

Democrat Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., May 11, 1900.

FARM NOTES.

Cabbage plants thrive well under frequent cultivation. The cabbage is a gross feeder and too much manure cannot be applied. Should the plants be backward in growth apply a tablespoonful of nitrate of soda around each, scattering it over an area of one square foot and working it well into the soil.

Melon vines sometimes die from no apparent cause. Decay begins at the base of the vines, the branches not falling until later. This frequently happens when indications of insect damage appear. The cause of the dying of the plants may be from the ground being low or from the use of fresh manure in the hills, which creates too much warmth during dry periods.

As soon as the lambs are weaned the old ewes should be sold off and their places filled by yearlings. Good prices should be obtained for lambs that may come into market this month, but the ewe lambs that were late, or that have not reached sufficient size for bringing the highest prices, should be retained. An old sheep that is a good mother may be retained until she begins to fail, but it is better to have the flock composed of those that are young.

Attach a stout piece of timber to the stump of a chain and twist it around in a circle until the chain is tight. Then hitch a pair of horse or a yoke of oxen to the outer end of the timber and twist the stump out of the ground. It will be necessary to stand by with an ax and chop off the roots as they appear when the earth is disturbed in the twisting process. Enormous power can thus be applied to stumps, and for this reason the chains and timber must be stout.

The department of agriculture thinks that having a plow clean and bright is of sufficient importance to warrant it in publishing directions for cleaning it, which will also work well for other tools of iron or steel. Slowly add one half pint of sulphuric acid to one quart of water, handling it carefully and stirring it slowly, as considerable heat will result from the mixing. When cool pour the surface of the metal wash off with pure water. This application should clean any surface not too badly rusted, but if the tool has been long neglected it may require more than one application. After they are thoroughly cleaned we would advise a thorough coating of grease before putting away, and when they are taken out to use give them another greasing, and they will go "one horse's draft easier," as the old farmer used to say his scythe did after it had been properly whetted. Not only is it much easier for the team but the plowman if the plow is clean and bright, as the adhering soil makes it handle hard when the plow is rusty.

Without good roads no community can hope to "get there."

There is usually good road material within easy distance or very mud hole. Bad roads, mud ruts and irregularities are expensive things. An old farmer used to say that ruts and freezing, and thawing cost him a new wagon every five years. Very few people realize what rough roads do to a tire tomorrow, a wheel spring next week, or an axle warped out of shape at some other time, but these things come, sometimes overlapping like shingles on a roof. They are put down to wear and tear, and in a way accepted as the inevitable, simply because roads have always been bad, and one scarcely has the right to expect anything else. But the difference in the existing qualities of a wagon on a thoroughly good road and an extremely bad one would surprise the owner of such vehicles were he able to keep track of the exact figures in the two conditions. The farmer would be more benefited by good roads than any other class. The value of a farm is determined by its accessibility. The land that is favored by the best transportation facilities will bring the best price per acre when put on the market.

There is no doubt that one mile of good macadamized road is more valuable in this country than five miles of plough and sower road that goes to pieces in one year. It is not an uncommon thing in France to see a farmer 40 or 50 miles from home in wet weather with a heavy load. If he sees a prospect of rain he puts his tarpaulin over his load, a cover over his horses and a waterproof coat on and starts off to market. He may go 50 miles before he finds a market that suits him, or he may knock in advance just where he is going. You do not often see any one driving through a rain storm in the United States to find a market for a load of hay, but it is not an uncommon thing to meet a farmers' wagon 40 or 50 miles from home in France.

The presence of ants, cockroaches and other insects in this nature about bees and hives and in supers is largely the fault of the hive used. Such hives usually have corners and unoccupied places in them wherein such insects harbor. If you have supers that the bees do not occupy on the hives remove them, or learn why the bees do not go to work in them. Such supers have open places to admit of the insects. Ants, cockroaches and such are not considered damaging to bees to the extent of bothering with them, except in cases where the colony is weak and cannot occupy all the combs or the hives and supers. In this case the best remedy is to build the colony up strong, by feeding or giving it brood from other colonies, and also removing or excluding all pests by shutting them out of such places. The latest up-to-date hives and supers do not admit of insects, and the different parts of the hive are not added until the bees are ready to occupy them.

Ants get in their work of destruction most by getting on combs of honey unoccupied by the bees. They will still destroy the appearance of sealed comb honey by cutting the capping full of holes. They will thus congregate on combs of honey if the receptacles containing the same will admit of them. They may be entirely cut off from such by using a table with the legs set in pairs of water or kerosene. Ants are very peculiar. They have their roadways from one hiding place to another, and frequently traveling long distances, and they seem to act as though they had the right of way of these thoroughfares of theirs, and do not even turn about from a hive of bees but travel directly over the bottom board of the hive. Bees cannot do much with them, but let them take there way to some extent.

Powdered borax is frequently used for driving ants from the hives, by sprinkling it about their holes; but the best way to get rid of them is to locate their nests, which may easily be done by following their trail, and pour bi-sulphide of carbon into the nest, making a hole in the centre and plugging the hole to retain the fumes of the same.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

White gloves, except with black and white costumes, are not worn so much as the varied tints of lawn, biscuit, nickel, gray, cream, lilac and a greenish gray.

If there's one thing more than another that impresses one about a house it is the window dressing. They make some houses so beautiful that we fairly want to enter them, while they are so wretchedly managed in others as to cause one to shudder. When they are dainty and inviting we always fancy that the mistress of the house is a very charming woman.

Bobbinet, by the way, is a revival for these filmy lace affairs which do so much toward making the room beautiful. And the curtains must be ruffled! Some have a ruffle made twice the ordinary width, both edges adorned with lace, and gathered through the middle. This makes a very fluffy effect; insertion is unnecessary in this case.

Shirt waists have become such an institution in the feminine wardrobe and so necessary to our comfort that they cannot be dispensed with. The summer girl has at least a dozen in her wardrobe, because she lives in them all summer, with serge, broadcloth, linen or duck skirts to accompany them. One thing is imperative about shirt waists—they must be clean and crisp, making a number of changes.

We have dressy and airy shirt waists, and, again, severe tailor made looking ones which look so well on some women. Degrees of severity or dressiness may be obtained by both cut and material, for we have gingham, heavy lawns, ducks, piques, Grass clothes, fine chambrays, India linen, nainsook and any of the lovely summer silks, these were never prettier in pattern than this season, and make up exquisitely for afternoon wear. Lansdowne, crepe de chine and cashmeres in cream and pastel colorings have been added for cooler days. For real warm days we can choose from the exquisitely fine Persian lawns, Irish dimities, organdies and the hundred and one sheer, cobyhwy fabrics which are to be so popular this summer.

Yokes? There is no such thing as yokes—unless you come across a last year style. The sleeves are not uncomfortably tight, with this, and then the sleeves are fitted, will be caught wearing skin-tight sleeves. This is foolish, for it makes the hands red and cold. The newest sleeves are quite large from the elbow down, and the fullness is oddly concentrated at the wrist, going into the ruffle or cuff. These are unusual, narrow and the buttons go in at the wrist and not at the end, as formerly.

Fashion's autocrats decree that to be entirely well turned out, inside as well as outside, mabelle should wear a low bustled, straight-front corset. This gives the proper figure and the fit to the gown, as dictated by the mode at the present time. This is exceedingly dainty, and its extremely good shape is largely derived from its bias cut and bias boning, as may be observed. It is made of figured satin, trimmed with lace and narrow ribbon run through heading.

The new spring and summer gowns seem to be especially designed for the display of tiny miters of bows, either of satin or velvet. The thumb-nail bow has caught the fancy of the hour. Satin is sometimes used for these bows, but very narrow black velvet ribbon is prescribed by several authorities as the correct material. These bows may be the appropriate setting for the diminutive buckle of cut steel or jet or "strass," as rhinestones are now called. These are a beautiful addition to any toilet. They show especially well on a black waist whether figured foulard or tacked taffeta be used. You will need one bow at the downward point of your sleeve cap, an inverted triangle of lace or tucking. You will require half a dozen to stud the expanse of the shoulder collar, which borders the vest of lace used over cream silk. The bows are also used on the lengths of black velvet which are drawn down through the openings of your lace front.

The late Mrs. C. E. Haskell, of Chicago, gave, during her life, in all \$180,000 to the University of Chicago, \$60,000 to the Hahnemann hospital of that city, and \$10,000 to Oberlin College.

The woman who can control herself under the most trying circumstances is the woman who holds the strongest power over men. No matter how beautiful and brainy and fascinating the bad tempered woman may be, or how lengthy her bank account, her power is infinitesimal compared with that of her amiable sister. And amiability is not only power; it is mental progression and health and happiness and long life to one's self and to one's friends and family.

Sound teeth not only add to one's comfort, but they prevent disease. Many diseases of the eye, ear and cavity of the head are traceable to unsound teeth, and there is not a disease to which the body is liable that is not aggravated by an unhealthy condition of the teeth. Eye diseases are especially common as the results of poor teeth. These affections may vary from a simple dimness of sight to total blindness, the symptoms, however, usually disappearing when the teeth are attended to. Poor teeth, are, moreover, a common cause of indigestion, for food digestion can take place only when the food is thoroughly masticated and this demands sound and healthy teeth. Proper care of the teeth during childhood often means prevention of much trouble later in life. A physician desiring to ascertain the percentage of children who cared for their teeth properly, distributed printed slips in a school, having the questions: "Do you cleanse your teeth with a brush every day?" "Do you cleanse your teeth with a brush twice a day?" of 700 pupils only fifty cleaned their teeth twice a day, 275 used the brush sometimes and 175 did not even own a brush.

Black and white effects are more prominent than ever among the new gowns in sight. White organdies are made up with wide insertions of black Chantilly or French lace, and the new gown of any sort, which has no touch of black or white, or both, is the exception. Even the light cloth gowns, elaborately trimmed with cream lace, which have no black at any other point, will have square black velvet bows on the front of the vest, if there is no other available space. Black velvet rosettes and streamers will also supply the crowning touch of distinction to many of the summer gowns.

Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

—Some odd things happened in Cuba. When a man wishes a fence around his yard or field, he doesn't build it he plants it—and it grows, too. First he cuts a great bundle of pinon twigs, then he scratches a little trench where he wants the fence to run, and finally he sticks in the twigs in a row a few inches apart. The soil of Cuba is so rich and the weather so warm and moist that directly the twigs take root, throw out branches and leaves, and presently there is a dense hedge of pinon trees enclosing the field. And there are no nails to drop out here nor boards to fall down and let in the cattle and the fence is good for a 100 years.

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