

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., July 14, 1905.

FAIR NOTES.

The dust heap is absolutely necessary for fowls.

Whenever "sour" grass (arroz) is seen in lawns it is a sure indication that the land requires lime, which neutralizes the acidity of the soil.

A gardener who has a number of large hot houses for growing early cucumbers keeps a hive of bees in each house for the purpose of distributing the pollen.

The pigs give the largest profit when they are gotten into market as early in their stage of growth as possible. The cost of pork is less if the animal is sold when it does not exceed 200 pounds, as any excess of that weight will cost more in production than when the pig is growing, the heaviest increase in weight being with young animals.

Shrubbery costs but little and adds value to a place, but unless properly arranged it will be of no advantage. There should be vacant places as long as a shrub or a flower can be grown. The lawn should not be crowded with evergreens or flowers, but where a few are used on the lawn, and put in the right places, they add to the beauty thereof.

To make a good, firm walk way in the garden or through the lawn, and which will be smooth and dry, at all seasons, mix Portland cement, one part, and ashes, two parts. Make into mortar, spread over the path and smooth down with a trowel. The bed for mortar should be first well beaten down, and if convenient a layer of gravel should be spread over it, with the mortar added next.

There are faults in feeding that should be avoided. The farmer who overfeeds his animals, by allowing food to remain within their reach at all times, is not economical in his methods. Animals that are permitted to feed on hay or grain at will are subject to indigestion, and also evince no disposition to exercise. Plenty of food should be allowed, but only at regular hours, and in quantities suited to the requirements of each individual.

Potato growers should not retain seed from their crops, as a change of seed, even of the same variety, will be an advantage. At the Iowa Experiment Station seed obtained from a Canadian fair was planted by the side of seed that had been selected from that grown on the Station ground. After seven years' cultivation the Canadian seed produced 754 bushels and the home-grown seed 109 bushels of tubers per acre.

Occasionally the grass under some trees will be green while under others it is nearly dead, or yellow, showing sparse growth. The difference may be due to the plowing. If an orchard is deeply plowed its feeding roots will be below the grass, but if barely stirred, then the tree roots come to the surface and take both food and moisture from the grass. Such is the case with the apple tree or not, the grass under trees is best where the land has been plowed deep.

Blue grass seems to thrive on rich, rolling lands where other kinds are more difficult to secure. It holds on for a long time, during dry seasons maintains itself fairly well, and grows rapidly also in cool, damp weather. It is less injured by tramping than many other grasses, and on limestone soils it will crowd out all other kinds and remain for years. Blue grass seed is nearly always added to that selected for pastures, as it assists in making a heavy sward and the grass is highly relished by stock.

Those who ship fruit to market may not be familiar with the methods of handling fruit by the carriers and merchants. Fruit started from the farm may be apparently well and properly packed, and yet not arrive in the market in good condition. The packing of fruit for market requires judgment and experience. There is something to learn, and every grower should give attention. One of the most important points is to have the fruit uniform, and of the same quality at the bottom of the basket or box as at the top, buyers always making close examination.

Grass is always an important crop, and also an evidence of good farming, as no soil will produce a large crop of grass every year unless the land is well manured or treated with fertilizers. Grass is a foundation for all other crops, as it not only produces pasturage and hay, but furnishes sod for the assistance of the crops that follow. When the land is grass it is really manured and humus accumulates. The shading of the soil by the grass is beneficial, and the roots go down deep into the soil for plant food, which is brought to the surface, deposited in the plants, and thus rendered available for another season.

When seeding to crimson clover this year do not delay until late in the fall. One reason why crimson clover fails with some is that they sow the seed too late to allow the plants to make headway before winter. On sandy soils the frost does no injury, but on heavy land the plants are sometimes thrown up. The land for crimson clover should also be well prepared, and no one should expect a good catch crop when the seed is sown on land that has received no preparation. Lime always benefits crimson clover, being broadcasted and harrowed in when seeding, using about 10 bushels of lime per acre.

The greater the number of varieties of grass in a pasture the better, as the live stock will make selection of the preferred kinds. Lime broadcasted in the fall will nearly always benefit a pasture, and wood ashes are also excellent. One point to observe in renewing a pasture is to keep the animals off until the grasses can make headway. This may cause some inconvenience to those who keep the animals continually on the pasture, but the result will be more grass and a better pasture. Spreading farmyard manure on the pasture late in the fall should be done with the use of fine manure only, as straw or other coarse material will not readily decompose.

The custom of breaking down the leaves and seed stems of onions is to prevent the exhaustion of the bulb by the formation of the seed. Some growers do this as soon as the leaves are full grown by twisting and bending them down, as the bulb is not the root but the enlarged stem of the plant. This concentrates the force of the plant into the bulb or stem, and so produces a vigorous growth. The practice may be a question of effect, so far as this view is concerned, but would certainly be useful in case a seed stalk was forming, as the production of seed would weaken the bulb. The breaking down is done when the bulb is well formed and the leaves fully grown.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A DAILY THOUGHT.

Of all virtues magnanimity is the rarest; there are a hundred persons of merit for one who wholeheartedly acknowledges it in another.—Hastett

THE PLEASANT ART OF CALLING.

"I am always particular about my husband's social obligations," said a woman who has been voted a society success by her acquaintances to write for the *Designer Magazine*, "and I think with a little tact a woman can manage such matters beautifully. Most men hate to go out in the evening to make calls—slippers and books and the fireside have too many attractions—so when I have by some diplomacy dragged my husband to a party I am pretty sure he will refuse to make a party call, so I manage by taking his card when I call and leaving it with mine or prefixing the title Mr. before my name on my card.

"There is no doubt in my mind," continued this same woman, "that much of social success lies in fulfilling one's obligations in the way of calls, and being particular as to what etiquette demands in the number of cards to be left. Even the size and style of engraving are to be considered. Now, for instance, you want your daughter's card engraved. How shall it be done? If she is young she should have her name directly beneath her mother's on the same card. After she comes out she is entitled to an independent card. Of course your husband has his social card separate from his business card, and his name is engraved on that in full. It takes these trifles, light as air, to show a person's culture, but like clean linen, they identify one at once.

"The use of a business card in calling, either by man or woman, is a solecism hard to forgive, even if it is accompanied by an apology. Time and again women have called upon me and left professional cards. For instance, 'Mary L. Battersworth, M. D., 11 Portland avenue. Office hours from 10 to 6 p. m.' may be all right for business purposes, but that woman has no right to leave such a card when calling on a friend.

"If you were to ask me the most difficult thing to remember I should say it was to get up and leave at the proper time when conversation is interesting. This is the time to leave, if one can accomplish it gracefully, for it suggests a desire on the hostess' part to continue the conversation at some time not long distant, and the feeling that you are an interesting caller. Of course, nowadays, cards are left either on the salver in the hall or on the side table in the reception room—one for each lady in the house. This enables them to keep track of the calls they owe, and in a city with constant changes in abodes to know the number and street of her caller; for Mrs. John Amos Brown may live in the East End one year and in an entirely different part of the town next, if her husband does not own his home.

"Do I look upon the matter of calls and cards as a social salvation? Pretty nearly so. I have known people to attempt calling without a card, but this is poor policy, for at least a card speaks for itself, and a verbal message is often forgotten. It is especially true when calling on some one living in apartments. The caller cannot scream her name up the speaking-tube to perhaps the fourth floor if the bell is not answered, but she can slip her card in the mail-box, where it will be found as an evidence of her visit. I know some ladies of the old regime who contend that a card should never be left at the door if a member of the family answers, and the cards are only to be given servants, but this idea has passed away.

"In calling for the first time one should leave her husband's card with her own, if she is married. If the acquaintance does not prove desirable it can be dropped after the first calls are exchanged. No harm has been done by the call, and it gives an opportunity to continue a friendly acquaintance if desired. After being entertained at a dinner one should call in a week or, if out of town, send a card. Of course everyone sends a card in response to a wedding invitation and to an 'at home,' and a card should always accompany a gift.

"Use the engraved card freely, but remember that if there is one thing that is poor form more than another it is to use a written card, unless to accompany a present. Have your cards engraved, let the stationer keep the plate and have new ones struck off when occasion demands. The stationer keeps track of the vagaries in card fashion, and will give you an idea of what kind of card to get, the size, thickness, etc., as they change."

To any and all who contemplate sea bathing I have a few pieces of advice to offer. Don't go above your waist line unless you can swim, and pray don't have your hair wet with salt water unless you are willing to sacrifice its luster and beauty. Above all turn your back upon tempting white bathing suits, for they mean so much underdressing that getting ready for a bath is a task and getting rid of sticky wet clothing after it a real burden that robs the dip of its pleasure.

The fewer clothes a bather can use the better. The swimmer knows that. A waist, bloomers and skirt, stockings and bathing shoes are quite a respectable outfit and the weight is nothing of much consequence. Of course there must be hose supporters, for both comfort and good looks, and they must be attached to a belt. If the material of the bathing suit is rough the fish may be protected by a gauze shirt, but bear in mind that wet garments are so hard to get off that all extra ones are a nuisance.

The fashion books show lovely pictures of bathers with fetching tresses and caps. Real life does not have them, for no matter how becoming the coiffure and head covering, water reduces them to a state of negligence. Of course it is possible to take a kind of sea bath without wetting the hair, but doctors say that the nape of the neck must be wet on first entering the cold water to neutralize the shock. I have found that a rubber cap that I ran across in a department store is an ideal head covering, protecting my hair and looking a bit better than the usual thing of that kind. It is rubber inside and blue silk outside, roomy and comfortable with two ends that tie in a bow in front. Under the bow the fullness is confined by an elastic string and under this I tucked in an eighth of a yard of natural curls that soften the outline of the cap and stand the water pretty well.

THE ANCIENT ZORA.

It Was the First Corset and Was Used in Cleopatra's Time.

It was back in Cleopatra's time that the corset was first thought of. Who knows but perhaps the dusky beauty of the Nile thought to hold Mark Antony's fickle fancy longer could she add some new charm to her face or figure? Anyway, it was then that the embryo corset first appeared in the shape of a stiffened linen girdle called a "zora." Sometimes it was worn outside the tunic, tightly laced and much jeweled.

Then fashion wearied of the "zora," and for twelve centuries the corset languished.

The Greeks and Romans next held sway, and beauty unadorned was good enough for them.

In the sixteenth century along came Catherine de Medici, that energetic lady who meddled in everything, from empires to hairpins, and she revived the corset with a vengeance.

She not only wore it herself, but also issued an edict that all women of birth and breeding should wear corsets which should reduce their waist measures to thirteen inches.

This corset was called a "corps" and was stiffened in every possible manner. In this the body was pinched and forced, while over the "corps" was clasped a perfectly fitting corset cover, constructed of thin plates of steel, fashioned in two pieces and opening on a hinge.

This instrument of torture lasted until the early part of the seventeenth century, when more pliable materials were adopted.

Beautifully quilted satin bodices replaced Catherine's invention.

The next change in the corset's history took place in the early part of the eighteenth century, when leather stiffened with whalebone came into use.

Since then it has gone on steadily improving until today for every type of woman there is a specially adapted corset—New York American.

SOURCES OF COLORS.

Blue black is the charcoal of the vine stalk.

Raw sienna is the natural earth near Sienna, Italy.

Ivory chips produce the Ivory black and bone black.

Turkey red is the madder plant, which grows in Hindustan.

Prussian blue is made with impure potassium carbonate. This most useful discovery was accidental.

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