

FARM NOTES.

All the seed catalogues advise ordering early. In doing so the dealer may look to his own advantage to a certain extent, but it is nevertheless good sound advice to his customers. Nothing can be gained by procrastination in this matter, but on the other hand many a hitch and often considerable worry can be saved by having the seeds on hand in good time. What often troubles the beginner a good deal is the proper quantities to order. Experience is undoubtedly the best teacher, but until this is gained the tables given in most seed catalogues of the amounts of the different seeds required to sow a certain length of drill will be found useful, and the quantities may be relied upon as being amply sufficient. But then there should be no guesswork. The ground should be carefully planned and measured so that the operator can have a thorough understanding of what he is about. The next thing is the varieties. In most catalogues these in many of the classes are numerous to the extent of being bewildering, so for the benefit of my readers I give a selection of a few of the most reliable, placing the varieties in each class in order of earliness: Beans (string).—Early Valentine, Warwick, or Mohawk. Golden-eyed Wax. Brussels sprouts.—Improved Half Dwarf. Bush lima bean.—Henderson's Burpee's. Pole lima bean.—Dreer's Improved, Large White, King of the Garden. Beet.—Electric, Dewing's Early, Edmond's Blood Turnip. Carrots.—Early Scarlet Horn, Half Long Danvers. Cabbage.—Early Jersey Wakefield, Henderson's Succession, Flat Dutch. Cauliflower.—Early Snowball, Dwarf Erfurt. Celery.—White Plume, Henderson's Hall Dwarf, Giant Pascal. Corn (sweet).—Cory, Minnesota, Moor's Concord, Country Gentleman. Cucumber.—White Spine, Cool and Crisp. Egg plant.—Improved New York Purple. Endive.—White Curled, Green Curled Winter. Lettuce.—Boston Market, Big Boston, Hartford Bronzed Head. Leek.—Large American Flag. Onion.—Southport White Globe, Yellow Danvers, Wethersfield. Okra.—White Velvet. Parsnip.—Hollow Crown. Parsley.—Moss Curled. Peas.—Prosperity, Heroine, Clark's of England. Peppercorn. County Fair Ruby Ring. Radish.—White Tipped Scarlet Turnip, French Breakfast. Salsify.—Mammouth Sandwich Island. Swiss chard.—(A variety of best cultivated for its leaves.) Spinach.—Long Standing, Savoy-leaved. Squash.—Summer Crook Neck, Boston Marrow. Tomato.—Atlanta, Prize Favorite, Stone Acre, Turnip.—Early Milan, Purple Top White Globe, White Egg, Golden Ball. CAULIFLOWER. A sowing of seed of the Early Snowball variety should be made now for setting out into frames where they will mature in early spring crop. Another planting may still be made in the forcing house, but it is not advisable to plant much later than this in benches, as, with the approach of April the sun heat gets so strong as to cause the plants to flag, no matter how well they may be supplied with water. Plants subjected to this flagging influence seldom mature close, tender heads, but instead are apt to produce those of the open, hard, and stringy order and which are practically useless. Those now nearing the heading stage should receive frequent applications of weak liquid manure. In benches, especially, they should not be allowed to flower, but instead are apt to produce those of the open, hard, and stringy order and which are practically useless. Testing seeds. Much disappointment through the failure of seeds can be averted by the spending of a little time and trouble on testing. Many reliable seedsmen test their seeds before sending them out and conscientiously discard those that do not come up to the proper percentage. If dealing with such you will have learned to rely on the article supplied and experience will teach you that testing will be unnecessary; but if this is not the case, by all means test them yourself. The simplest and easiest method is to count out a few seeds so that you can tell the exact percentage that germinate. Place the test seeds in some shallow receptacle, such as a flower pot saucer, spreading them out, and keeping moist. In the temperature of an ordinary living room they will germinate in a few days. The higher temperature of a greenhouse would, of course, expedite matters; but the test will be the same in either case. We have seen seeds placed between the folds of thick paper or other moisture retaining material, and in this way a more even moisture can be retained with the less frequent addition of water, but the main point at issue is to never allow them to become dry. Another advantage of testing is that one also gains an idea of the vitality of the seed; good, fresh seeds germinate more quickly and with more strength than older and poorer seeds; though these later may still retain sufficient vitality to germinate, they start weak and in consequence are never able to overtake the stronger, nor produce such good plants. —American Gardening. —The fact that plethora, an overfullness of the blood vessels, is one and really the predisposing cause, would lead us naturally to expect to meet with milk fever in the summer time. Dry cows coming out of winter quarters, where they have generally been kept as cheaply as possible, go into summer pasture and rapidly gain in flesh. Milk cows convert the surplus food into milk, but dry cows put it into fat and muscle, and so after a couple of months at pasture the system becomes overcharged with blood, for they have and eat more than enough food to sustain life. The cows have plenty of exercise, of course, but this very exercise increases their appetites and makes them eat more, and unless a cow is given more exercise than she naturally takes while at pasture, she becomes in just the right condition for an attack of milk fever at calving time. Any one who has had experience with milk fever knows full well how uncertain is its outcome and how much it is to be dreaded. The practice of many to give a purge a week before calving to cows in high flesh, in order to clean out the system, has much to recommend it.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

High, very high, are the sides of the modish collar band. A clever costumer cuts them to fit the neck and ears, so that the hand is not uncomfortable, nor does it choke one in attempting to turn the head. The collar may be composed of cords or of fine folds. It looks as if a scoop had been cut out under the chin, and at the back of the neck the collar is noticeably lower than at the sides. Pretty effects in black and white, to be worn when the roses bloom, are putting in their appearance here and there. One, a dainty black and white dimity dress, is trimmed profusely with white nansook, ruffles edged with narrow black lace. It has tucked yoke of white nansook and the neck and waist ribbons of white satin are finished with black velvet rosettes. A pretty turban toque for spring is made of white mull dotted thick with small jet. The up-turned side is finished very simply with a jaunty black velvet bow. Another symphony in black and white is a white silk waist completely covered with innumerable rows of one inch wide black lace put on horizontally and in wavy lines. The effect is quite weird, somewhat like a bit of strange moonlight. If elaborate preparations for heavy shades are significant, then white cotton gowns, especially embroidered ones, are sure to be a dominant feature next summer. Few of such toiles, hear it in mind, will be made of plain white nansook, muslin, or pique more or less conservatively trimmed. The truly pretty and admirable white dress will instead be a maze of embroidery and tucks. Some years ago a costume of that type represented enormous hand labor and a huge dressmaker's bill. This spring bolts of white stuff, manufactured in alternate stripes of embroidery insertion, fittings of lace and clusters of the most delicate little tucks, will lie on counters at a price any purse will be able to compass, and it will require no great amount of skill to put such a gown in wearing shape since tucks and lace-edged and gathered frills are also sold, ready for application in the shops. One of the new shirt waists has pointed shoulder straps, trimmed with linen braid, a military collar, one broad plait down the front, with a number of tucks or a few shirring each side, and a pointed yoke back. Another style has flat bretelles of all-over embroidery, reaching from the shoulders in front to the waist line. These bretelles are broad at the top, tapering to a point at the neck, in pink, blue or lilac embroidery they are very effective and novel on a shirt waist, and they partly cover the deep yoke which finishes the fronts. On some waists there is a yoke at the back, with tucks (like the front) laid horizontally, and machine stitched in a color matching the embroidery. On the others applied box plaits are laid in curving lines down the back, and with narrow tucks between when the waist is designed for a very slender person. That noted artist, William M. Chase, has been giving the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune some pointers concerning the proper colors that should enter into feminine costumes. His views on the subject are reported thus: "Blondes should always choose what are known among artists as cool colors; for example, blues, pinks, greens, the many shades of violet, also white or black. Brunettes have all the warm tones—yellow, orange, red, with a few purples and blues to select from. "It is more difficult for a blonde than a brunette to dress becomingly. Only those of these pink or red collars that are wearing now—what do you call them? Stocks. Well, red and pink stocks take the color out of the face, and, as a rule, make the complexion yellow. "But the strangest mistake to me is that women insist on wearing a color simply because it is fashionable and without any regard to becomingness. "If you clever shoppers would only take the goods before buying, throw it against the face and use your eyes, you could easily decide whether or not a color was becoming. When you do chance to have an unbecoming tone, the effect can be modified by using white or cream near the face. Write for blondes and cream for brunettes. That is a point which women would do well to remember. Only the fairest and best-cared-for blondes should risk ivory white. All others had best cling to cream tints. "Dark greens, blues and purples must never be attempted by women who have dark circles under their eyes or whose faces have a tendency to hollows. Such women need face-red, for instance. "A red-haired woman had best shun all the reds. Though missing some beautiful shades, I think she has wider range to select from than any other type, unless it is the brilliant brunette. "Of course, no woman whose hair has the slightest suggestion of gold or sunshine should wear yellow next to it. Nothing takes away the color and lustre so completely. Various shades of red and the lighter blues look well; then, of course, white or a bit of bright purple; but other colors, well, I think it safest for the majority to avoid using them in the hair. "From the standpoint of an artist, I admire white and black gowns more than any other. When properly designed I have never seen a woman to whom such a dress was unbecoming." The waist line has taken unto itself a distinct forward dip. If there's anything that gives a wretchedly provincial look 'tis the waist line which sags in the back. Most of the new skirts are being made so tight in the upper part that it will be almost impossible to wear petticoats. A skirt buttoned down the back in the prevailing mode certainly has one decided advantage—it obviates any possibility of the open placket hole.

Woman's Weapons.

After dinner the talk ran upon the claims made by the new woman for the ballot and higher wages. The old doctor listened in silence and then said: "I have nothing to say as to woman's rights, but I have an opinion as to the way in which she should urge them. Let me recall one or two facts. "The straw worker's near Florence, in Italy, some little time ago struck for higher pay. The soldiers were called in by their employers. When the troops arrived in a railroad train they found hundreds of women, young and old, seated on the track, 'like nothing so much, said an eyewitness, 'as a flock of cackling hens.' "The crowd stood around, laughing and joking with Italian delight in fun. The engine drawing the train stopped, then, threatening to run over them, moved forward a foot or two. The women laughed and calmly sat still. The troops were then drawn up in line, and pointed their muskets at them. "The women sat immovable, good humored, but resolute. They knew the order to fire would not be given. In the end they won their point simply by calm, good humored determination. Their strength, as they wisely apprehended, lay in cheerful persistence in their demands. Taot, common sense and a gentle, courteous bearing are woman's weapons, and they have worked marvels in human history." Teacher's Wages. A few comparisons to show the pay of school teachers in Pennsylvania and other States will prove timely: The average wages for teachers in this State are for men, \$340.24, and for women, \$306.64. In Massachusetts the average is \$1319.50 for men and \$483.52 for women; New York, \$650.30 and \$464.50; and Illinois \$463 and \$339. In the country districts of Pennsylvania the pay is about three-twentieths as much as in the boroughs and cities. In this State the pay for both men and women in the country will average \$225. The pay for women in the boroughs is about \$225, and in the cities from \$400 to \$680. The average wages of women teachers in Erie is \$400; Pittsburg, \$550; Allegheny, \$550, and Philadelphia, \$680. In Pennsylvania there are seventeen teachers who get less than \$100 each per year; 1270 who are paid less than \$150, and 6653 less than \$200. Last year the wages of the State's teachers were reduced 10 cents per cent, and the year before \$3.73. New York's teachers had their wages advanced last year an average of \$8.06, and the year before \$3.69. A Youthful Pessimist. A New England school teacher preserves among his treasures the composition of a former pupil, a boy of 12. It has its pathetic side, as the meagerness of the boy's life may be conjectured from his words. The subject given was: "Anticipation. Do you enjoy it as much as realization?" Dictionaries were diligently consulted, and the general vote placed anticipation on a high pedestal of delight. Not so wrote the solemn-faced boy of 12: "Anticipation is when you think about things beforehand. If it's having your teeth out, that isn't much fun, and if it's Sunday school picnics you can't help worrying about the weather. Realization is when the things you've thought about beforehand happen. Having your teeth out is a little worse than thinking about it. Sunday school picnics would be nice if it didn't rain, but when it rains they put them off, and then the day they have them generally you can't go." JAMES BROWN. —'Youth's Companion.' His Bird Buried With Him. A curious case of the death of a boy, Clarence Hewes, and his pet canary bird, came to light at Chester last Friday. Friday night the boy was taken ill and begged to have his bird by his side. It was given him and he had it at the time of his death. The bird was placed back in its cage after the boy's death and there it started to sing. The next day the bird was found dead at the bottom of the cage, possibly having in its own way grieved over the boy's death, and when the boy was buried yesterday the bird was placed on his breast in the coffin and buried with him. Reyes Surrendered. Marines Landed at Bluefields from English and American Ships. MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Feb. 28, via Galveston, Tex.—General Reyes, the rebel commander, surrendered voluntarily yesterday at Bluefields to Captains Simmons and Burr, commanding the United States gunboat Marietta and the British second-class cruiser Interp, who then landed 80 marines for police duty. Bluefields has been turned over to President Zelaya's soldiers, under the agreement, on condition that they keep order and spare the lives of the revolutionists. State Has Less Than a Million. General Fund is Lower Than It Has Been for Years. The State's finances in the general fund are below \$1,000,000 for the first time in years. At the close of business for February there was \$816,813.99 in the general fund, and \$166,169.75 had been advanced to members and employees of the Legislature, which is carried as cash, making the whole sum of \$983,007.74. Philadelphia banks held the following sums: Farmers' and Merchants' National.....\$13,704.16 Corn Exchange National.....\$2,000.00 Fourth Street National.....\$20,000.00 Quaker City National.....\$127,356.98 Change of Rates. HAVE you read the announcement on the fourth page of this issue of the Watchman. It tells you how you can get the best paper in the county, for this one year from this time for \$1.00. See it, and we know you will order the paper at once.

The New Capitol.

Legislature Willing to Expend \$4,000,000 upon it. Plans to be Completed. HARRISBURG, March 1.—The bill to prohibit the sale of gift of liquor on Memorial day was favorably reported from committee to-day. Mr. Adams, of Philadelphia, introduced a bill providing that the capitol commission shall cause to be inserted once a week for three weeks in a newspaper in Philadelphia, one in Harrisburg and one in Pittsburg a desire to receive plans and specifications which bids shall be opened by the commission thirty days after the first advertisement. The advertisement shall call for granite, which shall enclose the building and the erection of extensions to the building, with the removals of the buildings now occupied by the Secretary of Internal Affairs and the Secretary of Agriculture. A pretty pattern shall carry a price of \$2,000, with a second prize of \$1,000. The total cost of the construction and completion of the building, finishing and furnishing, shall not exceed \$4,000,000. The building shall be finished by January, 1903. This is the second capitol bill introduced. Price of Steel Billets Goes Up. PITTSBURG, March 1.—An advance of fifty cents a ton was made to-day in steel billets and Bessemer pig iron. Billets are quoted at \$23 per ton and Bessemer pig at \$13.50. Under the scale agreement of the Amalgamated association the advance in steel billets will be followed by an increase of 8 per cent in the wages of the skilled workmen. The advance will affect about 16,000 men. Notices are posted at all the blast furnaces at Sharon and Sharpville to-day increasing the wages of the employes from ten to fifteen cents a day. Fifteen hundred men will be benefited. —Scrofula, salt rheum and all diseases caused by impure blood are cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla, which is America's Greatest Medicine. Books, Magazines, Etc. Gen. Sherman wielded the pen no less vigorously than the sword, and was always noted for the frankness and incisiveness of his speech. It is this outspokenness that gives half its charm to the extracts in the March Century from the diary of his tour to Europe in 1871-2. Amongst the potatoes he met were the Pope, the Sultan and the Khedive. At Sebastopol, one of his followers guests at dinner at the Russian Embassy was Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, who had made a reputation in the Franco-Prussian war. An incident of the occasion is thus tersely described: "The dinner was formal and without interest, and afterward we all passed down to the sitting room to smoke. There a grand Turkish pipe was served to the prince, but to nobody else, and though I first thought it was accidental, I soon saw that it was etiquette, and even I must look on a prince as hedged around by some divine rights and privileges. Fred Grant, perceiving this personal slight to me, most courteously came and offered me cigars and cigarettes. I took one of the latter, lighted it, and smoked it in unison with the prince general. As a general, his fame is established; as a prince he is not the subject of criticism; as a gentleman, he will rank very low, and thus is one of the delusions of my life vanished." Try Grain-O! Try Grain-O! Ask your Grocer to-day to show you a package of GRAIN-O, the new food drink that takes the place of coffee. The children may drink it without injury as well as the adult. All who try it like it. GRAIN-O has that rich seal brown of Mocha or Java, but it is made from pure grains, and the most delicate stomach receives it without distress. ½ the price of coffee—15c. and 25cets per package. Sold by all grocers. 43-30-17 Castoria. CHAS. H. FLETCHER. THE FIDELITY MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION. IF INSURED, You cannot lose all your income when you are sick or disabled by accident. Absolute protection at a cost of \$1.00 to \$2.25 per month. The Fidelity Mutual Aid Association is pre-eminently the largest and strongest accident and health association in the United States. It has \$6,000,000 cash deposits with the States of California and Missouri, which, together with an ample reserve fund and large assets, makes it a certificate an absolute guarantee of the solidity of protection to its members. For particulars address: J. L. M. SHETTERLEY, Secretary and General Manager, 42-19-1-y. San Francisco, Cal. Saddlery. \$5,000 \$5,000 \$5,000. HARNESS, HARNESS, HARNESS. BRIDLES, PLAIN HARNESS, FINE HARNESS, BLANKETS, WHIPS, Etc. All combined in an immense stock of Fine Saddlery. —NOW IS THE TIME FOR BARGAINS.— —Today Prices have Dropped. THE LARGEST STOCK OF HORSE COLLARS IN THE COUNTY. JAMES SCHOFIELD, BELLEVILLE, PA.

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