

Bellefonte, Pa., Feb. 9, 1900.

FARM NOTES.

-Asparagus is the earliest luxury that appears in spring, and if the ground will permit of so doing work should begin on the bed this month. The first duty is to burn the bed over. In fact it should have been done last fall, the tops then being consumed along with the straw or other material used for burning over the bed. If the level culture is used the whole bed can be burned over easily, but an excellent way to grow asparagus is to place the roots in rows and hill the rows. These hills may be two or three feet high, as no matter how high they may be the shoots will grow until they reach the surface. As the roots are usually put down deep in the ground the advantage of hilling is that considerable stooping is avoided when cutting the stalks. When manure is to be applied the rows may be opened with a plow, the manure put in, and a furrow on each side, thrown on the manure, completes the hilling. Each row can be cleaned off easily after the tops have seeded, and precaution against insects can be used more easily than when level culture is given. Asparagus shoots (or sprouts) in 1000 pounds, contain about 31 pounds nitrogen, I₁ pounds potash, I pound of soda and I pound of phosphoric acid. About 933 pounds in 1000 of the shoots consist of water. An excellent fertilizer, according to the above, should consist of 100 pounds nitrate of soda, 20 pounds acidulated phosphate rock and 10 pounds sulphate of potash. It will be noticed that nitrogen is the most important plant food to apply; therefore, stable manure is excellent if nitrate of soda is used with it. These materials may be applied in the fall by opening the row, or the manure should be spread in the fall on level beds and the nitrate in spring.

The asparagus beetle and the rust have done much to discourage growers. The beads, and for the "note" a narrow girdle beetle is less than one fourth of an inch in effect from smoke-gray and white velvet. length, is yellow, red and brilliantly black, being very beautiful in appearance, and attacks the tips of the shoots as soon as they of the knot of artificial flowers worn at the appear through the surface of the ground. The larva feeds upon the tender bark and leaves. The best mode of destroying them quined costume. Another bouquet of scaris to draw the hands over the stalks so as to crush them. A hen with young chick- poppies on occasions. ens will perform excellent service, and dusting with lime in the morning while the stalks are damp with dew is also recommended. With persistent effort the beetle can be kept in check. The rust is more difficult to combat. It is a parasite fungus growth, and is propagated by spores, of which there are three stages-spring, summer and winter, the latter being conspicuous by the darkening of the color of the leaves. Rust, being a minute plant, derives its nourishment from the sap of the asparagus plants. Experiments at the Purdue University Experiment Station show that asparagus affected with rust in the third stage has numerous dark colored pustules or spots, of irregular shape, distributed over its stems and leaves. These postules contain the winter spores. These spores (really the seeds) are found beneath the epidermis of the plant, and as they develop push it out and rupture it, at which stage the spores are free to fall to the ground, or be blown about by the winds, while some of them adhere to the plants during the winter, germinating in the spring and infeeting new plants, producing the first or spring stage, the life cycle being renewed and the work of destruction of the aspara-

gus plants again begins. tory remedy has been found, not even as lining is quite enough and featherbone ed; but we are eye-witnesses to the fact spraying with Bordeaux mixture proving Prevention is the only source of relief, and the best is burning the stalks as soon as they mature, not by heaping them its soft folds envelop the lower part of the chin and back of the ear, and you can't do in piles, but by using straw or litter, so as this if you stiffen it. That high effect you to burn over every square inch of the bed. see on some gowns is obtained by feather-It is important that all growers in a neighborhood should organize and work in har-mony, for should one fail to do his duty he will injure the others. As the plants sometimes begin to come through the ground almost before winter is over it will be of advantage to carefully observe the asparagus plot and watch for both the beetle and rust from start to finish. If the ground can be worked it will pay to dig over the surface of the bed to the depth of an inch, rake up the refuse and consign to the flames. If the bed was burned over last fall it will do no harm to repeat the process again at this season, as fire alone can save the beds from destruction. In some sections rust has completely put an end to asparagus growing, owing to lack of organized effort. It has spread rapidly since first reported (1896) and it will soon make its appearance in lo-cations where it is now unknown It is not too early to call attention to this danger and to urge the importance of all growers combining for protection, as individual warfare against a pest that is spread far and wide by winds will accomplish but little.

-Bone is phosphate of lime hence lime is the desired substance. It abounds largely in fruits in a soluble condition, in the inspired by well dressed hair. form of tartrate, malate and citrate of lime. Grains contain but a small proportion of lime, but it exists largely in the portions removed, such as bran. The bulbous vegeremoved, such as bran. The bulbous vegetables, beets, carrots, potatoes, parsnips, turnips, etc. (known as "roots"), contain but little lime proportionately, though the leaves may be rich in that substance. The vegetables of which the leaves and stalks are eaten, such as cabbage, lettuce, celery, spinach, etc., contain large proportions of lime, and the onion is also well supplied. Lean meat contains a proportion of lime, as do also milk, cheese and eggs, That milk promotes growth of the bony structure of calves and that chicks hatch from eggs with the bones fully formed, demonstrates the facts mentioned. All foods contain lime, however, to a certain extent, and in a soluble form. If the food consumed is varied there will be an abundant supply for an individual, children requiring more lime than adults for the purpose of promoting is tickly and does not do the work any beta to the facts mentioned. individual, children requiring more lime than adults for the purpose of promoting is sticky and does not do the work any bet-

ket. Old geese are not saleable, and are more valuable in caring for their young when three or four years old than before. They begin to lay in February and March, and should be given warm quarters from and should be given warm quarters from the lemon will clean anything. now until spring. Geese pay well if cared for and cost but little, as they prefer to forage for themselves.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

The fichu effect for evening waists and gowns is growing in favor. Sometimes a fichu of white or black gauze is draped about the low, round neck and knotted at the front, with ends falling half way down the length of the skirt, or the scarf is brought over to one side and bunched up into a rosette, from which fall the long

frilled ends. Fichus are a strikingly effective feature on some of the new evening gowns. Their beauty consists not so much in their richness as in their handiwork, which in some cases is intricate and so complex as to be almost bewildering. A fichu consisting of a long single strip of pale violet taffeta was embroidered in violets, scattered over the whole surface. Between the flowers and extending around them in a delicate tracery was a line of pale silver thread which seemed a part of the floral design. To make the fichu still more elegant there were sequins of silver sewed here and there and left to

glisten like diamonds. On a gown recently completed in blue foulard the bodice was trimmed with a lace arrangement which in modern parlance is called a Marie Antoinette fichu. It was fully five yards long. Made of the lightest finest chiffon in a shade of pearl white, it was edged with a chiffon ruching of white, tipped with pink and black velvet put on in the tiniest rows. The whole affair was brought around the shoulders, draping them well, and tying in front, below the bust. row. It fell from the arrow point to the

The fluffy type of woman can be kittenish gracefully, but let the tall severe style half of February (when the birds began to resolutely turn her back on any tempta- mate) sacred to their goddess Juno, as the tion to gambol in frelicsome girlishness

There is a liking this season for a distinct "note" in the bodice, just above the belt line. A waist carefully designed to be worn with a smoky-gray cloth skirt, shows a combination of light gray satin, dull gray beads, and for the "note" a narrow girdle

Perhaps the readiest way to vary a full left shoulder. One of white poppies is let carnations serves instead of the white

The girl who wears shoes that look as though she had borrowed her brother's is the one considered most stylish these days.

If you prefer to have your new frocks made with a difference, that is not all fashioned with a box pleated back breadth, you may select an "inverted" back. This is not so obscure as it sounds, but merely means that the box pleats are turned inside out, which throws the folds toward the gun long before his day. middle, instead of turning them away from it. With an inverted back you have either double or triple folds, meeting in the mid-The folds relax lower down and spread outward to increase the drapery at the hem of the skirt.

narrow, mostly of extremely soft ribbon, so that it may be folded sufficiently narrow, without increasing the size of the waist-

The mistake so many women make is building a high collar so stiff that it is ungainly. It is best to leave off crinoline as The effects of rust is to cause a premature ripening of the plants. No satisfaction of the plants. Satin or a double piece of taffeta does the rest.

boning a very wide piece of double faced

Dear me, girls! Aren't you tired hearing about clothes? Let's talk about coiffures. I am told, by one who ought to know that the brushy, baggy style is passing out. Thank heaven! Bird's nest I believe they called it, though in many instances rat's nest would hit nearer the mark.

Fashion is compulsory rather than in-stinctive, and I never could feel any real liking for the unkempt head, could you? If there is one thing more admirable than an other it is the nicely groomed, symmetrical appearance of a well regulated coiffure, which by the law of order appeals always to a refined taste.

You may now draw your hair neatly up from the nape of your neck, withdraw the bolster from your pompadour, coil artistically and even allow a delicate fringe to

soften the severity of your brow.

The beautiful little effects for evening wear, in ribbons, flowers, jewels, feathers, etc., so much in vogue, are becoming to al-most every shape of face and head, and serve to accentuate the "crown of glory" simile

There are not nearly as many secrets i hand treatment as people imagine. A little ammonia or borax in the water you wash ter than oatmeal. The roughest and hardest hands can be made soft and white in the -Keep only the old geese for breeding space of a month by doctoring them a little purposes, sending the younger ones to mar- at bedtime; and all the tools you need are

Shoulders will be broad, epaulets and deep fichus being used to obtain the effect -Young lambs are in order now, and In the Eton jackets-and no style will be they will require attention. The time has passed when the farmer should visit the be cut to come out well across the chest and fields to bring the young lambs to the barn.

The ewes should be kept in the barn and the lambs protected from the cold. A lamb will be wide and many of the gowns will be wide and many of the gowns will is a very delicate thing the first few hours of its life, and should it become chilled it will perish or slowly recover, as it receives

The Origin of the Valentine

Another Valentine day is at hand, and the shop-windows contain the usual arrays of gilded lace paper, nosegays, and spangles, true lovers' knots, and all the appropriate folderos.

We glance contemptuously at the glittering trifles, and wonder how anyone can value them, and then we recall our childhood days when the sight of a large, em-bossed envelope in the hands of the post-man used to give us a thrill of delight and the bigger the envelope, the deeper

It would seem, at first sight, that there could be little or no connection between these frivolous-looking objects and a SAVING THE venerable bishop of the early Christian church, and yet an authentic writer tells us that Bishop Valentine was so famous for love and charity that the custom of choosing valentines took his name.

History says that Valentine was a holy and devoted pastor in the third century, and that during the persecutions of Christians in Rome, ordered by Claudius II., he went about fearlessly among his suffering flock, tenderly encouraging the timid to preserve in faith, praying with the dying, and burying the dead until his own turn

He was kept a prisoner for some time, and succeeded in converting many pagans, but on the 14th of February, A. D. 270, he was cruelly beaten with clubs, then beheaded, and his body cast into the Tiber. The Christians celebrated the anniversaries of their beloved pastor's martyrdom, and about a century after, Pope Julius I, caused his canonization, and built a church

to his memory. patroness of marriages and births, and on the eve of the festival the young people used to assemble for the ceremony of "drawing names." Strips of paper, each bearing the name of a young man were mixed together, and each young woman would draw out a name and thus decide who should be her partner in the dancing in the merry-making of the festival Among the pagans these festivities in hon-or of Juna Februata were generally made the excuse for the wildest revelry and dis-

The Christians called the paper billets ralentines, because the names were drawn on the 14th of February, the day of the gentle Valentine's death, and this is gener ally supposed to be the origin of the custom of sending illuminated love-letters, which has come down to our day. The supposition seems a natural one, and it is much more reasonable than the assertion made recently that the association of the poetic custom with the saint was merely accidental. The practice existed in England and Scotland in very early days, and prevailed among young people of all classes, from the highest to the lowest. Chaucer mentions it, and it must have be-It is also referred to by Shakespeare and

many other poets. Strange to say, we have no proof of the custom ever being universal in France, although the first written valentine on record was the work of a Frenchman, the gallant young Charles, Duke of Orleans, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Agincourt in Belts or dress girdles will be exceedingly 1415 beguiled the tedium of his captivity by composing a poem which he sent to his

lady-love on Valentine's Day.
In the time of Charles II. it was the custom in England for young people to draw each other's names and exchange presents on Valentine's Day. Walter Scott writes about this in his

"Fair Maid of Perth." It would be hard to say just how the decorated "valentine" of our day originatthat the old custom has not entirely died The desire with the new collar is to have out .- Isabel Smithson in Everybody's Mago

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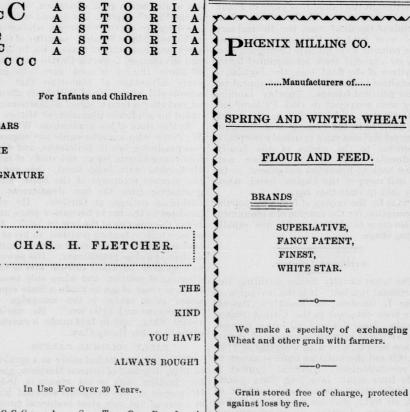
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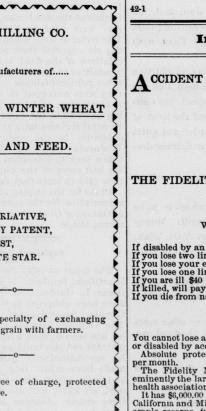
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