

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., May 25, 1900.

FARM NOTES.

—When aphid attack trees the best remedy is strong soap made of whale-oil soap. Strong tobacco water is also said to be excellent. The use of kerosene emulsion is a sure remedy, but it should be sprayed on the trees, so as to saturate all the branches, twigs and leaves. In winter painting of the trunks and limbs with crude petroleum has given excellent results.

—Streaky or mottled butter may be due to the salt or the working of the butter. In the finest quality of butter the salt is so evenly diffused that, as appears under the microscope, every grain is surrounded by a film of clear transparent brine, which shows the necessity of avoiding the overworking of the butter before the salt is added. In the first working every particle of the milk should be gotten rid of, but enough clear water should be left to dissolve every grain of salt in 12 hours before the next working. This is done there will be little danger of streakiness in the butter, but to get the best results the salt should be very finely ground.

—Ordinary chimney soot is an excellent fertilizer and should be carefully saved. That from coal is superior to that from wood. It contains nitrogen, and is beneficial to all crops. It is disliked by some insects, and is used as a preventive of their attacks, for which purpose it may be more profitably applied owing to the small quantity produced prohibiting its use extensively as a fertilizer.

—It is claimed that by pouring buttermilk freely along the backs of sheep it will prove a remedy for ticks. If a gill of kerosene is added to a gallon of buttermilk the remedy will be improved, as the kerosene forms an emulsion with buttermilk and does no harm to the animal. The remedy will cost but little and should be given a trial by way of experiment. It is claimed also that buttermilk is given a horse it will serve better than any other as a remedy for bots. These remedies were suggested by parties who have tested them.

—Phosphates are excellent for turnips, as the crop seems to thrive better where phosphates are applied, on some soils, than when potash or nitrates are used; but a fertilizer is more complete, and gives better results, when all the food plants are used, the preference in quantity being given to phosphate.

—Many good farmers are coming to understand that in ordinary fruit culture nitrate of soda is about the only form of nitrogen they need to buy. By growing cowpeas and crimson clover and fertilizing them with rock and potash they can obtain a large supply of organic nitrogen which can be renewed year after year. If the plants give evidence that they need it, nitrate of soda can be plowed in, and the effect of this form of nitrogen is so rapid that a late application will fully keep up the yield. In this way many farmers can save the cost of organic nitrogen, provided they handle the cowpeas and clover to the best advantage and use enough of the minerals in connection with them.

In some cases orchard growers object to green manure in the orchard because, they say, it interferes with surface cultivation. The use of the cowpeas may remove this objection. The cowpeas may be planted in drills or, like corn, in hills, three feet apart. This planting may be done about the 1st of June and the cultivator kept at work through the crop until the vines are too large to permit it to pass through. At the last cultivation a mixture of rape and crimson clover seed may be sown in the cowpeas and cultivated in. When it obtains a start, the pigs may be turned in to eat down the cowpeas, clover and rape and also destroy small and wormy apples. In this way we secure not only a green crop, but we are also able to cultivate thoroughly up to the middle of August.

—Nothing is more aggravating, and often unprofitable, too, than to have a heavy muck or clay soil retain the moisture and frost so late in the spring that early plowing is out of the question. When other soils are in condition for plowing and cultivating, the heavy soil is muddy and sticky, so that it is impossible to do much with it. Of course the best advice of some would be to give up such soil, but when we consider that the heavy muck soil is often the richest this would hardly do. What we need is some intelligent plan to improve the mechanical conditions of such heavy soils so they will be less likely to give trouble. The chief fault to be found with heavy soils is that there is not sufficient porosity in it to permit water to percolate through it. In other words, the natural drainage of the soil is poor, and artificial drainage of some kind must be resorted to.

There are several ways to accomplish this. The most sensible is to add such coarse material to it that there will be a breaking up of the sticky mass. This will sometimes effect such a cure that drains will not be necessary. But the supply of coarse material must be kept up continuously and not abandoned after one year. This would be rather expensive and unsatisfactory if it were not at the same time fertilizing and improving the soil. It is by utilizing the right kind of crops that we can improve a thick, mucky or clay soil. First of all, however, it may be necessary to dress the land with lime in order to sweeten the soil for the proposed crops. The land has indigestion, as it were, and fermentation has made it sour so that some crops could not thrive on it. Thirty or 40 bushels of water slack lime to each acre may first be needed to sweeten the soil so that ordinary crops will grow.

There is no better crop to raise the first year than Indian corn, which can be planted quite late in the season when the soil has dried up. The corn roots are coarse feeders and will break up the soil to a large extent, and the fall corn should be cut early, and a crop of buckwheat or winter grain of some kind should be planted, to be turned under with the plow the following spring. By adding rough plant food to the soil in the shape of manure the soil will be further improved. In plowing the subsoil should be broken up as much as possible. By cultivating each year crops that have deep roots and are coarse feeders we keep breaking up the soil so that it has less chance to get together into thick, compact masses. There is nothing better for this than coarse manure and a green crop turned under every year, plowing them down as deep as possible into the subsoil.

—Mrs. Brown—Did everybody in your society have to contribute to that fund? Mrs. Malaprop—O! no, it was made up altogether of vulnerable contributions.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Pulverized glue is very nice to stiffen and give a gloss to black straw hats. Brush the dust well out of the hat (always keep a ten-cent tooth-brush for such purposes) and then, if the straw has become very rusty, go over the hat first with the dressing used for ladies' shoes. When dry use the glue starch, and while drying this in, keep the hat in the shape you wish it to retain. I always pin it to a board and set it in the sun to dry. It will look as well as when new.

Nothing is more stylish than a well-made gingham or white linen waist for a tailor says in the daytime. White with strips of tucks and lace insertion is the especially smart shirt-waist for this summer. The materials and sewing must be exceedingly dainty. For afternoon a white jersey satin is the stylish thing. It is made almost plain, with a few fine tucks running on each side of the wide box pleat in the front.

The sleeves have a group of tucks running down the top piece. Shaped sleeves are used instead of cuffs at the hands on dressy shirt-waists. This waist will serve very well for evening wear.

For the throat turn-over linen collars with a small plain tie remain fashionable for very hot weather wear, but more fancy effects are desirable for cool days. For instance, a high stock collar of white duck or butchers' linen unstarched is pinned flatly at the back, and around this is wrapped a fine white nainsook tie, tied in a flat bow in front with embroidery or lace ends. The shops sell these ties for 25 cents, but they can easily be made at home. A wide band of cream satin ribbon is also fashionable, with a scarf of cream-colored crepe de chine passed twice around the neck and tied in front. None of these ties have long ends. The loops are almost as long as the neck.

Nothing so tends to coarsen a woman generally as carelessness about her personal appearance in the privacy of her home or of her apartments. However limited her means, if she cling to the determination always to appear well at home, she will find later on that she has preserved the root of good taste that will blossom forth delightfully in more prosperous days. The woman, on the other hand, who becomes for whatever reason slovenly seldom finds the strength in "better times" to rise up out of the suicidal rut into which she has thrown herself. Rich, poor or middling well-to-do, there is positively no excuse for an unsightly mien at home.

The sailor-hat is always a popular utility head covering and while last season it was rather relegated to second place in favor of the straw or gray felt golf hat, this year, in its new shape, it promises to enjoy all its old-time universal popularity. The latest shape is much higher in crown and wider in brim than for several summers past. The coarser straws, Junios, or rough and ready, will have widest vogue with a black gros-grain band. Although many women not partial to the strictly tailored-made style, are ornamenting them with bands of black velvet, or peau de soie ribbon, in several pastel tints with a huge rosette in front to match.

If you want to be fashionable discard your box-plaited back skirt for the tailor made.

Pulley belt, which didn't receive a very warm welcome from the very fashionable set.

Low crowned, narrow-brimmed sailor hat. Those en regle this season have very high crowns and quite broad brims.

Plain shoe tip. The latest summer shoes and Oxfords show a fancy perforated pattern in their tips.

Dip back or semi-train skirt. Only a slight sweep is permissible now.

Plain back shirt-waists. To be entirely correct the wash shirt-waist should neither have a yoke nor be perfectly plain, but should have one or more clusters of box-plaits or tucks in the centre of the back. All-over tuckling, either singly or in clusters, is passe. One cluster each side of the front and down the back is the thing.

Hat trimmed in violets, or violet stitched tulle, the rage of last summer. Now the eyes are tried with eun hats trimmed in black velvet ribbon and roses.

One of the noticeable signs of the times to an alert observer is the shortening of the period in which women adhere to the wearing of mourning garments. There is an appreciable diminution of the time during which ceremonial crape is worn. In many instances it is not worn at all, plain black, or what is known as black silk veil in which the ladies of a bereaved family were once expected to be swathed, is often discarded in favor of a veil of crepe lisse, mousseline de soie, or very sheer nun's veiling. Oculists tell terrible tales of the damage done to the sight by wearing crepe over the eyes; consequently many women use the mourning veil as a head-dress, not as a veil. They wear it pinned back from the face and dangling from the back of the bonnet, a la Empress Frederick.

Thus arranged the veil is becoming harmless, and can even be made to look coquettish. One year's seclusion from social amusements is all that is demanded by etiquette from the mourning widow. This period is often shortened by several months. In the same way the mourning for parents is now only worn for twelve months. After the first six months this is much lightened and violet or white is introduced in the costume. It is not considered in good taste to dress little girls in mourning. The wearing of black garments is depressing to children and tends to make them morbid.

Black is worn from three to six months on the death of sisters or brothers, the prolongation of the period to one year being a matter of preference.

Individual sentiment has much to do in prescribing the depth of mourning and the period for which it is worn; also in determining when the time shall come when social engagements may be accepted. An authority on such matters avers that mourning for a first cousin varies from one month to six weeks, but this is purely a complimentary matter.

Members of the Society of Friends do not assume black garments as mourning unless they are inclined to be "worldly people." They even consider them to be gay. Such is the point of view from which a consistent Quaker regards ceremonial mourning. Indeed, a simple dress of brown or black, and absence from public places of amusement, often mean more sincere mourning for relatives than is betokened by wearing a heavy veil or garments bedecked with fashionable crepe.

Good sense and good taste is the only sure guide in such matters. There is no hard and fast rule on the subject. In this matter every woman should be a law unto herself.

—Grapher—Hello, old man. Got a "V" about you?
Mark—No.
Grapher—Too bad. I've got nothing less than a ten, and I thought I'd pay you the "V" I borrowed last month.
Mark—Hold on now (searching his pockets) I thought I'd left it home, but I have got a "V" with me. Here it is.
Grapher—Thanks. By jove! (searching his pockets) I thought I had that ten with me, but I must have left it home. Never mind, I'll give it to you next time I see you.

—We do a great deal of shirking in this life on the ground of not being geniuses.

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If not, drink Grain-O—made from pure grains. A lady writes: "The first time I made Grain-O I did not like it but after using it for one week nothing would induce me to go back to coffee." It nourishes and feeds the system. The children can drink it freely with great benefit. It is the strengthening substance of pure grains. Get a package to-day from your grocer, follow the directions in making it and you will have a delicious and healthful table beverage for old and young. 15c. and 25c. 44-50.

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For Infants and Children

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Certainly you do and we wish to call your attention to the size and quality of our stock of
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It consists of 20,000 rolls of the most beautiful and carefully selected stock of Wall Paper ever brought
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Our specialties consists of a large line of beautiful Stripes, Floral Designs, Burial Cloth Effects and Tapestries.
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Are right, ranging in price from 5c. to \$1.00 per roll. We have a large line of Brown Backs at 5c. and 6c. per roll with match ceiling and two land border at 2c. per yard. Also a large assortment of White Backs 6c. to 10c. per roll all matched up in perfect combination.

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