

FARM NOTES.

It is very easy to make cuttings of currants or gooseberry bushes. A foot length of last year's growth, with the end smoothed off and fixed standing in the soil, will put out roots from its smoothed surface. It is best to leave only one above ground. This will make the stem for the future plant.

Those who grow asparagus by level culture object to the work of cutting the shoots. The proper way is to hill up the rows about 30 inches high, so as not to be compelled to bend the body low in cutting. If the shoots are cut just as they are appearing through the ground they will be tender from the ends to the butts.

To have a supply of radishes do not plant a large amount of seed, but use only a little at a time, sowing the seeds in a row every week. They germinate quickly and the radishes grow rapidly if the ground is rich. Unless crisp and tender they will not be relished, but if forced in growth they will be excellent.

It is the storm-beaten fodder that is left uneaten, and it is the loss of this fodder that compels the farmer to feed his hay. The loss of corn fodder is a waste of a portion of the corn crop. As the fodder, when properly preserved, is nearly equal in value to the grain, no farmer can afford to allow his fodder to be wasted.

Any sort of a milk tester is better than none at all. Take as many glass tumblers of equal size as you have cows, and fill each to the brim with milk from one of the cows. Let these stand for 12 hours and you will get a very fair idea of the cream or butter-producing capacity of your several cows. This is not equal to a Babcock tester, nor a churn, but the butter will soon follow.

Bear in mind that when using oil or grease of any kind on fowls only a little should be applied, as grease will sometimes destroy chicks. As a spray for poultry house use kerosene emulsion (or kerosene), adding a gill of sassafras oil and half a pint of crude carbolic acid to a gallon of kerosene or emulsion. Two or three applications will destroy not only the lice, but also the "nits" and "eggs."

The management of a garden does not necessarily cause neglect of field crops on the farm. No work pays so well as that given the garden, as a larger amount of produce, and of various kinds, can be secured from a garden than from the cultivation of a large area. Every farmer who gives a garden his attention usually is more careful of his other crops. Every portion of the farm is kept clean and in good condition.

It is not always that the entire crop of peaches or plums is destroyed because of a sudden change to cold weather. While a large number of buds may be destroyed, yet enough may remain to pay a profit, as it is well known that during those years when crops are short the prices are much better. Light crops do not exhaust the trees and land so much as do crops from overladen trees, hence the cost of production may be lessened and the profits greater, when the trees are not overladen.

Extraordinary yields of corn on small plots are not indicative of what may be the result on a large field, as soils vary. Trails of corn are usually made on rich bottom plots, or on specially prepared ground, but there is no denying the fact that the yields of corn on large acres may be greatly increased by proper preparation of the soil and the use of a liberal amount of manure or fertilizer. No farmer should be satisfied with his yield, but should aim to increase it every year if it be possible to do so.

The feeding of salt to dairy cows should be done regularly and not occasionally. It may be given as a seasoning to the ground grain, or placed where they can have access to it. Cows have been known to fall off one-tenth in flow of milk when deprived of salt. There are some who do not believe in the use of salt by allowing stock to help themselves, but it is beneficial to season their food with it, which makes the food more palatable and better relished.

The dairy cow is a very sensitive creature, and always shows at the milk pail when she has been abused or ill-treated. Her treatment should be such that she always has confidence on her part in the one who cares for and feeds her. The feeding and milking should always be done regularly, at the same hour each day, and if possible always by the same person. Where records have been kept it has been found that variation in these points produced variation in the amount of milk secreted and the per cent. of butter.

As is well known, onion seed germinates slowly and needs a long time to get the start of the young plants. It has been found that by sowing the seeds in a hotbed and starting the onions before spring they may be transplanted early, the same as is done with ordinary "sets," they can then be cultivated and the weeds and grass kept down. Those who have tried the method claim that it requires less labor than to thin out the surplus plants when the seed is sown on the open ground, while the crop also comes earlier. For a small patch, "onion sets" of the previous year should be preferred.

There are several borers of the apple tree—the flat-headed, which bores under the bark and sometimes in the wood; the round-headed, which bores into the tree, remaining in the larval state three years; and the twig borer, which enters just above the bud. Dig out the borers with a sharp knife, or probe into the borers with a sharp-pointed wire. Scrub the trees, and apply early in June and July whale oil soap (or soapuds), with a little carbolic acid added. Burn all twigs attached. The soapuds keep the moths off. The digging out of the round-headed and flat-headed borers must be done effectively. The borers are about an inch long. A sharp wire kills them in the tubes made by them.

The tart of the gooseberry is so well liked that it is a surprise that more of this fruit is not generally grown. Undoubtedly the fact that the gooseberry bushes are extremely liable to mildew is one reason why this fruit is little cultivated. American summers are too hot and dry for them. For the same reason few gooseberries are grown in France, while the fruit is common in England, Scotland and Ireland. It was formerly claimed that gooseberries and grapevines could not be grown in the same climate, but if gooseberry bushes are planted in low, moist and shaded places, and are mulched in warm weather, the tendency to mildew is lessened. The mildew itself will be destroyed by spraying with Bordeaux mixture, which can be done early, without any danger of injuring the fruit.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Christmas gifts, birthday gifts, valentines—all please one immensely and are accepted as a matter of course, but who does not feel the exceeding touch of friendliness implied by an Easter gift? Its suggestiveness is purity and its object is to bless. Especially therefore are flowers so appropriate. "The tall, pale Easter lilies, stately brides," and "violets, heavy with love-laden scent," the dainty, drooping lily of the valley and the callas, cold and straight. But these are the flowers to be worshipped from afar if your purse is lean. Your Easter gift may be a pot of fragrant-leaved musk vine, or a tiny sprig of ice plant, a hyacinth, lavender or sweet alyssum, the simplest and most commonplace plant in the flower kingdom if you will, so long as it bears a loving message hidden.

Things which will keep you young. Never neglect your daily exercise. A brisk walk for a couple of miles in the fresh morning air or a four or five-mile bicycle ride is one of the first essentials.

Plain, nourishing food and abundance of good, ripe fruit, is another. Fruit is best eaten in the morning. Bananas are easy of digestion to some and very nutritious; grapes are nourishing and fattening; apples are especially good for brain workers, and oranges are of great benefit to people afflicted with rheumatism.

Have plenty of fresh air in your living and sleeping rooms. Leave your bedroom window open from the top several inches every night, no matter how cold the weather. Have your bed covering warm and light.

On getting up in the morning arrange your bedding and bed so that they may be thoroughly aired. Leave the window open in your bedroom for the greater part of the day. In your living room ventilation is also necessary, and sunshine, too.

Poor ventilation is accountable for much ugliness and, in children, deformity. Fresh air and sunshine are as essential to a human being as they are to a plant.

Avoid tight clothing—corsets, garters, sleeves, armholes, collars and waistbands. Tight clothing disturbs the circulation of the blood and is the cause of red noses, enlarged veins, flushing, etc.

Eight hours sleep is absolutely required to rest the brain.

The prettiest things in the small girl's wardrobe for summer are the subonnetts of pink or blue dimity—a some simple figure design, usually an all-over pattern. They are made with two narrow, lace-edged ruffles around the edge and an inch of cording inside. There is a short, lace-edged cape at the back of the neck, and the bonnet is tied at the back with broad bands of the dimity, also lace-edged.

Coarse white dress linens of the etamine, hop-sacking, duck and butcher's linen order are in great demand for tailored suits, and are scarce.

What makes the French blouses stand out so nicely in the low droop in front, and prevents them from sagging on one side or collapsing altogether? The secret is divulged by examining a veritable Parisian model, the property of a lucky Philadelphia girl. A white crepe de chine waist, hand embroidered with blue silk French knots and a cluster of grapes, executed in solid embroidery, has the desired even bloused effect, and collapses not. Unhook the front pleat at the side, and, lo! behold the inferior! Three wide and thick silk ruchings are stitched across from side to side of the bloused front, one above another. They are tacked to the lining of the waist, and, of course, fill out the blousing to the required line. The ruches are soft and, therefore, they give no stiffness to the outline of the French blouse. A woman with clever fingers could easily follow out the idea, and stitch a little ruching in the lower part of her blouse. Of course, it is understood that all such embellishments are strictly kept to the proper place—below the bust line—and as low as possible beyond the waist.

The central box-pleat solves the problem of hand embroidery in an easy way. It is so convenient to decorate a separate panel like a box-pleat, and then apply it to a blouse. The breakfast table on Easter morning should not only have flowers in the center, but a small bunch beside each plate. On each place also, of the children in the family, there is sometimes placed a nest, made of straw or excelsior, filled with white eggs; or instead of the nest a surprise that will please them to have the real thing. An Easter device containing the offering they are to give at Sunday school or church. An easy one to make is to take an empty eggshell and draw a face on it with pen and ink, fringing two or three circles of yellow tissue paper and sticking them on around the broken part so as to form a fared collar; and also sticking on, with mucilage, a sunbonnet made of the yellow paper with a full crown in which the missionary money may be hidden—a new kind of bill in the Easter bonnet—or the offering may be hidden under the candy eggs in a small basket on which a motherly yellow hen sits.

Big lace collars, some of them reaching nearly to the waist line, are very smart. They are first choice. These may be had in silk to order, though the real one is linen. All the coarse laces are in high favor, however, yak, llama and Bulgarian being on a like standing. Irish crochet is rather more dressy, not to mention expensive. A very flat effect from throat to bust, with the fullness below, is a prominent feature of this season's blouses. The Paris idea of fuller, straighter skirts is gradually permeating all the fashionable models. Small blouses are in the majority upon the smartest hats. The severely plain mannish tailor gown is conspicuous by its absence. This year's tailor gowns are all much trimmed. A large proportion of Easter hats suggest market gardens or orchards, yet flowers of the daintiest perfection are to be offered, and the wise Easter girl may appear crowned with roes or wreathed with forget-me-nots or foebias of wonderful delicacy of color. Flatness is still the order of the day in the millinery world. Pongee, so exceedingly fashionable this year, may be had, not only in its natural color, but also in dull, soft green, blue, royal blue and pink.

For an Easter dessert fill eggshells two-thirds full of boiled rice and set them in cold water to harden; then break away the shell and place one or two of these rice eggs on end in a dessert saucer, pouring boiled custard around them.

Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

The Insect Calendar.

Timely Suggestions for Insect Remedies.—From the Manuscript of a Book on Economic Entomology, By H. A. Surface, Professor of Zoology, at The Pennsylvania State College.

The three essentials for success in applying insecticides consist in doing the right thing, at the right time, and in the right way. The time for making any application is fully as important as are the kind of insecticides and methods of applying them. Most publications on insect remedies fail to emphasize the time of doing the work. For this reason we here give the Insect Calendar that practical persons may follow it with profit. It should be remembered that the exact time of each of these remedies may vary with the season, latitude and altitude, but these dates are generally correct for the greater portion of the State of Pennsylvania.

MARCH.

Scrape loose bark from the apple, pear and quince trees and burn the scrapings. This will destroy the codlin moths that are there concealed.

Firmly tie the bands of loose fluffy cotton tightly around the fruit and shade trees to prevent the female canker worms from climbing them and depositing their eggs, from which hatch the destructive "measuring worms." The female moths are wingless and come from the ground where they have passed the winter in the third or pupal stage. They cannot climb over a roll of loose cotton. Bands of tarred paper or tin troughs filled with oil below the cotton will kill them.

Whitewash the trunks of fruit and shade trees, letting the liquid run well into all cracks and crevices. This will kill all hibernating insects, lichens, fungi, and bacteria. Strain the whitewash through coarse muslin and spray all possible twigs and branches. No injury will be effected if applied before the buds open, and it will kill everything it touches excepting the twigs, and branches of the trees to which it is applied.

With a long-handled pruning hook clip off all adhering leaves and bunches of twigs and burn them, thus destroying the many insects they hold.

Rake and burn all fallen leaves and by that means kill the insects that have hibernated among them, but be careful to preserve the toads that are likely to be raked up with them.

Look over the trees for the large cylindrical egg masses of the tent caterpillar, and cut them off and burn them. This is better than burning them out of the trees with a torch when their tents appear later.

Trim the fruit trees of all superfluous branches and burn the trimmings. This will reduce the number of insect pests they contain, especially the plant lice, scale insects, small coconuts, etc., that remain there all winter.

Wash or spray the trees with kerosene or kerosene or water mixture (one part of oil to ten parts of water), or a strong suds of whale-oil soap before the leaves expand, in order to kill all scale insects, plant lice eggs, exposed to chrysalids, etc.

Trim up the berry bushes and burn the trimmings at once. Cut out every old stalk or cane as well as that which appears to be injured or dying. Cut off the ends of all raspberry canes that have been injured by the snowy tree cricket depositing its eggs in them. The object in burning off such material is to kill the insects they contain before the plants have time to come forth and attack other plants.

As early as possible rake together and burn all the rubbish in the garden and around the fields. This will destroy many of the insects that hibernate in such places, such as stinking squash bugs, mealy bugs, etc.

APRIL.

Spade or plow the garden as early as possible in the spring and work it over as many times as possible. This will not only put the soil in the best condition for the growth of the plants, but it will also kill most insects that live in the ground during the winter and early spring.

Plow the sod for corn early and cultivate it as often as possible, especially with the revolving blade harrow. This will destroy many cut-worms and grub-worms. Do not be in a hurry to plant on sod ground.

Poison some bran with Paris green in water and molasses and put it under boards, or cover it with soil in the garden for cut-worms, crickets, earth-worms, slugs, etc. The reason for covering it is to prevent desirable birds and domestic fowls from eating it.

Go over the young apple and pear orchards and kill all borers by either cutting them out or by pushing a sharpened wire as far as possible into their holes. Their presence may be detected by the borings like fine powder around the trunks of the trees near the base.

Examine the peach trees for the peach-tree borer, and whenever masses of gum are seen determine the cause. Kill the borers either by cutting them out or by piercing them with a sharpened wire. Give the fur and winter clothing a good airing and brushing in the sunshine, and if there are moths in them fumigate in a tight box or trunk with carbon bisulphide, or fumes of sulphur, or gasoline in quantity. Then put them (with moth balls) into tight paper or muslin bags or into boxes of wood or paste-board and seal the cracks with strips of gummed paper. If bags and boxes are made absolutely tight moth balls are not needed, but they do not harm and are not expensive. They may save hundreds of times the amount of their cost.

Take up all carpets and beat them well to get rid of the carpet beetles and their larvae. Air and sunshine are quite serviceable for this and are germicides as well as insecticides.

Just as the buds on the apple trees are bursting the minute plant lice eggs on the smaller twigs are hatching by the thousand and millions and are likely to become very destructive. They can best be killed by spraying as soon as hatched with a mixture of from ten to fifteen per cent. of kerosene with water, using the kind of spraying apparatus that mixes it in definite proportion at the instant it is applied.

MAY.

Plant not infested seeds. Treat all that may contain pests (such as peas, beans, etc.) with the fumes of carbon bisulphide, or burning sulphur, or benzine, or warm water in a closed vessel for a few hours before planting them.

Cut off and burn all currant bushes that have yellowish leaves, and thus destroy the larvae and pupae of the currant borers.

Just as soon as the petals fall from the apple and pear blossoms, spray well with one pound of Paris green or London purple in 150 gallons of water to kill the young codling moths before they enter the fruit. Spray after each rain for two weeks, and if no rain intervenes after first spraying for ten days it is sufficient to give only a second spraying then.

For the destructive currant spray with Paris green or London purple just before blossoms open and again after the petals fall, and jar the trees every two or three

days over a sheet or sheets of cloth and pour the fallen material into kerosene or the fire. Continue this until no more currulios are captured. Destroy all fallen fruits as fast as they fall.

Cover young plants with netting to keep certain insects, such as the striped beetle, squash bugs, etc., from vines of melons and cucumbers. Have the soil as mellow and as fertile as possible, using all the manure or fertilizer that is needed, and plant only good large seeds and strong vigorous plants. Inducing strong plant growth is one of the best means of avoiding insect depredations. Insects attack the more feeble rather than the strongest and most vigorous plants and animals.

John Mitchell on Strikes.

"Sledge Hammers That Weld Links of Labor and Capital."

Coal operators, miners, laboring men, professional men, bankers and business men, to the number of more than 2,000 crowded in front of a hotel at Huntingdon, W. Va., on last Tuesday to listen to an open-air address by President John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers, on the subject of strikes. His remarks bore directly and almost entirely on the situation in West Virginia at this time. He said in part:

"The capital and labor question demands the serious attention and investigation of the American public. It is the paramount subject of the American thinking people, and all chimeras and theories must bow down before the great facts pressing for solution and settlement. I am not an advocate of strikes, but there are times when they are necessary to clinch the argument of truth in the interests of the laboring people of this country. Strikes are a feature of civilization and they are merely a means to an end in the great social evolution that is now confronting the American people. Barbarous countries and states have no strikes; they are unknown there. Strikes are sledge hammers that weld the connecting links of labor and capital and make the endless chain of commercial prosperity."

"We want a better understanding between employer and employe, and we come with offerings of peace. The labor unions are trusts, just like our doctors' trust, our ministers trust, and the money trust, only we call these associations and corporations, while we style ourselves unions. There is no civilization without labor. There can be no progress without this potent factor, and why should we not protect and foster the interests of such an important element in our national progress?"

"We have an abiding faith in the people for an amicable adjustment of the differences between labor and capital; and we trust that jewel for which our great economists and statisticians are searching, will settle all strikes and adjust all differences. We desire an amicable settlement of the pressing questions of the labor movement in West Virginia, and every fair means will be employed by the United Mine Workers to bring about this happy result."

The skeleton of what is supposed to be a victim of the great Johnstown flood in 1889 was found by some boys fishing along the banks of the Conemaugh river near Seward, recently. In accordance with the usual procedure in such cases the remains were buried by the Memorial Hospital association in the unknown plot in the Grandview cemetery at Johnstown.

A GREAT SENSATION.—There was a big sensation in Leesville, Ind., when W. H. Brown, of that place, who was expected to die, had his life saved by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. He writes: "I endured insufferable agonies from Asthma, but your New Discovery gave me immediate relief and soon thereafter effected a complete cure." Similar cures of consumption, pneumonia, bronchitis and grip are numerous. It's the peerless remedy for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50c, and \$1.00. Guaranteed by F. Potts Green, druggist. Trial bottles free.

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