCKS. Nickle Case Stem-Winding Watch (Hunting) \$20.00. Silver Case Stem-Winding Watch (Hunting) 16.00. The "Nickle Case" Stem-Winding Clock, \$20.00. Five Gold Case Stem-Winding Clocks, \$10.00. Sent by mail on receipt of price. Send for circular.

COPY PAD. Directions to make Copy Pad. Write on the Copy Pad with ball pen, fountain pen, or any other pen. The Copy Pad is made of the finest paper, and is of a size and shape to fit into any pocket. It is a most valuable article, and is sold by all Druggists and Dealers.

OPERA GLASSES. R. & J. BECK. Manufacturing Optician. Send 3 stamps for illustrated Catalogue of 144 pages, and mention this paper.

ELGIN WATCHES! All-steel, Gold, Silver and Nickel. \$5 to \$15. China, etc. sent C. O. D. to all parts of the world. TANDARD AMERICAN WATCH CO., Pittsburgh, Pa.

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