

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., May 23, 1890

Farm Notes.

Experiments with burnt clay demonstrate it to be a fertilizer. Its value consists in its affinity for the plant forming elements in the soil. It extracts ammonia from the atmosphere and yields it to plants, as well as affording potash that is set free from the clay itself. It is the opinion of leading agriculturists that the burning of marl will render it more available to plants, and that burnt clay will be a fertilizer in the future.

When moisture is plentiful and the rains come at proper times it must not be overlooked that the weeds are benefited by the favorable conditions as well as the crops. The rains increase the work of destroying weeds, but much of the labor may be saved by using the cultivator after each rain so as to destroy the weeds as soon as they appear above ground.

The peach trees have been attacked severely by aphides this season. In Delaware and Maryland a spraying of strong soap-suds, made from common rosin soap, is considered the best remedy. A teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine in each pail of suds will be found advantageous, but kerosene should not be used, as it will quickly destroy peach trees.

By planting small trees they can be better started and will be less liable to the effects of drought, compared with older trees. Too much top on young trees is a frequent cause of loss, they not possessing sufficient roots to nourish the many new shoots that are produced on tops that have not been cut back.

If the strawberry bed is full of weeds and the plants have borne a crop last year, it will be a difficult task to prevent the weeds taking possession before the crop can be made profitable next season. A new bed should be planted last month, however, but it is rather late to do so now.

By keeping the surface of the soil loose the loss of moisture by capillary attraction and evaporation will be partially avoided. A loose soil, if only an inch in depth, serves as a mulch, or covering, over the surface of the ground, thus protecting the roots and assisting to retain the moisture below.

If the ground is cold nothing will be gained by putting seeds of tender plants, such as beans and melons, in too early. The plant that starts a little later in the season, and which is unchecked, will overtake in growth the earlier plant that has been subjected to cool nights and lack of warmth in the soil.

Grain may be fed liberally to cows when they are in full flow of milk, but if the cows are drying off previous to calving it is better to withhold all grain if the animals are in a good condition, in order to avoid milk fever at calving time. Plenty of grass is sufficient for dry cows, grain being unnecessary.

Gilt-edged butter depends for its quality not only on breed and feed to a certain extent, but more so on the skill of the dairyman. The first requisite is cleanliness, which begins at the stable and ends with the packing of the butter for market.

If it pays some farmers to raise the dairy cows that are purchased by dairy-men who sell their calves, it should pay the dairymen to raise their own cows, especially if he does so with the aim of improving his herd.

Stock needs salt when green food is plentiful more than at any other time. The lack of salt sometimes causes injurious effects from green food that might be avoided by its use for stock.

Should fowls that were afflicted with roup show the effects of the disease during the summer, the difficulty of effecting a cure is too great and the flock should be destroyed.

Trim back the raspberries and blackberries if it has not been done, in order to induce the growth of laterals, though the matter should have been attended to earlier.

Cows will not refuse stagnant water when thirsty, and as such water contaminates the milk the matter of a plentiful supply of fresh water is an important one.

Peas may still be planted for a late supply. Use the dwarf kinds and keep them well cultivated, as the grass will easily crowd them out during warm weather.

The hoe will compensate for lack of manure in the garden sometimes. Nothing improves vegetables like a good hoeing of the soil and cutting out the weeds.

During the warm days of summer the manure will "fire-fang" unless plenty of absorbent material be used, or the manure turned over occasionally.

All fallen fruit, whether very young or nearly matured, should be destroyed in order to prevent the propagation of insects as much as possible.

It will pay to thoroughly examine every ear of corn intended for seed. Corn from fields infested with rust last season should be avoided.

Sheep will need but little feed from the barn now if grass is plentiful, and a saving of grain may be made in that direction.

About one pound of London purple to 200 gallons of water is a sufficiently strong solution for an insecticide.

Orchard grass is considered superior to timothy, but it does not yield as much hay.

Most rubber goods have been adulterated so that they don't begin to be as good as they used to be. Not so with Truth, however, for the truth never was stretched half so much as at present. There seems to be absolutely no limit to its elasticity.

Self Possession of Women.

Women are more self possessed than men. On occasions of ceremony and display they appear happy and "at home." A well dressed woman is "in her element" at public entertainments, and she moves calmly and gracefully under the gaze of numerous eyes, while her male attendant is self-conscious and flurried. Observe the placidity which characterizes a handsomely dressed woman as she takes her seat in a church or concert room, and the contrast presented by the nervousness and lack of repose in the motions of man. It has often been remarked that brides are generally collected and sedate during the marriage ceremony, while bridegrooms are bashful and awkward.

WOULD NEVER GET OVER IT.—If I happened in a crowded horsecar. A seedy looking man, very much the worse for having looked too often on the wine when it was red, rose to give his seat to a lady, when a robust man slipped into the vacant seat leaving the lady still standing.

"Sawey, you—your feller you," said the boozey but chivalrous individual as he swayed to and fro, hanging to a strap, "I—I'm drunk, I know, but I—I'll get over it, I will; but you—you're a hog, an' you—you'll never get over it in—in this world—no, sir, never!"

And the other passengers agreed with him.

TENDER CHICKENS cooked in the following way are as good as if they were broiled: Open them in the back, season and put them in a baking-pan, with a little water in it. Turn another pan over it, and bake for an hour and a half or two hours according to the size. If they are not brown enough when nearly done take off the upper pan. Cut off the neck before putting in the oven, and boil it along with the giblets in half a pint of water. Take the bones out of neck; cut that, the gizzard and heart into fine pieces. Mash the liver with a spoon, and add them all, with the water in which they were boiled, to the gravy.

SPEAKING ONE'S MIND.—A Boston lady residing in Washington attended a full (un) dress party. In conversation with a charming young lady she said: "Why, look at that creature, an old woman, frizzled and painted, and powdered and bare! Do you know who she is?" "Yes," said the person addressed, "she is my mother." The feelings of the visitor may be imagined.

A LONG BEARD.—Philip Henson, a planter, residing near Corinth, Miss., is believed to be the possessor of the longest beard in the world. He is a man of unusual stature, standing nearly 6½ feet in his usual stockings; this notwithstanding, his beard reaches the ground when he is standing erect. Henson has several threads in his beard which measure over seventy inches. This remarkable growth is but fourteen years old.

A countryman who came to town recently on his bicycle carelessly left it in front of the hotel at which he was staying, and found when he returned that it was missing. "Why don't you apply to the police?" suggested the clerk when the matter was explained to him. "Do you think they stole it?" was the innocent response.

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Those who use nothing—who think they need nothing—who live on expectation, hope or some intangible nothing, will save time by passing this column by. It is not intended for them but the other fellows. We write what is here put down for the people who are mortal enough to get hungry, and in consequence of getting hungry are sensible enough to try to get what is good, pure, wholesome, and necessary, at prices that don't require them to lay out all that they earn, to appease their appetites. We have been in the hunger appealing business for many, many years. We know what men want, we know what women and children desire, and we know how much better and how much more pleasant it is to reside in a community where people enjoy good health, than among dyspeptic complainers, growlers and sufferers. To have healthy people pure food must be used. We understand this, and understanding it, keep nothing but the purest of everything; that can be found in the market. To satisfy the demands of the many different stomachs that we try to gratify, requires a vast variety of dainties, condiments and relishes, as well as the substantial; and knowing this there is nothing that is eatable, reliable or appetizing, that we do not keep.

It is for you who want, or use anything eatable, either as meats, fish, groceries, fruits, nuts, relishes, or in fact anything from a piece of chewing gum to a first class beef steak, that we write and pay the printer to print this invitation for you to come and see us.

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