FARM NOTES.

-The largest tree in the world is said to have recently been discovered in Africa in the region of the Upper Nyanza. Its height is said to be half again that of the tallest tree in California, and its thickness double that of the largest giant redwoods. The particulars are, however, suspiciously

-Dr. Hexamer in his recent work on asparagus growing explains that shallow planted asparagus sprouts earlier. but soon exhausts itself, sending up spindling, tough shoots, while deeper planted crowns produce large succulent shoots throughout the season. When green asparagus is desired and there is no danger of beetles eating the sprouts before they are fit for use, a depth of two or three inches is sufficient, but for white or blanched asparagus a depth of from eight to ten inches is necessary. Heavy manuring, careful cultivation and plenty of space-rows four feet apart-are

-Buds put on last August or September, if growing should not have the stubs cut off. The stub is the three inches or so of the stock left above the bud when the top of the stock(the young tree that received the bud) was out off in spring. This leaving of two or three inches of the stock above the bud helps the latter in starting to grow. Some leave no stub, but cut off the top even with the bud in spring. This saves labor, but the bud is not so certain to grow, and the wound does not heal so well as when there is a second cutting in July

The cutting is not difficult if the stub is The cutting is not dimented if the study is half an inch or less in diameter, but care is required to avoid cutting the bud. The cut, as will be observed, is made on the side opposite the bud and should be slauting, about forty-five degrees. A sharp inch. knife and a steady hand are necessary; otherwise the knife may slip or the point of the kuife may not come out soon enough, and the bud will then be cut off and all the

previous labor lost. The proper cut is a somewhat rapid draw cut from left to right, slightly inclining upward, and if properly managed the point of the knife will be drawn before the edge can come in contact with the growing bud. One cut may be sufficient, but frequently more than one will be required, and better three or four efforts than to run the risk of cutting the bud by one injudicious cut. Should the stub be considerably over half an inch in diameter a small saw may be needed at first, smoothing the cut with

the knife afterward. Cutting off the stub during the growing season in July or August, the healing pro-cess will proceed at once, and by the time the leaves fall the wound will in many cases be entirely covered by the new growth.

-National Stockman-

A test of wheat versus corn gave results in favor of wheat for egg production. In the case of Leghorn pullets the addition of dried blood to the ration considerably in-creased the egg yield. With Plymouth Rock pullets no effect was noticed on the Rock pullets, no effect was noticed on the yearly egg record. With both breeds the lots receiving dried blood began laying earlier than those to which it was not fed.

An unlimited supply of sweet skimmilk can apparently be given to chickens with advantage, but sour milk must be fed with

It is very important that the dishes from which milk is fed should be cleaned often and scalded occasionally

Close confinement and lack of variety of food, especially such as is rich in nitrogen, are conditions likely to bring on feath-

No advantage was derived in using hot water for moistening food for chicks.

In a comparative trial of animal meal and fresh bone the better results were obtained by the use of bone. In two follow-

ing tests the result was exactly reversed.

Wild onions imparted odor to the eggs.
Skimmilk is especially valuable for young chicks in hot, dry weather.
By the comparsion of a nitrogenous and

By the comparsion of a nitrogenous and a carbonaceous ration for laying hens it was found that the fowls were heavier and the eggs more fertile by the use of the nitrogenous and, although this cost more, it resulted the more profitably.

Dried blood used with grain and green food gave better results than either ox liver

Finely ground grain gave better results than coarse cracked grain for young chicks.

A highly nitrogenous ration during the summer or molting season is recommend-

—Some time ago we gave in this department of the paper a full account of the new Schmidt method of treating milk fever with a solution of iodide of potash infused into the udder; we are now in a position to give instructions for the prevention of the disease by use of the same drug prior to parturition. Where it is feared that a cow will suffer from an attack of milk fever she should be given a half drachm of iodide of potash twice a day for a week, two weeks ahead of the expected event and three times daily the last week, this is for one week prior to calving. This is for fat cows or such as have had a previous attack and recovered, for such cows are likely to suffer a second and fatal attack. The drug is very strong in its action, and where given for a long time prior to parturition will be apt to kill the calf and run the cow down in condition. It is necessary to get the cow under the control of the drug, but it should, if possible, be done in such a way that the life of the calf is not endangered. We believe that it is safe to give a half should be given a half drachm of iodide of We believe that it is safe to give a half drachm of the iodide of potash night and morning for one week prior to calving, and then two drachms at one dose when it is seen that the cow is about to calve, and this treatment will prove effective in most cases, unless the cow is very fat or predisposed to an attack by reason of a previous attack. At the same time the pregnant cow should be well exercised daily and should have soft food rather than a lot of grain. Corn seems to be an especially dan-gerous food for heavy milking cows that are getting little exercise prior to calving, but bran is found to have a good effect as a preventive in that it does not fatten but keeps the bowels freely opened. The io-dide should be given in a little water as a drench or may be mixed in the drinking water or soft food, as it has no had taste, and cattle will not object to its presence in food or water. It will lesson the first flow of milk, but the flow will come back in a short time after the cow gets over the effects of the drug, and less milk is better than risk of having a case of the fatal disease mentioned. Cows liable to have the trouble should be kept off green grass .- Farmers

-Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

The first hints we have gleaned of what good styles will be this fall and winter are ready. The dresses are surprising, in the departure that has been made in material. Rough, heavy novelty stuffs are used in almost everything. Almost no staple stuffs are seen, and the blouses, not the skirts, carry nearly all the trimming, which is so great a feature of this fall's fashions.

Paonin's new flounce is here—a cut

Paquin's new flounce is here—a cut flounce with ripples at the bottom. Nearly all of the jackets are blouse jackets, with accentuated straight fronts and many trimmings, most of which dangle at some point or other.

The walking suits are lined with silk, and some have the low, round, flat collar, which was seen first on some of the little Eton jackets copied after Frances' famous style.

There are four degrees of dress this fall: The evening, or house-gown, with a train; the reception gown with a train, of heavy materials, generally novelty stuffs, with a blousing jacket. This is worn with some dainty cotton, or linen waist. The walk-suit, which will this year take the place of what we have for so long called tailor-made suit—made on the blouse or jacket lines for scarcely anything is cut off at the waist, but with a short skirt; and fourth, the shirtwaist suit of woolen materials.

The coats are entirely new, between the three-quarter and jacket length, though we have jackets of black broadcloth as rich and beautiful as any we have had in past years. Most of them fit in the back, a few are very extreme; but the majority are what we might call unconventional

A book might be written on the evolution of the corset. It is growing lower and lower at the top every day, and straighter and straighter down the front.

White linen coats are exceedingly smart. They are tabbed round the hips, belted in at the waist, and faced with spotted or striped linen. They should be worn with plain white skirts and white shirts, with turned-down collars and black taffeta bows.

The double chin is a hard thing to remove by home treatment, but it can certainly be modified by persistent. daily application of the following treatment: Grasp as much of the chin as can be held between the thumb and forfinger, and twist until it slips out. Do this many times, on both sides of the chin. One can form the habit of doing it when reading. Placing the hands on the cheeks, let the thumbs meet under the chin, and draw them back-ward, pressing hard, and flattening the chin, One must not press against the windpipe,

Last of all, clasp the hands upon the forehead and bend the head slowly forward, resisting it all the time with the hands. Bend till chin rests on chest. When this motion is first used a painful sensation will be felt in the cords of the neck, This is only because unused muscles are being exercised, and will soon pass away. Relax thoroughly after each motion; do it four or five times, then go to something else, and come back to it. Five minutes daily given to these three motions will begin to show results in six weeks. The flesh will leave the lower edge of the cheeks first, removing the old, heavy look which it always gives the face. Though the obstinate double chin may not be removed entirely, it will be modified and kept down.

There is nothing more unpleasant than an oily skin; a simple remedy which will remove the shiny appearance of the most obdurate oily face is: .1 dram

Boric acid...... Distilled witch hazel... Apply with a piece of old linen or a bit

For morning wear there is a perfect epidemic of white bodices. Not pique or muslin, or lawn, or any of the hundred and one varieties of white thin goods, but the plain white batiste, as fine as muslin, but less transparent. These bodices are made with inch-wide tucks, one overlapping the other in the front and the center of the back, with small stiff cuffs upon a modera-tely full sleeve, and a black surah or satin cravat passed beneath a guipure collar. They are the smartest bodices imaginable, but must have two important factors to de-serve the epithet of smart. One is the quality of the batiste, the other the shape of the shirt, for shirts they are, from the swellest shirt making establishments. For the seaside, they are practical and pretty with any linen skirt, white, blue, cream, or pink, and a white worked leather or silk

New watch fobs are also made of the shirtwaist materials. There are the plain straps, like those made of leather, the pendant is a stirrup and the strap of cheviot, or of whatever material used, buckles up with a small buckle in the form of a horseshoe. These are in gun metal or something that looks like it. for they are not the real thing, probably for the price, is 50 cents for the

The tailor-made gown is incomplete without a bold button effect. In the first place, it was adopted to take away the plainness that has marked the tailor-mades for a year or two. The buttons are used much on tub gowns made up in the walking style, and save much of the expense that has formerly been put upon these dresses. In fact, the button has proved a godsend, and the girl who cannot answer "I" to "Button, button, who's got the button?" had better get hera new gown at once.

The exceedingly loose coats, a sort o combination of cloak and coat, that were considered too extreme in the spring are now in high favor, since Milady has becustomed to them.

The effect of slenderness that is rather counteracted by the universal basque is given to the autumn jackets by strapping the seams in the back with bias bands of

While green is a most effective wall covering and one in high favor at present, un-less it is carefully chosen it absorbs the light and will darken a room considerably. There are several greens that will not do this overly much, however, one being a silvery green and another a blue green.

All the correct walking skirts are now made after kilt models.

A staircase with treads painted white and the rises of hard wood is a novelty often seen in stairways just now. The balusters are white and the rail of hard wood.

Quite the most popular skirt, says Le Bon Ton, is the one composed of three flounces from waist to botton.

The Story of a Strange People.

Little Colony of Half-Breeds, Half Civilized People Nearly a Hundred Years. Yet Are Scarcely Known

From Clearfield comes a story that reads almost like the musty pages of long neglected history. It seems impossible that such a colony of people as have just been brought to public attention should have flourished for so long under the very shadow of civilization. In fact the tale is so pretty in its conception and so dramatic in its story unfolded that we are inclined to give it a place among choice country newspaper fiction, rather than publish it with the WATCH-MAN's ear marks of credibility.

Clearfield, Pa., August 23.-The roar of the trains on the new West Branch railroad just opened between this town and Keating, disturbs the slumbers of one of the strangest communities in the State. The shricks of the locomotives will drive out of that neighborhood witches that up to this time have held unbroken sway, and the superstition that has grown from childhood in the minds of the incongruous race that inhabit this queer neighborhood may soon be dissipated by the daily visits of new people. For 80 years both witches and superstition have found in this unique community of octoroons most flourishing soil. This isolated community is found on the very tops of the Allegheny Mountains, in the western part of West Keating township, Clinton county, but a few miles from the border line of Clearfield county. There more than 80 years ago, a negro and a white woman, who had eloped from Williamsport, "squatted" on a section of wild land, and began to hew a small farm out of the hemlock forest.

RAN OFF WITH THE NEGRO.

The negro's name was Smoke, and he was a magnificent specimen of man, physically. He was then but 23 years of age and had escaped from the South a year be-fore. Though followed to Harrisburg by men sent out by his master, the young negro managed to reach Williamsport. negro managed to reach Williamsport. There he was employed by a man of considerable wealth. The negro was without a name, and because of his peculiar complexion his new master gave him the name of Smoke. The daughter of the household, a handsome girl of 20 years, became infatuated with the negro. and one night they ran away together. It was 10 years before anybody knew where they had gone, when anybody knew where they had gone, when one day a lumberman going through the hemlock forests of West Keating township —nearly 100 miles from Williamsport—came upon the little farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Smoke. He recognized in the white wife of the negro the daughter of the Williamsporter. But in that 10 years both her parents had died. She had become the mother of four children; she was contented and preferred not to hear anything about her old home.

A QUEER COMMUNITY.

Today there is in West Keating township, as the gradual outgrowth of that union, a community of prettier young women, more homely men and more superstitious old women than can be found between the covers of a novel. Girls with complexions pink as an apple blossom; teeth like rows of carved ivory; eyes as languorous as the sun that lingers long in the lap of the evening; forms plump as the lambs that bleat in the daisy-capped meadows—but with bair that has about it the unmistakable

kink of the African. The homes there are little, ramshackle dwellings—pret poles, part logs, part boards—overrun by grapevines and ivy, while in the little gardens grow rows of sage, tansy, coriander. pennyroyal and matherwortbitter, ill smelling herbs that are used in the making of teas and brews calculated to drive out bad spirits, and which, when taken with whisky or huckleberry wine, are supposed to be panaceas for all ills to which

MAN DISAPPEARED MYSTERIOUSLY. Public attention was first prominently drawn to this odd community four years ago, when John Rohn, a wealthy lumber-man, whose home is not far away, dropped out of sight one morning, since which time his disappearance has been an unfathonable mystery. The last seen of Rohn was when he crawled over a fence at the edge of a wood, disappearing therein. From that moment to this, though hundreds of men have searched high and low, not a scintilla of information as to his wherea-bouts has been secured. But it was not a month until the wrinkled old women of the octoroon settlement were wagging their tongues and shaking their heads in strange stories concerning the old man's disappearance. One old woman, looking across the fields at midnight from her bedroom window, saw blue, ghastly flames in the boiler room of the Rohn saw mill; a yellow smoke rolled from the stack against the starlit sky and now and then she could discern in the boiler room the black form of a man hurrying to and fro. For days and days this old fob entire.

The very last craze in the fashion line comes, of course, from Paris, and is the button dress fad.

The trivery last craze in the fashion line did—that Rohn's body had been incinerated in his own mill that night.

TRIED THEIR SPELLS IN VAIN.

Then came the story of a white dove that flitted tirelessly back and forth at all hours of night, as though seeking someone in whom to confide a secret. And old women consulted works on power, but John Rohn's body would not be unlocked from its secret grave. Nowaday—or nights—at a certain cross-road, it is said that a gray haired,

cross-road, it is said that a gray haired, decrepit ghost makes its appearance and again the scrawny fingered women are seeking aid from the supernatural by which to solve the mystery of the apparition.

But the reverberation of the West Branch freight engine whistles has broken the spell that so long bound the West Keating township Sleepy Hollow settlement, and the ghosts and the witches and the spooks will have to seek new quarters. have to seek new quarters.

Twist of Hand Made Her Blind.

Although Miss Sarah Fowler, of Beverly, N. J., has two apparently perfect eyes, she cannot see as a result of a strange acci-

Several weeks ago she was playing with her brother when he suddenly twisted her hand in fun. He released her at once, but the pain was so intense that she was compelled to go to bed.

The next morning Miss Fowler was horrified to find that she was unable to see. An oculist, who examined her eyes, could not discover the cause that kent the girl

not discover the cause that kept the girl from opening her eyelids. Since that time specialists from Philadelphia and New specialists from Philadelphia and New York have meet in consultation, but have

failed to relieve her.

Next week an operation will be performed on her eyes with the hope of relieving her. The eyelids have became almost as hard as iron. Only two cases of a similar nature are on record in the history of the

Received the Announcement of Appoint ment While Dying.

rt W. Billingsly Served as Superintendent of P., L. & W. R. R. but a Few Hours.

Receiving the announcement of his appointment to the superintendency of the Pittsburg, Lisbon & Western railway on last Wednesday, Engineer Robert Wallace Billingsly, aged 22, one of the brightest and most popular young men of Lisbon, O., lay a corpse on the following Friday. His death was one of the saddest ever recorded. The young man was a son of Judge N. B. death was one of the saddest ever recorded. The young man was a son of Judge N. B. Billingsly, President of the Pittsburg, Lisbon & Western, and law partner of Congressman R. W. Tayler. Three years ago he 'entered Ohio University, selecting a course in mechanical engineering, in which he stood at the head of his class. Each summer vacation he would spend at the hard labor of a fireman on the railroad, not from necessity, but because he desired to extend his knowledge of his chosen life work by practical experience.

work by practical experience.

Last year ill health compelled him to abandon his college career temporarily, and as the outdoor life agreed with him he again took up the work on the railroad, and was soon raised to an engineer. That position he held until two weeks ago, when he was again taken seriously ill. In the mean he held until two weeks ago, when he was again taken seriously ill. In the meantime he had taken the engineer's examination on the Pennsylvania, passing with as high a grade an any engineer in the service. Since then he had been on the Pennsylvania's roll of competent engineers, although he never held a position with the road.

His appointment as superintendent came not from the fact that his father was presi-dent, but from a recognition of his ability. His new position was made known to him while he lay sick, but he lived to enjoy it but a few hours. His death came after an operation for appendicitis.

Shot Him to Death.

Ardee Wilson, colored, who was arrested at Sparta, Ill., for an assault on a young white woman, was riddled with bullets by an angry mob. The mob took him from the jail, slipped a noose over his head and strung him up to a telegraph pole, but in some manner, he slipped the noose and fell to the street. In an instant he was on his feet and running away. He apparently escaped in the darkness, but a posse pursued him and surrounded him several hours later within two blocks from the jail and shot him to death.

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