

FARM NOTES.

CARE OF THE ORCHARDS—During the late fall is the best and most suitable time for giving attention to the trees, not only because there is better opportunity for so doing, but also because the pruning of the trees and the removal of diseased portions can be done less hurriedly than in spring. Neglecting the orchard is the cause of trees being unprofitable, but where farmers have recognized the orchards as sources of profit, and regard the trees as something more than ornaments, or as occupying the ground from custom, the returns have been satisfactory. The land used for the orchard is frequently forced to bear two crops a year, one of grain and one of fruit, even under unfavorable circumstances, while the grain was intended for market. When land is thus taxed it will be but a few years before it will become exhausted, as it is better to out down the trees and give the land wholly to grain than to leave the trees to reduce the grain yield and at the same time produce only unmarketable fruit. Grain and fruit crops on the same land and remove the fertilizing materials of the soil very rapidly, yet farmers seldom apply manure on orchard land, preferring to use it on other fields. The orchard must take care of itself, becoming the prey of insects and diseases, and the trees make little growth, or die, when they could, with care, be made to produce good paying crops at less cost for labor than grain.

A crop of grain or grass may be taken from the land every year, but it requires time to establish an orchard; hence it is a serious mistake to neglect the orchard and allow them to become diseased when the labor of making an orchard and the loss of time waiting for the trees to reach the bearing stage is considered. When an orchard has become overrun with weeds, or the trees show signs of decay, the first work should be to cut away all dead or diseased limbs and then plow the ground, applying ten bushels of lime per acre, or 25 bushels of wood ashes, harrowing the land. Work in an orchard is difficult, on account of the roots, but it should be plowed as well as possible, so as to break up the hard surface soil. Bye or crimson clover should then be seeded. If in the fall, and the ground plowed again in the spring, turning the rye under. Cow peas may then be sowed on the ground, after danger of frost is over, and if desired the cow peas may be fed off by sheep, as the animals will return a large proportion of the crop to the soil as manure. With the application of manure or fertilizer the orchard may then be seeded to clover, but no orchard should be kept permanently in grass. The proper plan is to plow the clover (or any grass crop) under and then grow late potatoes, cabbages, or some crop that is cultivated between the rows and which requires manuring. The trees thrive best when given clean cultivation, like corn, a crop of any kind sometimes doing harm. Clean cultivation, with a mulch crop, such as rye, sowed in the fall and turned under in spring, is usually beneficial.

Diseases sometimes almost imperceptibly spread in winter. No matter how careful the grower may be he will frequently leave fallen fruit, dead grass, leaves or other refuse materials around the trees in winter. They are the vehicles of germs, and as the winds scatter light substances to other locations the failure to clean away the refuse from a single infected tree may cause the spread of disease over the entire orchard. It is useless to cut away dead limbs and burn them if the spores of fungus disease can be scattered broadcast by materials that could not be cleaned up in a short time. Work during the winter can be done to good advantage in destroying the borers, and the eggs of the millers which produce worms can be cleared from the trees; in fact, every tree will be benefited by scraping and washing with a strong solution of lye, which is killing the trees with orange petroleum is claimed to be a remedy for the scale insect. The trees of an orchard usually show the effects of good treatment. The peach, which sometimes appears to succumb from no cause will respond to severe pruning and take on new life. Many trees, especially those in old orchards, are just as they were when first set out, never having been trimmed. They can be improved by pruning, but it should be done judiciously, and not by going into the orchard with an axe and saw to cut away the tree indiscriminately.

Professor Fernald recommends fall plowing, for killing out worms trapping with cut clover soaked in paris green water before planting. After planting poison them with one pound paris green to 50 pounds of bran mixed to a dough with water and a little molasses. A tablespoonful at the base of each plant attracts the worm and saves the plant.

To insure pure milk the atmosphere in which the cows are milked must be pure. Putting down hay or cleaning out the stable just before milking is a bad practice. The milk in passing from the teat to the pail through an atmosphere laden with stable odors and dust may become sufficiently contaminated to materially affect the flavor of the butter. For similar reasons we hear much of the milk being tainted, especially in dry, dusty weather. I notice in England the farmers had milking sheds in or near the pasture fields and that the men had long linen slippers which they slipped on when going to milk. I thought this a good idea, as it tended to cleanliness in milking and also to a saving of the clothes. Before starting to milk, the flanks and udder of the cow should be wiped with a damp cloth to remove all loose hairs and dirt which otherwise might fall into the milk pail. It is found a good practice to cut off the cow's switch and clip the hair from the hind quarters when putting her in for the winter. Endeavor as far as possible to have the cows milked by the same person, at the same hour, in the same place and in the same order. Milk with dry hands, vigorously and exhaustively. Nothing will prolong the milking period more than by getting the last drop, and remember the first pint has 10 per cent butter fat, while the last pint has 10 per cent. Bacteriologists tell us the small amount of milk which has collected in the teat abdoms with injurious forms of bacteria, while the remaining portion of the milk is practically germ free, and they recommend not allowing the first stream to go into the milk pail.

This is an excellent time of the year to trim the trees, as the sap is ceasing to flow. Sassafras bushes can be more easily destroyed now than in spring. To complete their destruction after cutting them down put a small quantity of sulphuric acid on each, and wherever it is placed the wood will be charred.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Patient forbearance would seem to be a leading characteristic of Mrs. Frances Forest, of Ripley township, near Rushville, Ind. In a suit she has filed with the Circuit Court she avers that in the twenty-eight years of her wedded life she never received a single dollar from her husband, who nevertheless owns a farm valued at \$5000. She has supported herself and six children by sewing and washing for neighbors. Now she demands her freedom, custody of two minor children, and \$1200 alimony. In another suit she demands the return of \$500, an inheritance from her father's estate, which she loaned to her husband.

For the help of those women who must make up something this month, here is a little list of things that will remain in fashion for awhile at least.

The flaring skirt with inverted box pleats at the seams.

The flat back, with placket fastened over an inverted box pleat.

Shaped flounces of every width on every part of the costume.

The same linings in color as the gown. Sailor blouses without fullness at the belt, and chemisettes instead of yokes.

Deep collars in all materials, usually tucked.

Linens in every thickness, and embroidered batiste or grass cloth for trimmings.

Tucks on everything of every size, in all spaces apart, and often stitched with contrasting thread.

The sleeve put into the armhole without fullness and pleated oftener than tucked.

Rows of stitching around the armhole; a great deal of stitching on everything.

Long laced effect with the girdle brought down to a point in front. The stretched back without fullness at the belt.

The folded stock collar without stiffening and feather-boned.

Taffeta and liberty satin ribbons for neck and waist; always the white turn-over muslin collar.

Skirts the same length as last spring, with the short skirt growing in favor for all-morning wear; it is no longer kept for rainy days.

French nainsook for shirtwaists, rivalled by mohair.

Pastel shades in all fabrics, even for the street.

Black velvet ribbon run through heading as an outline for seams. All lines still going up and down and not across.

The things of which there is yet no shadow of revival are silk, satin, or brocade for anything but evening gowns in pale shades, then invariably covered with transparent fabric.

Taffeta for waists, plain leather for belts, bows at the back of neck or blouses that hang over the belt.

Sung fitting, short jackets are promised for the early fall.

This is the first reliable rumor of what will be worn. Even then one cannot tell surely what styles Thanksgiving time will settle on, for one coat does not make a fashion.

It is rather to be hoped that these little jackets will continue stylish. They are so becoming to the average figure.

No one but a slender woman should wear an Eton, unless it is very long, while the coat three inches below the waist seems to suit all figures.

The proposed style is slightly double-breasted at the bust, growing less so at the waist. Some leaders are trying to introduce the old-fashioned large, fancy button on the coat, but it is to be sincerely doubted if the fashion can be revived.

The large, plain muslin pearl buttons may come back for these tailor coats, but the cut steel and white pearl ones have only the ghost of a chance.

I can remember when we fastened our tailor coats with enormous flat buttons, and thereby ruined the lines of our figure—but we didn't know a great deal about tailor coats then!

Another rumor that has been sent from the workshops of the fashionable world is that braiding will come back this winter; but they said that last year and the year before, and it did not come back.

There are all kinds of rumors floating around about the three-quarter length coat. It may come in or it may not, and the short coat remains to-day in very good taste, either as Eton or three inches below the waist. True, the Etons are very long. The little affair cut up to the top of girdle in the waist line in front is not seen on any of the smart gowns.

And there is a distinct difference between the bolero and the Eton.

One is getting shorter, the other longer. Some of the new boleros sold in Paris this year reach only to the end of the shoulder-blades in the back and not below the bust in front.

The great difficulty about the Eton is that unless made very long it is not becoming to a stout figure. As for the bolero, it is hopeless on a woman with a short waist and large bust.

If a stout woman wears an Eton jacket successfully she must know a good deal about lines, wear exceedingly good corsets and have an unobtrusive abdomen.

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