

A Chinese Duckery.

A Chinese duckery is an establishment, either afloat or on shore, devoted to rearing or feeding ducks, which, are, in most cases, salted, smoked, and hawked about the streets of the large towns. I was much interested in observing the mode of treatment.

The ducks were hatched out by hot sand, and divided into lots of 100 to 150. These are taken to a stream as far down as it is possible, and there a temporary fence of wicker work is erected, inclosing about twenty feet square of the stream and its banks.

When they are to be fed, a clean mat is laid down on the bank, inside the fence, and in the middle of the day, under the shade mats. On this is strewn rice, boiled and mixed with sweet potatoes, etc., and made into the consistency of dry dough; this the ducklings nibble at running to the stream whenever their little throats get choked, so as to get a drink and clear to commence again.

In a small way I tried to improve on the Chinese plan by giving them their food mixed softer, but it turned out a miserable failure. The ducks, when shaking their heads, splattered the food over each others' backs, where it stuck and they did not thrive.

I was much struck with the way in which the Chinese seemed to know exactly how much the ducklings would consume at one feeding, and how little waste there was. A little boy generally attended about five lots of 150 or 200 ducks, and large streams are made to branch off into smaller ones, so that each lot could have a fresh run of clean water coming down on them.

When the feeding was over, the feeding mats were lifted and washed below the second fence, and hung up to dry for next time. When the ground where the ducks were fenced became dirty, which took place in four or five days, in spite of all precautions to keep it clean, the lower fence was shifted above the upper one, and the ducks put into it; this gave them fresh, clean ground, and they seemed to thrive to perfection.

As the ducks grow two lots of 150 are put together, then two lots of 300, and so on; the extent of fencing being increased, and a boy dispensed with, the time between feeding is extended and labor saved. When grown, they are herded in flocks of some thousands by a man carrying a long bamboo rod, and he moves them from rice field to rice field, where they puddle among the mud and are fed for almost nothing. They always get a tit-bit when they come home to their sheds at night (which are floored with dry earth, frequently changed and used for manure) this makes them very anxious to get home, and they are quiet, knowing there is nothing to be expected at home before night.

The Danger of Absinth.

The habitual drinker becomes at first dull, listless, and is soon completely brutalized, and then goes raving mad. He is at last wholly or partially paralyzed, unless, as often happens, disordered liver and stomach bring a quicker end. The liquor is dangerously seductive, because it seems, in the beginning, to help the digestive organs, when it really hurts them, and very seriously. Many persons having been induced to take absinth for indigestion, have thus gradually fallen under its baleful influence. The drinker is in most cases in seeming good health, having no thought of his peril, until the hour when illness has declared itself. He is apt indeed, to believe that he is remarkably well, and to consider all the stories about absinth mere bugaboos. The earliest symptoms of ailment lead to an examination and to the knowledge that his entire system is deranged, usually beyond restoration. His first illness is apt to be his last, and death is a welcome relief.

Absinth has not long been known; in fact, it was not made a century ago. Some ninety years since a French refugee, Dr. Ordinaire, settled at the small village of Couvert, Switzerland, and acquired a very fine practice in the neighborhood. He prepared his own medicines, one of them being an extract of wormwood, which he held in high esteem and compounded with his own hands. He prepared it from a private recipe, and administered it to his patients with excellent effect. Before his death he imparted the secret to others, and the extract was extensively made and sold to peddlars. It was gradually improved, or rather deteriorated upon, until the present liquor had been obtained. In the Val de Travers, Canton of Neuchâtel, about 150,000 gallons of this most alluring poison are annually distilled.

A Buried Forest.

It has been recently discovered that an oak forest lies buried in the Valley of the Fulda, near Rosenburg, Hesse Cassel, Germany, at a depth of from six to nine feet below the surface. The wood flourished at a very remote period. The great number of the trees discovered were in good preservation; but, owing to the action of the water through unnumbered ages, they have become thoroughly black in color, so that they would be good material for carving and/or ornamental cabinet work. Some of the trees are of great size; one taken out of a gravelly portion of the bed opposite the village of Bammbach, and since sent to the Geological Museum at Berlin, was 59 feet long, nearly five feet in diameter near the root, and about 38 inches at the top. It is reported that the furniture and fittings of the Geological Museum at Marburg are to be made from this long buried timber. It is not yet decided whether this buried oak belongs to a species still existing or to an extinct one.

FARM AND GARDEN.

VENTILATION OF THE CELLARS.—It would seem as if nowhere should dwelling houses be so healthful as in the open country, with ample space around them, and plenty of pure air and sunshine to keep them sweet. Yet they are often far from being the wholesome places they ought to be, with a heavy and stagnant air, and with a bad odor, and one of the reasons why this is the case is the commonly bad condition of the cellar. THE AMERICAN CULTIVATOR has some suggestions on this point well worth heeding.

The worst place for storing vegetables, such as cabbage, turnips, mangels or carrots, is the dwelling-house cellar. It is utterly impossible to keep them from decaying more or less, and when stored in a dwelling the gases emanating therefrom must ascend and find their way into the house and even the chambers. These gases contain the germs of disease, which are pregnant with typhoid and malarial fevers. The best place for these vegetables is in the open air, under some of the out-buildings. They should never be stored in any place where the gases could reach the milk room, or where the cream, butter or cheese is stored. A house can never be considered healthy where there is not the purest air in the cellar, and while every precaution should be used to prevent freezing, the proper ventilation should at the same time be secured, so that whenever the cellar door is opened no offensive odors would be perceived. The entrance to the cellar is generally from the kitchen, which is a great many degrees warmer than the cellar, and the air rushes up, and in a great many houses this is the cause of bad weather. But although it would be imperceptible, there are always gases ascending from the cellar, or it would be a rare case indeed to find floors or doors perfectly air tight; this renders it necessary to have the atmosphere of the cellar as pure as that of any of the rooms in the house, otherwise the dwelling cannot be a perfectly healthy abode.

NEW METHOD OF RECLAIMING BOWLAND.—Dr. Playfair, of Edinburgh, draws attention to the German method of reclaiming bog land, which has already received attention at the Agricultural Department at Washington. The fundamental idea of this method is to cover bog earth with a deep layer of gravel, after means have been provided for draining the bog, and to leave this gravel as a permanent surface layer, which is never to be mixed with the bog earth that lies beneath it. Upon this ground the crops are grown. The surface shields the young crops from destruction by night frosts in the spring; it lessens the evaporation of water from the soil, and the radiation of heat, and so keeps the ground comparatively warm, while, as experience shows, the buried humus can still supply the crops with food. The upper surface must never be plowed, so as to mix the soil with the other, but, when it becomes hard and incrustated it is worked with a sub-soil plow in such a way that the soil may be loosened without mixing one layer with the other. Some writers argue that it is better to sweeten the bog land first by burning, before spreading the gravel over it. It, however, is an open question, and no doubt exists that the method has merit. No manure is required, as the soil is being exhausted by cropping; the reclaimed fields actually become too fertile. Twelve-year old bogs still give the best crops of grass, cut or over and over again for green food.

BRASS AS A FIELD CROP.—Probably there is not a crop raised on the farm attended with more profit than the early cultivated, that the old-fashioned white bean. By this we do not mean to say that it would be advisable to put in as many acres to beans as we would to wheat, but instead of selecting some odd nook or corner, which is generally the case now, we would set apart a field of fair average and plant it to this crop, and when the harvest is over attend the working of the ground in a Christian-like manner. There is no crop on the farm generally more neglected. In many instances the land selected for the crop is of the most inferior quality on the farm, and when planted the cultivation is much neglected, but for all this the product is far better than other crops. There is always a good market for them, and the planting, cultivation and the harvesting can be attended to when it does not interfere with other crops, which is a great advantage to farmers. There are many varieties which can be raised in all climates, and we hope that their cultivation may be given to their cultivation.

Wild Vines on Old Buildings.

Old buildings of all kinds, that have become dilapidated through time or by exposure to storms, may become objects of beauty by training wild vines, such as woodbine, wild grape or forest ivy upon them. These vines spread very rapidly from their lateral branches, or will increase to an astonishing extent by cutting or layering. The picture-like beauty of many of the rural villages in Europe is almost entirely owing to the vines that over-arch the walls. Some of the most hardy grapes may be grown with profit over low buildings; and at the same time they will give a pleasant appearance to that which before disfigured the premises.

Experience teaches us that stock entering into winter quarters in good condition can be kept with difficulty while an entire winter is endured in a poor condition, notwithstanding an abundance of food, careful housing and the best attention, will invariably be in poor order the following spring.

For storing onions there is no better place than a dry, cool and airy loft, where they can be spread out thinly, and looked over for the removal of those which may have begun to decay. Warmth and moisture are fatal to the keeping of onions, and much handling is almost equally so.

Dr. Curschmann relates the history of two cases of phthisis with abundant and fetid expectoration. One was treated by inhalations of pure carbolic acid; the other, first by oil of turpentine and later by carbolic acid. The inhalations were at first kept up for two or three hours a time, later continuing only. Both patients were relieved of their cough, and during the six months they were under observation gained twenty pounds in weight.

There are now four comets visible to the earth, through a good telescope, none of which are new. The first was discovered by Mr. Schaeberle at Ann Arbor, Mich.; the second by Mr. Hartwig, of Strasbourg, Germany; the third by Mr. Louis Swift, at Rochester, New York, and the fourth by M. Faye, of Paris.

HUMOROUS.

"I AM SO glad you've come down to see us, Mr. Robinson," said Miss Fitzjoy. "I am sure you will find a great deal of interest in this city, and besides we do so like to reciprocate your kindness to us in the summer, upon that delightful farm."

"Yes, Miss Fitzjoy, are different about here, that's a fact. Everything looks mighty thrifty; but really now, do you think it's safe for me to go on the street. I hear that there's lots of pickpockets in the city."

"Why, bless your dear old heart, I'll take care of all your money for you." "H'm, yes, I presume you will," but I guess I'll look out for it. "I'm pretty sharp myself." And he went out for a stroll and came back with his pantaloons pocket cut neatly out, and every cent of his ready cash gone.

A HAZY FACED woman of about 51 summers, with a wealth of freckles in her face and a snuff stick in her mouth, got into a crowded car on Galveston avenue. There were half a dozen gentlemen on the car, but none of them offered to give her a seat. After she had waited a reasonable time she said: "If any of you galsots is waltin' for me to squat in yer laps, you are barkin' up the wrong tree, for I want you to understand I'm a lady." A dread that she was not in earnest caused six gentlemen to leave the car.

AMONG THE replies to an advertisement of a music committee for a candidate for organist, music teacher, etc., a vacancy having occurred by the resignation of the organist in office, was the following: "Gentlemen, I do not do your advertisement for an organist and music teacher, either lady or gentleman. Having been both for several years, I offer you my services."

"INSANITY IS increasing among the women of America." Don't believe it. The women of America don't drag on long skirts over the dirty sidewalks as they did only a year ago; nor do they go along and every now and then make a frantic dive for a flat foot.

FASHIONABLE young lady at a social gathering remarks, jestingly, to Githooly: "I wonder how much I would bring if I was put up at auction and sold to the highest bidder?" "Just about five hundred dollars." "Why, my jewelry alone is worth that." "Yes, that's what I put it down in my estimate."

MISTRESS—As you've never been in service, I'm afraid I can't engage you without a "character." Young Person—I have three school-board certificates, ma'am. Mistress—Oh, well, I suppose for honesty, cleanliness, and Young Person—No, ma'am; for literature, jogger, ph'y, and free land and other things."

SOME genius has invented a blowing machine with sufficient wind power to blow a man over a three-story brick house. It would seem now that we might dispense with Congress, but we can't suppose that body will take the hint and adjourn.

AFTER an enthusiastic lover spends two hours hard labor over a letter to his girl and then mows it beauty by spilling a drop of ink on it, he first swears in a scientific manner for a few minutes and then draws a circle round the blot and tells her it is a kiss; and she, poor thing, believes it.

VICAR—"Sorr'y I never see you at church, Squire. As a leading man in the parish, you ought to be one of the pillars." Squire—"Well, all 'em events, if I'm not a pillar, I'm one of the buttresses—always to be found outside, you know!"

INVALID—"I've had a wretched night, Mrs. Wobbles." Nurse—"Dear, dear me, sir! I thought you slept most comfortable. Invalid (with a groan): "Oh, Mrs. Wobbles, do use the adverb!" Nurse—"Yes, sir; I'll see about it directly, sir,—but"(puzzle)—"I really don't think there's one in the 'ouse, sir?"

A LETTER addressed to "the prettiest girl in Sedalia, Mo.," is posted up for a claimant. The girls all say, "It looks like my writing I wish they had just sent it to me and not stuck it up that way in a public place. I'll never get it now."

LITTLE Charley had his hair "bobbed" the other day but did not like the operation of bobbing. "Ma, that barber's brush made me squawk." Mother—"I did not hear any noise." Charley—"But I squawked in my mind."

A GENTLEMAN speaking of the happiness of the married state before his daughter disparagingly said: "She who marries does well; but she who does not marry does better." "Well, then," said the young lady, "I will do well; let those who choose do better."

A GERMAN radical philosopher has said that a man is what he eats, meaning that his body and his brains are built up out of his food, and as there food, coarse or fine, according to what he takes into his alimentary canal. "If I should put on green glasses and view this class, would I not be deceived in their appearance?" "Well—no, I don't think you would."

A YOUNG lawyer wished to cite an authority on a case he was conducting, and not being able to remember it, his opponent wittily remarked, "Though lost to cite, to memory dear."

DOMESTIC.

ARE YOUR CLOSETS VENTILATED.—There is nothing so handy in a house as an abundance of large, roomy closets; but because they are handy and extremely useful they are apt to be abused. There are many things which, as a matter of course, are always put into a closet, of which the article of outward wearing apparel makes a large part. There are always things which ought not to go into the closet, i. e., a closet adjoining or closely connected with a living or sleeping room. Of such are all soiled undergarments, the wash clothes, which should be put into a large bag for the purpose, or a roomy basket, and then placed in the wash-room or some other well aired room at some distance from the family. Having thus excluded one of the fertile sources of bad odors in closets, the next point is to see that the closets are properly ventilated in matters not how clean the clothing in the closet may be, if there is no ventilation that clothing will not be what it should be. Any garments after being worn for a while will absorb more or less of the exhalations which arise from the body, and this contains an amount of foreign matter that cannot be removed by the circulation of pure air can soon remove but if this is excluded, as in many close closets, the effluvia increases, and the clothes, closets and adjoining rooms in time possess an odor that any acute sense of smell will readily detect. Every closet in daily use in which the night clothes are hung by day and the day clothing by night, should have an airing as well as the bed. If the closet can be large enough to admit of a window—and it is in some cases—an ample provision for sunlight and a circulation of pure air is provided in the window, which should be left open for a short time every day. In the case of small closets, a ventilator could be put over the door, or even in it. In many cases such precautions for pure clothing are not practicable, and the next best thing is, to see that the door of the closet is left open for half hour or so each day at that time when the windows are thrown up and the large room is purified from the air that is made dirty in the night. By keeping out clothes intended for the wash; and, second, daily changing the air, the closets may be comparatively pure.

"VEGETINE," says a Boston physician, "has no equal as a blood purifier. Hearing of its many wonderful cures, after all other remedies had failed, I visited the laboratory and convinced myself of its genuineness. It is composed of fine roots, and herbs, each of which is highly effective, and they are compounded in such a manner as to produce astonishing results."

CHERRY PUDDING.—Melt half an ounce of fresh butter in a saucepan, stir into it a tablespoonful of flour; when the two are well amalgamated, put in a small quantity of milk and cream. Stir the mixture on a slow fire till it assumes the appearance of thick cream; be careful not to let it boil; then add some white pepper; mix thoroughly, and, if required, add a little salt; keep on stirring the mixture at a very moderate heat for about ten minutes, taking care not to make it until quite cold, then stir into them the yolks of three eggs beaten up with a little milk and strained; and, finally, the whites of five eggs whisked into a white froth. Put the mixture into a pudding dish, and put it into the oven at once. Serve quickly, as soon as the pudding has risen and the top is well browned.

BLEACHING FLANNEL.—Flannel which has become yellow with use may be bleached by putting it in a solution of a solution of soda soap to which strong ammonia has been added. The best proportions are one pound and a half of hard curd soap, fifty pounds of soft water, and two-thirds of a pound of strong ammonia solution. The same object may be attained in a shorter time by placing the flannel for a quarter of an hour in a weak solution of bisulphate of sodium, to which a little hydrochloric acid has been added.

EVERYBODY is pleased with the improved Carboline, a deodorized extract of petroleum. It is as clear and limpid as spring water, and was originally intended by nature as a panacea for all diseases of the scalp and skin, and as a natural hair restorer.

TO WHITEN OLD WHITE LAKE.—Iron slightly straightened, fold, sew in a linen bag, lay in a pure olive oil twenty-four hours, then boil in a solution of soap and water fifteen minutes, rinse in lukewarm water, and bring to a boil; then take a very little starch; then take it out of the bag and unfold it to dry, lay it carefully on a sheet or napkin.

TO MAKE SOAP TO DO AWAY WITH RUBBING.—Dissolve five bars of soap in four gallons of soft water, one and three-fourths pounds of sal soda, and three-fourths pounds of borax; stir while cooling. Use one cupful to make suds to soak clothes in, wring out and put into the boiler; use same quantity of soap for boiling the same. Try it; I have used it a long time.

A GOOD way to keep cut flowers fresh is to lay them in wet cloths. Take them out of the vases at night, sprinkle with cold water, and then wrap them in cloths made very wet with cold water. The weight of the cloths will not crush the most delicate flowers, while it keeps out the air and prevents their falling to pieces or opening further.

TO WASH WINDOWS: Dissolve a little washing soda in the water, if the glass is very dirty with smoky dirt. Do not let it run on the sash, but wash each pane with old lard; dry quickly with a soft, clean towel, wiping the corners with special care. Polish with clean muslin, or newspapers rubbed soft between the hands.

Washday is a holiday, thanks to Dobbin's Eucalypti Soap (made by Craig & Co., Phila.), which is rapidly coming into general use. It acts like magic, and bleaches clothing without injuring the fabric. Try it.

It may be laid down as a rule that all plants of whatever kind, if cut down and used as manure, impart more constituents to the earth than they take from it.

A SMALL teaspoonful of molasses added to buckwheat cakes, tempered with brown.

THE most assiduous parental attention will frequently fall to prevent Coughs, Colds, Croup, etc. Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is a most valuable remedy to have convenient when needed. Price 25 cents.

From the Hub.

There is perhaps no tonic offered to the people that possesses as much real intrinsic value as the Hop Bitters. Just at this season of the year when the stomach needs an appetizer, or the blood needs purifying, the cheapest and best remedy is Hop Bitters. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; don't wait until you are prostrated by a disease that may take months for you to recover in.—Boston Globe.

A French inventor noticed the manner in which watery vapor in a warm room congenial against the glass during frosty weather and forms needle-like crystals, interlacing one another like the threads of a tissue. This observation gave him the idea of producing designs for textile fabrics by crystallizing various salt solutions on a sheet of clay. He first tried the sulphates of copper, zinc, iron, alumina and magnesia. He covered five clean glass plates each with solution of one of these salts, placed them in a horizontal position and allowed them to crystallize slowly by evaporation. He found further that the crystal form became more suited to his purpose when he added albumen, gum, starch or gelatine to the solution, while at the same time the crystals became more resistant. He found also that different temperatures influenced the forms of the crystals, and that he could produce fantastic trees, flowers, stars, arabesques, roots, and even insects of interesting design. He went through many experiments, and ended by making the figures obtained permanent by electrolyzing, for which purpose he caused the solutions to crystallize upon strong plates of copper or German silver. A clean sheet of lead placed on the finished crystallization, gave, by hydraulic pressure, a metallic counterpart of the same. Or he used sheets of softened gutta percha, which received the impression, and could be stamped in copper deposits in the electric bath. The great problem, however, was to produce a continuous design which would fit around the rollers with which the patterns are printed on woven fabrics. The detached productions of the crystallization on his plates did not satisfy this condition. He substituted, therefore, in place of his flat plates, metallic cylinders similar to those used for producing the rollers for calico printing. By slowly turning them around their axis, while the solution on their surface evaporated, he obtained a design which satisfied the wants of the printer and the weaver for a continuous design without break in the whole length of the cloth. There are, however, some objections left. The crystallization is capricious and not sufficiently even and uniform, often leaving blanks which are larger than are agreeable to the purchaser of the fabric; but this may be overcome by experience and precaution. Another objection, however, appears impossible to correct. The two sides of the patterns do not match when different widths are joined at the selvage of the cloth. It is argued this is of minor importance, as generally dressmakers and tailors pay no attention to it.

Daniel Eggles, of Fredericksburg, Va., has recently taken out a patent for what he designates as a new and useful method of precipitating rain-falls from rain clouds. He proposes the employment of small balloons provided with explosives and arranged for simultaneous explosion. He contemplates the employment of small balloons, but also to check its fire in a given locality by causing the rain clouds to discharge rain before the given locality has been reached by such clouds.

Woman's Wisdom. "She insists that it is of more importance, that her family shall be kept in full health, than that she should have all the fashionable dresses and all the styles of the times. She therefore sees to it, that each member of her family is supplied with enough Hop Bitters, at the first appearance of any symptoms of ill health, to prevent a fit of sickness with its attendant expense, care and anxiety. All woman should exercise their wisdom in this way."—New Haven Palladium.

Efforts to reduce monkeys to discipline have not very often been successful. A native of the province of Bengal has, however, trained several of them to work the cords by which the punks, or ventilating fan of India, is moved. They perform their task to perfection, and, thanks to their activity, keep the punks in continuous motion, maintaining a constant, agreeable movement of air all through the room.

An examination of one hundred and seventy-eight log books of vessels sailing on the Atlantic Ocean within the past two years, indicates that the number of rainy days in the autumn in the region under consideration is a good deal larger than has been supposed, especially where the trade winds prevail.

A Protective Duty. The person subject to derangement of the kidneys or liver has a protective duty to perform in purchasing a package of Kidney-Work. It imparts new vitality to the sick body and cures by eliminating obstructive matter.—Democrat.

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These answering an advertisement will confer a favor upon the advertiser requesting publisher by stating that they saw the advertisement in this journal (naming the paper).

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It will be paid for a case that they will not cure, or will, for some time, be injurious to the person in whom it is used.

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Which Vegetine has attained in all parts of the country as a GREAT AND GOOD MEDICINE, and the large number of testimonials which are constantly being received from persons who have been cured by its use, are conclusive proof of its great value. It is recommended by physicians and apothecaries. As a Blood Purifier and Health-Restorer it has no equal.

Are not the many testimonials given for the different complaints satisfactory to any reasonable person suffering from disease that they can be cured? Read the different testimonials given, and no one can doubt it. Many of these cases give persons who that their pain and suffering cannot be expressed, as in cases of Rheumatism, where, apparently, the whole body was one mass of corruption. If Vegetine will relieve pain, cleanse, purify and cure such diseases, restoring the patient to perfect health after trying different physicians, many remedies, suffering for years, is it not conclusive proof, if you are a sufferer, you can be cured? Why is it not a sufferer, you can be cured? It works in the blood, in the circulating fluid, it is not true, called the Great Blood Purifier. The great source of disease originates in the blood; and no medicine that does not act directly upon it, to purify and renovate, has any just claim upon public attention. When the blood becomes lifeless and stagnant, either from poor diet, or from any other cause, the Vegetine will renew the blood, carry off the waste humors, cleanse the system, regulate the bowels, and impart a tone of vigor to the whole body. The conviction is, in the public mind, that the Vegetine is the best medicine for all the ailments supplied by the Vegetable Kingdom are more safe, more successful in the cure of disease, more agreeable to the stomach, than any other composed of roots and herbs. It is pleasant to take and is perfectly safe to give an infant, or a young child. Do not hesitate to try it. You will never regret it.

Vegetine. An Excellent Medicine. This is to certify that I have used Vegetine, manufactured by H. R. Stevens, Boston, Mass., for Rheumatism and General Prostration of the Nervous System, with good success. I recommend Vegetine as an excellent medicine for such. Yours very truly, C. W. VANDEGRIFT.

M. Vandegrift, of the firm of Vandegrift & Huffman, is a well-known business man in this place, having one of the largest stores in Springfield, Ohio.

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