

FARM NOTES.

Nature's method of feeding hens is a grain at a time, and constant scratching and searching at meal time. This method we should imitate as far as possible.

Hedge plants require fertilizer especially if they make rapid growth every year and are kept well trimmed. Wood ashes are better for hedges than anything else, but they should be applied liberally. This is about the right time for doing such work.

Just why the cow pea is not more widely grown is hard to see, for it certainly is one of the most valuable leguminous plants that we have for restoring the fertility of the soil. And as a money crop they are not to be despised, as the seed is generally as high as beans.

The way to have a good market is to be ready to sell when prices are good. Another way is to always have the very best of its kind when you have anything to sell. If stock is kept at all the time, a rise in the market may be taken advantage of and the high prices realized.

If the grape vines have not been trimmed and the old wood cut out of the blackberry and raspberry fields it should be done before the season opens. Such work is best done when the ground is frozen. Grapes are produced on the new wood, and the old vines can stand cutting back severely.

If there are symptoms of garget, or caked udder, apply hot water as hot as the hand can bear it plentifully and often. Also rub the udder with the hand for five or ten minutes at a time, three or four times a day. If this treatment is begun immediately the symptoms are noticed it usually proves effective.

It is perhaps the proper system to water the animals at regular periods, especially horses, but animals differ, and may want water at times when they do not receive it. To give all animals free access to water is certainly not contrary to nature, as they are better judges of eating and drinking, so far as they are concerned, than their owners.

When a cow falls off in the flow of her milk she may, by judicious management, be brought back to her average quantity, but the time lost can never be recovered, and there will always, in such cases, be an additional cost for food that will not give a return for the outlay. The time to take the cow pay is when she is at her best, and it should be the aim to keep her there as long as it is possible to do so.

The surest way to kill any kind of a tree is to pile a heap of stones around it. The reason appears to be that the stones obstruct light and act as a mulch to the soil, causing the tree roots to feed near the surface. But the stones are no obstruction to frost, so that the soil under them is usually deeply frozen, and the roots being encased in frozen soil cannot supply sap to the tree, as all roots should do to some extent in the winter.

A writer on sheep says that it is asking too much for an ewe to make her growth and shear the heaviest or next heaviest fleece of her life, and raise a lamb, in one year. It cannot be done without checking the growth of the sheep, and producing a lamb lacking in constitution. Continuing in that line for several years, the flock-master will have a very unweary flock and constitution will be bred out of them.

Now is the time to apply fertilizers to the strawberry beds, removing the mulch for that purpose, and covering the plants again after applying the fertilizer. There will be some root growth, even in winter, and the plants will begin to prepare for work before any signs of growth may be noticed. Mulching prevents warming the soil too soon and also saves the plants from being thrown out by a sudden thaw, the object of mulching being to keep the ground at an even temperature.

There is likely to be a good deal of fruit tree planting of all kinds the coming spring. If all orders for trees are sent out early in the winter they will stand much better chance of being filled than if the order is delayed until the last moment. The trees need not be sent until you desire them, and the nurseryman, if he understands his business, will know not to forward them until the season has been far enough advanced to make it possible to plant them when they are received.

The young dairy heifer ought to be as well fed and cared for as the milk cow, because her future usefulness depends on her condition prior to her first pregnancy. She does not need food either for milk production nor for fat, but ought to be kept in a strong, growing condition by food that makes bone and muscular tissue and gives vigor of constitution. The heifer should have a more active life than the cow kept for milk, but requires just as much care in feeding and just as sufficient shelter from inclement weather.

The Vermont Cattle Commissioners have strong faith in tuberculin. They say that while the mistakes made in using tuberculin are sufficient to give a person who is anxious not to believe in it some ground to stand upon, the general character of the work done with this agent is such as to give the man who is anxious to have a herd of cattle free from disease a means whereby he can accomplish his object. It is to-day as well settled as a question of its nature can be, that there is no ill effect following the use of tuberculin in healthy animals. The experience of Vermont covers nearly 2000 herds and 35,000 animals, and no case of even a reasonable suspicion of injury has come to the Commissioners notice.

An English farmer claims to have made a discovery which is valuable if his claim is well founded. As is well known, it is difficult to select the calf at birth for its future usefulness as a milker, yet he asserts that it can be done. He says that on the inner side of the cheeks, near the corner of the mouth, may be observed the palps, which have different forms according to whether the calf will be good, medium or indifferent milker. If the palps are large, broad and flat they indicate that the calf when matured, will give a large quantity of milk. If they are only round the milking qualities will be only ordinary. If pointed, the milk yield will be small. The "palp" is not defined, but is probably a portion of the mouth, raised above the smooth surface that can be felt or plainly distinguished.

The Haunted Tavern.

About a year ago was published the blood-curdling experience of the Yocum family at the "haunted tavern" on the Mack Cecil farm, three miles from this place. The house was built in 1793 and has a bloody history. If its walls could talk they would give a frightful account of the murder of a traveler for his gold alone about 1815. Here it was in 1820 a little slave ran upon the roof to escape chastisement at the hands of his young mistress. She went into the house, and returning with a rifle, bade the little imp to descend. He refused and she shot him through the head and he rolled from the steep roof a corpse at her feet. It was in this same house that young Harry Thomas lived in 1830, using the upper story as a "doctor's shop" and dissecting-room, and who died a horrible death within its precincts in 1832. But to return to the Yocum family. They moved into the place two years ago. One day, as heretofore related, the father and two sons were shocking corn near the house, and something like a large red comber flapped in the air, and would then go back through the planks. This happened several times, and always in daylight, and on the side of the house where there was no window or even a crack in the planks. While the blood-red object could be seen by the men at work in the field, and by neighbors, no one at the house was ever able to see anything unusual. About the same time, but at night, the chairs began to bump or walk across the floor. The upshot of it was that the Yocums moved out and got as far away from the place as possible, going to the extreme end of the county. Then "Uncle Billy" Overstreet, who lived in the neighborhood, bought the log or kitchen part of the old tavern, tore it down, and out of the timber built himself a domicile, and from that day his troubles commenced.

One night "Uncle Billy" left this place to go home. On the way out he met 1,000 cattle being driven by a neighbor who had long been dead. He halloed to him, but no attention was paid to the call, except that the ghostly herder rode within three feet of him, stared into his face, and passed on. "Uncle Billy" says this did not scare him much, but admits that he did keep a sharp lookout to prevent being surrounded by the cattle. For two months after this the old man always managed to get into the house before sundown. But one night he was again delayed in town, and reached his gate at 9 o'clock, and was raising the latch, when something gripped him on the shoulders from behind. For four solid hours he was walked about the farm by the invisible force that held him in a death grip. At first he was disposed to hold back, but soon learned better, for each time he rebelled he was so vigorously shoved forward that his head was nearly jerked from his shoulders. Whenever a fence was reached he was lifted over it and gently set on his feet on the opposite side. After being "walked" all over the country the old man was shoved into a sinkhole, and lay there till daylight. He then crawled out, made his way to a neighbor's and told his harrowing experience. In relating this story to the *Democrat*, he said he was 90 years old, and his long walk "fatigued him very much, and was very wearing on his constitution." He drew a line on the floor with the blade of his Barlow knife and added: "I'm a Christian, and am going to heaven; certain; I hate a liar as much as anybody, but what I have told you is true as you see that mark on the floor," and his looks and actions impressed one with the truthfulness of his story.—*Harrisburg (Ky.) Democrat*.

His Jump Was Fatal.

It Covered 147 Feet, and He Seemed at First not to Be Seriously Injured.

An unknown man threw himself, or accidentally fell from the railing on the Washington bridge over the Harlem river in New York, on Friday. The distance from the point where he fell to the water is 147 feet further than the distance traveled by the Brooklyn bridge workers. The man was fished out by two laborers. He seemed to be only suffering from a contusion over the eye, but he died the same afternoon.

Driven to School Teaching.

The Last Hope.—"Well, old man, did your son pass the civil service examination?" "No, sub, dey turned him down." "What was the trouble?" "Short on 'rithmetic, sub." "Anything else?" "An' geography." "Yes?" "An' spellin'?" "Nothing more, sub, 'cep'in' grammar an' history, a few other things." "Well, what he'd do now?" "Well, sub, he's g'out decided ter teach school."

TO GET RID OF MICE AND RATS.

A writer in the scientific American says he has cleared his premises of vermin by making whitewash yellow with copperas and covering the stones and rafters in the cellar with it. In every crevice which a rat might go he put the copperas, and scattered it in the corners of the floor. The result was a complete disappearance of rats and mice. Since that time not a rat or a mouse has been near the house.

It is said the loss sustained by the burning of the Newton Hamilton camp grounds on last Tuesday will reach several thousand dollars. Seventy-two cottages were burned. The tramp, who is entirely responsible for the fire should be extinguished much more summarily than were the flames on those beautiful grounds, as the destruction of buildings was almost complete before the fire was gotten under control.

Cutting It Short.

Barber—"How would you like your hair cut, sir; with the scissors or clippers?" Customer—"Both. Use the scissors on my hair and the clippers on your conversation."—*Chicago News*.

At a meeting of several ministers of the Central Pennsylvania M. E. conference at Williamsport last Wednesday arrangements were perfected for the semi-centennial jubilee of Dickinson seminary. The jubilee will begin June 14 and will continue two days. Addresses, historical and otherwise, will be delivered, and reunions will be held.

She—How is it you were not at Westend's reception? He—I stayed away on account of a personal matter. She—May I ask what it was? He—Will you promise to keep it secret? She—Yes. He—Well, they failed to send me an invitation.

Johnny (who is just learning about electricity)—"Pa, I thought electric lights were the result of recent discoveries?" Fond Parent—"Cause Willie Jones said to-day that they must be old thing, and when I asked him why, he said, 'Well, Noah must have used an arc light.'"

Origin of the Saying. "Millions fur de fence, they exclaimed 'but not a cent fur tribute.'" And they went to work and built the great Chinese wall. The Brute.—She—You never think of me when you are staying out so late. He—My dear, that's one reason I stay out so late.

The body of Durrant, the murderer, who was hanged in California, being denied burial in the graveyards, has been cremated.

TO CURE A COOLD IN ONE DAY.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to Cure. 25c. 42-41-ly

Diamonds.

Professor Crookes, in his recent remarkable lecture on diamonds, mentioned some interesting facts concerning that always popular subject. When in examining diamonds under polarized light the black cross of the polarizer revolves around a particular spot in the inside of the crystal and the point is examined with a high power, a slight flaw and more rarely a minute cavity are sometimes seen. This cavity is filled with gas at an enormous pressure, and the strain which is set up in the stone by the effort of the gas to escape is not infrequently removed only by the explosion of the gem. It is not at all uncommon for a diamond to explode soon after it reaches the surface, and some have been known to burst in the pockets of the miners or when held in the warm hand. Large crystals are more liable to burst than smaller pieces. Valuable stones have been destroyed in this way, and it is whispered that cunning dealers have often done a handsome stroke of business by allowing responsible clients to handle and carry in their warm pockets large crystals fresh from the mine. By way of safeguard against explosion some dealers embed large diamonds in raw potatoes to insure safe transit on the ocean voyage.

Professor Crookes showed that a diamond could actually be worked from a rich yield of beautifully white diamonds in New South Wales great things were expected. When a parcel of many hundred carats came to England, it was found they were so hard as to be practically unworkable as gems, and they were ultimately sold for rook-bearing purposes. The intense hardness of the diamond was illustrated by an experiment. The diamond was placed on the flattened apex of a conical block of steel, and on it was brought down a second cone of steel. As these cones were forced together by hydraulic power the image of the diamond and the steel faces of the cones were projected on the screen with an electric lantern. The stone was seen to be squeezed right into the steel blocks without being injured in the slightest degree.

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Intemperate Habits.

Judge Harry White, of Indiana, while disposing of the license question the other day, defined what he considered a man of intemperate habits, and consequently a man who should be refused at the bar, in the following words: "To our mind, then, a man so given to this habit that he frequently goes to the bar for a drink, occasionally gets under the influence, yields to the temptation of getting liquor when offered, or accepts a treat whenever invited, leaves his employment in working hours to get a drink, spends his earnings for it while other responsibilities are neglected, feeds a growing appetite for liquor without any effort for control, is a person of intemperate habits; and when those habits become known to the community in general, or in the neighborhood where he lives, or among the people with whom he has intercourse, and seen from time to time in the indulgence of these habits, he is under the ban of the liquor law as a person known 'intemperate habits.'"

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Legal Notices.

WANTED - TRUSTWORTHY AND ACTIVE gentlemen or ladies to travel for responsible, established houses in Pennsylvania Monthly \$65.00 and expenses. Position steady. References. Enclose stamped envelope. The Dominion Company, Dept. Y Chicago. 42-35-4m.

LEGAL NOTICE.—Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that the following interests in real estate situate in the Township of Snow Shoe, County of Centre, Pa., and to the heirs of the said deceased, are set apart to widows under the provisions of the Act of the 14th of April, 1861, have been confirmed by the Court, and the office of the Clerk of the Orphans' Court of Centre County, Pa., and if no exceptions be filed on or before the first day of the next term, the same will be confirmed absolutely: 1. The valuation and appraisal of the personal property of David D. Smith, late of Gregg township deceased, as the same was set apart to his widow, Malinda Smith. 2. The valuation and appraisal of the personal property of Joseph Thompson, late of Snow Shoe township, deceased, as the same was set apart to his widow, Lettie E. Thompson. 3. The valuation and appraisal of the personal property of Reuben Kremer, late of Miles township, deceased, as the same was set apart to his widow, Mary A. Kremer. G. W. RUMBERGER, Register. Bellefonte, Jan. 1, 1898.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of sundry writs of Levari Facias, Fieri Facias and Venditioni Exponas issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Centre Co. Pa., and to me directed, there will be exposed to Public Sale,