

FARM NOTES.

The plant known as weeds is the coating which Nature has taken to cover up her waste places and neglected soil.

Any soil that will produce ordinary farm crops will produce the small fruits. Work the land deeply, by the use of the subsoil plow, and make it reasonably rich by the application of some fertilizer.

A wheel hoe is an excellent implement for garden use, as it saves labor and does the work well. Some of them are usually accompanied with knives, markers, rakes and cultivators, each detachable, thereby enabling hand labor to be applied with the assistance of contrivances far superior to many of the old methods.

A gardener who has tested it for three years, says that broken pieces of bone are much better than broken crockery for draining flower pots. The plants appropriate the fertilizing quality of the bones, and make such a vigorous growth that the plants in pots supplied with bones could be noticed at once.

Some weeds seem to hold possession of the land persistently, but when they are kept down by frequent cutting off of the tops it is but a matter of time before they will die, as every cutting causes exhaustion. The stable field is a favorite place for weeds, but if the mower is run over the fields the weeds will be prevented from seeding until the land can be plowed.

Any soil that produces blue grass luxuriantly, provided it is well watered, is excellent for the dairy. But it is not only the soil that is to be considered as the character of the surface is equally important. Low, marshy wet land can never make a good dairy farm, although it may be made so by drainage, if the soil is of the right kind.

It is claimed that a strong decoction of cedar, made by boiling the leaves, twigs and balls, is an effective remedy for fleas, bed bugs, lice on poultry or animals, and for insects on plants. The stronger the solution the better. It is possible that cedar oil, mixed with cottonseed oil, will also prove efficacious against such vermin.

Asparagus is a crop largely requiring the attention of specialists. A requisite for the growth of the plant is in planting the roots plenty of horizontal room, three feet apart each way, with no other plants between, being the nearest allowable distance, while some prefer four or five feet. Thus the most of the work may be done by horse cultivation, and excessive manuring is not necessary.

Coal ashes, if scattered over sandy land, will tend to make the soil heavier. They do not possess any fertilizing value of consequence, but they sometimes prove beneficial in preventing the attacks of some kinds of insects. Used for mulching currants and gooseberry bushes, coal ashes have been found of advantage in protecting against currant worms.

The canker worm, known as the measuring worm, is a nuisance much dreaded by fruit growers, as they feed not only on apple, plum, cherry and other fruit trees, but also on the elm and maple. The eggs are deposited in masses of a hundred or more, and the parent moth lays in the fall as well as in the spring. Spraying with Paris green is the remedy.

Cabbages will thrive with frequent cultivation; in fact, they may be cultivated every day with advantage. The first cultivation should be deep, so as to permit the ground to absorb water from the rains, after which the stirring of the top soil for an inch or two will answer. If grass and weeds grow in the spaces between the plants do not hesitate to use the hoe, as the rapid growth of the cabbages will well pay for the labor.

When wind-breaks, in form of hedges or straight rows of trees, are not desirable, a group of evergreens will turn the currents and break the force of the blast. It is also well to note that on the cold side generally, the north and west, is the place to set the very hardiest trees. Among them birch, poplar and willow rank first. The birch is claimed to be the hardiest of all our trees, and may be planted very close as a wind-break.

I wish to grow an acre of onions, intending to cover the land with horse manure and plow it in, sow the seed, and then spread poultry manure and ashes over the land. Is the method to be recommended?

It will probably be more satisfactory to plow all the manure under, harrow the ground very fine, and apply fertilizer (a special onion brand, which can be procured of dealers), using about 500 pounds per acre, again harrowing the land well, and drill in the seed, covering very lightly.

As a rule, the majority of the farmers sow seeds too deep. Small seeds need just enough covering to give them moisture and darkness. The soil should be pressed on fine seeds only so as to exclude the light. Especially should this be done very carefully and slightly just before a rain. Many of the seeds are lost, and the reputation of some good, honest seedman ruined, in the estimation of individuals, because fine seeds are sown too deep, and the soil is pressed down too hard upon them. A great many farmers are in too great a hurry to sow seeds early; they do not wait for the ground to get sufficiently dry and warm. It is hard to give general directions that will apply in all cases, but as a rule, the smaller the seed the lighter should be the soil in which they are sown.

Grass is indispensable on all well-regulated farms, and in its direct money value, and also in its collateral and indirect benefits, it is worth more to the world than all other cereal crops combined. Its direct is nothing to its indirect value in the influence it has in preserving the fertility of farms by its manurial wealth in many forms. No man can thrive on a farm, and no farm can be self-supporting, where grass is wholly neglected, or advantage is not taken of stock raised on grass farms. It is supposed by many that only such soil as is not fit for cultivation in the cereals or roots should be devoted to grass. This is a mistake. Farmers can afford to take their best soils for the production of this crop, and this is the real plan for bringing them up to the highest point of fertility.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A DAILY THOUGHT.

Once open the door to trouble, and its visits are three-fold: First, anticipation; second, in actual presence; third, in living it over again. Therefore never anticipate trouble, make as little of its presence as possible, forget it as soon as past.

Hints for the Stout.—The late M. Worth always insisted on long and flowing lines for his stout clients, and quite regardless of prevailing fashions, absolutely refused to trim their gowns with horizontal effects. The stout woman, therefore, will be wise if she accepts as cardinal points in the study of her wardrobe these two essentials won from a world-wide experience.

IN STRAIGHT LINES.

It is wonderful, too, says the London Express, what straight lines will do for a stout figure, while curves merely accentuate its embonpoint, and become unsightly instead of beautiful.

All gowns should be made of some soft material that can be put on very full over a closely fitted lining of silk. This lining clings to the figure, and adds nothing to its bulk; while the voluminous skirts draped upon it is too soft to take up space over the hips and yet is full enough to give broad, sweeping lines to the bottom.

Many stout women are appalled at the suggestion of a full skirt. But if they will try on a skirt that lies snugly round the waist and hips, and flares well out from the hips down, they will see how slender the waist will appear in contrast to the full effect of the skirt.

THE SKIRT FULLNESS.

The fullness should appear to spring from the belt, and the outline of the hips should never be accentuated by having the skirt fitted to them. The fitted yoke, with a gauged or fitted skirt springing from the yoke, is also an error of judgment. There is no fashion worse suited to the stout woman, as such a skirt out the figure, and gives a short and dumpy appearance.

The top of the skirts should have the fullness laid in pleats or tucks, just as one pleases. Of course, the extensively gauged skirts should never be worn except by very tall women, and even by them with discretion.

SOME USEFUL DON'TS.

A list of don'ts formulated by a modiste who has made the stout figure an especial study may be a useful guide to the woman who is inclined to embonpoint.

Don't use frills of any kind on a gown. Use flat trimmings.

Don't wear wide belts.

Don't trim a skirt except at the bottom.

Don't wear a sleeve that is full below the elbow.

Don't wear an Eton coat. Always have the coat-line extend as far below the waist line as possible.

Don't wear a high-out décolletage. Have the low bodice cut to an extremity of décolleté, and build up the top with patchy effects to the required height.

Don't wear a tight-fitting coat if very stout.

TIGER STOCKINGS.

That the leopard may not change her spots is an established fact.

It is also a fact that the maiden with tiger stockings will never consent to change them for anything less stunning. And they are dainty, too, as dainty and fascinating as their name is fierce and formidable.

As you may suppose, they are striped round and round, the stripes being about three-fourths of an inch in width. And up midlady's leg go these stripes, this particular stocking being striped the entire length of the hosiery.

There are clocks, too, done neatly in silk, and in the color of this nether limb covering.

The stripes are what would be called a two-tone effect—that is, they are in two tones of one color.

THE TRUE TIGER.

The truest of these tiger stockings are those in golden brown and a deep dull gold tone.

They are the real thing, their tawny hues, for some reason or other, suggesting the charmer of Old Nile.

A GLINT OF STEEL.

Though there's the blue glint of steel in the darker stripe of a dainty pair of Dresden blue, there's nothing terrifying about them, even to the timidest of Eve's daughters. The lighter stripe is of an exquisitely delicate shade.

What could be cleverer to wear with a dress in the new blue, called Saxon, Alice and so forth. A fair expert says these stockings, which cost but 75 cents the pair, are being worn extensively with black patent leather pumps and Oxfords.

IN QUAKER GRAY.

Naturally the fair Quaker City maid has been ordered to in the making of these stockings, which are said to have taken Gotham by storm (especially around the Flatiron Building).

Quiet Quaker are the insinuating bands of pale oyster gray, alternating with those of slate gray. How dainty with a reception dress of light crepe de chine and suede Oxford to match!

And so here's to our long-suffering lower extremities—patient, enduring and even mute at the Scotch plaid hosiery of some seasons since. One cannot do better than offer as a tribute Gillett Burgess' touching lines to his own extremities:

They haul me 'round the house, They drag me up the stairs, I only have to steer them, And they take me anywhere.

A little sugar added to the water used for bathing the roset, especially if it be veal, improves its flavor.

Fish, particularly the salt-water kind, is better if, when it is boiled, a onefull of good cider vinegar is mixed with the water.

For prime corned-beef hash moisten the mixture of meat and potatoes with a rich stock and season with salt and paprika. Some persons add a trace of sugar.

There is a white wash taffeta for shirt waists which launders as well as linen.

Sardines grilled in the chafing dish is a good course with which to begin a Sunday night tea. Drain the oil from a box of fat-sized sardines, and when the blazer is hot lift each carefully into it on the blade of a knife. Sauté the sardines slightly, turning carefully. Sprinkle over each a few drops of lemon juice, and serve them on small squares of toasted bread or sandwich style between saltine crackers.

In Splitting Paper He Went One Better Than an English Expert.

Lucius Poole, a brother of William Poole, the librarian whose name is perpetuated in "Poole's Index," was known throughout the country for his rare skill in restoring and repairing old documents and reprints. He lived for thirty years in a house at the south end, Boston, with three congenial spirits, one a collector of Dickensiana, the second of Napoleonniana and the third a collector of first editions. Poole was a collector, too, of books, letters and programmes relating to the stage. He had a remarkable facility for matching old paper and could put a corner or a patch on a letter or a playbill so neatly that it could be noticed only under a magnifying glass. Mr. Poole's famous feat of splitting a magazine page into four leaves or layers was brought about by an English inlayer, who showed Mr. Poole a page split in three leaves with the printing on it unmarred. The American said that he could do all that the Englishman had done, and more, and after some experiments produced a page of the Century Magazine split in four leaves. This was taken to London by a book collector, who had gone abroad to add to his library, and after the page had been the rounds of the clubs there it was sent to Paris and caused the Frenchmen to wonder.—Portland Advertiser.

Quaint Folklore Stories Concerning These Lunarians. The most touching of all folklore stories may be found in Charles F. Lummis' "Pueblo Folklore." It is one of the many myths of the moon and beautifully conceived. The sun is the Allfather, the moon the Allmother, and both shine with equal light in the heavens. But the Trues, the superior divinities, find that man, the animals, the flowers, weary of a constant day, they agree to put out the Allfather's, or sun's, eyes. The Allmother, the moon, offers herself as a sacrifice. "Blind me," she says, "and leave my husband's eyes." The Trues say, "It is good, woman."

They accept the sacrifice and take away one of the Allmother's eyes; hence the moon is less brilliant than the sun. The man finds rest at night, and the flowers sleep.

In Mrs. Leiber Cohen's translation of Sacher Masoch's "Jewish Tales" there is a variant of the sun and moon story, derived from the Talmud. Briefly told, the sun and moon are equally luminous. It is the moon who wants to be more brilliant than the sun. Deity is angered at her demands. Her light is lessened. "The moon grew pale. Then God pitied her and gave her the stars for companions."

Too Much For Her Memory.

"You bad man," exclaimed the fluttering hostess, "you've kept everybody waiting!"

"Pardon me," replied the young poet, "I have been loitering on the slopes of Helicon."

"Helicon? Where's that? Another of those new north shore places? I never can remember the funny names they give them towns up that way."—Chicago Record-Herald.

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