

FARM NOTES.

Evergreen branches make an excellent winter protection for many plants, and they are often useful to hold down forest leaves and prevent the wind from carrying them off.

The only sure method of eradicating parasites is the get it up by the roots and allow no portion of the plant to remain in the ground. It is very difficult to destroy, and half-way measures will result simply in loss of time.

Attempting to grow a crop by loosening the ground with a harrow or cultivator may save time and labor, but the only correct way to prepare the soil is to plow it, and harrow it down until a fine seed-bed is formed for the seed.

One of the ways in which floors of poultry houses may be made rat proof is to take about 25 bushels of coal ashes and mix it with one bushel of thinly slaked lime. Spread this combination over the floors and pound it down hard.

Spraying with heliothere has been found serviceable in preventing the ravages of rosebugs on roses, but the difficulty in the way is that the remedy is expensive when the bugs are found in large numbers, as is often the case in some seasons.

Carefully gather the scraps from the table and give them to your fowls. There is no kind of food which will produce a more liberal supply of eggs. There are hundreds of suburban families who throw these scraps into the waste-bucket, to be taken away by the swill man, and buy corn for the fowls, where the former is far the best food for egg production.

Reduce the stock of fowls as soon as the year's hatch is well provided for, but hold on to old turkeys and old geese; they get used to the ways of the farm, and are worth much more as breeders than young ones. Ducks also are good till three years old. A turkey is in her prime at two or three years, while a goose will produce eggs when 20 years old.

In large pastures animals are liable to graze off some places very closely and leave others torn to seed. It is a good plan to use movable fences, and with these pasture small portions at a time. Another good plan is to keep a mixed lot of animals, so that one kind can follow another. Scatter the droppings of cattle, or else there will spring up bunches of tall grass. To prevent patches from going to seed sow them, a small quantity at a time, and give the wilted grass to stock.

If the garden is thoroughly under-drained, as it always should be, it should be fall plowed in ridges and the surface left rough, so as to expose the soil as much as possible to freezing. This is the more necessary because the garden is always a sheltered spot, where snow lies much of the winter, so that there are few times when the soil freezes very deeply. The garden is always the richest spot on the farm. It often is heavy with manure and needs the winter's freezing to lighten the soil and make its fertility more available.

Some of the best farms in Pennsylvania have been brought to the highest degree of fertility by the use of clover, lime and manure. The farmers who have accomplished such results have aimed to save every pound of manure, and also to preserve it in the best manner. Lime is used extensively by those who know that lime is an essential ingredient of plants, and also because it is excellent for increasing the clover crop. Clover enriches the supply of nitrogen in the soil, hence lime and clover make an excellent combination.

Weighing the milk is the best means of registering the capabilities of a cow and her yield. If done one day each week, and noted down, the table so constructed will be a most efficient guide to the total quantity yielded, the rate of increase, the average or season's yield, the time of calving, the time of going dry, and the effects of particular food, etc., while a sudden decrease is the first symptom of any disease or trouble. Benefits can be derived from even a roughly-kept register of the produce.

A maple tree of eight or ten inches diameter, well formed and growthful, has on the average 25,000 leaves on it, and it is a safe computation to say that such a tree will throw off, in the space of every twelve hours, 340,000 grains weight of water. An acre will easily contain a large number of such trees, and as the weight of one pint of water is 7000 grains, tray weight, it may be found, upon calculation, that from a single acre of forest land, hundreds of gallons of pure water are thrown off and distributed through the body of the surrounding atmosphere in every twelve hours.

There are only a few countries where the grape will not, under certain conditions, grow and thrive, but there is no country in the world where all kinds of grapes will succeed. Species found in the lower latitudes will not flourish if removed farther north. The native of higher latitudes will not endure the Southern heat. The fox grape of the North will scarcely grow in the lower regions of California and Georgia, and the supperspicious seems confined to a limited region. A vine which produces delicious grapes in one place may become very inferior in the most apparently favored localities of other sections.

The first year of the colt's life should be fruitful of instruction. The colt will learn more easily when six months old than when a year old. It can also be controlled more easily. Hence it is wise to handle the colt early. Its early training should not stop with breaking to the halter. It should be handled until it will drive as well as lead. To teach it all this, and to keep it from forgetting what it has learned, is a little trouble, but if the colt is of good stock the trouble is well paid for. Practice a little common sense with the young stock and note the high rate of interest coming back to you as the result of the investments.

It does not pay to neglect hogs, keeping them with half enough to eat until a year or more old and then fattening them. The feed from the first should be liberal, and while growing the difference between that and fattening must be made by variety rather than quantity. Give a growing pig all that it will eat, of something that is bulky rather than concentrated. A clover field, or a run in an orchard, does this, and the variety is the great advantage of these methods of feeding. With the skim milk from a few cows, and a little meal, pigs will be nearly fat enough to kill at any time, and two or three weeks of corn will fit them for the butcher.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT. As long as there is anything to be done in a matter, the time for grieving about it has not come.—Sir A. Helms.

I have quoted more than once the title given to spinach by a renowned writer upon dietetics—"The Broom of the Human System." Its specific action is upon the blood. It is also a gentle laxative, and a solvent of biliary calculi, or gravel. I remark regretfully, in passing, that this invaluable green vegetable is more frequently maltreated in the cooking than any other that comes upon our table.

Empire styles are being hinted at for such widely differing sorts of things as raincoats, evening coats and lounging robes.

Don't get your raincoat too long. It only gets wet and muddy besides flapping around your ankles in a way conducive to your catching a heavy cold.

For the women who are wearing those wool coats come odd little looms to weave them on.

Lots of women are sewing away on shirt waists, getting them out of the way before they begin the regular fall sewing. And a significant point about those shirt waists is that they're more or more severe.

Chemisette styles bid fair to be good again this fall, but there's a rare difference in the chemisettes, for the exquisitely sheer little things, all lace and beading, or hand-work, are being replaced by severer styles—those of pique and of linen, the lighter weight linens laid in small pleats, being already here. With them are worn stiff little ties of black.

Embroidered ties promise to be wonderfully popular—that is, ties fashioned on the same lines as the small butterfly ties, but of heavy linen or pique, or that other form of pique that is like a fine honeycomb, embroidered heavily. The stiff little bow ties, of its mannishness through the embroidery, yet keeps the individuality of the severity of the style.

Some of these ties are embroidered as though a single great flower formed each end and some look when tied, as though the butterfly at each end were poised there. A few, of heavy linen, have broderie Anglaise ends; and a very few are of handkerchief linen or a sort of mull. But these last are too soft to carry out the tailor-made idea.

Broderie Anglaise has spread even to buttons, those on some of the embroidered shirtwaists echoing the main motif.

Girdle corsets haven't lost a bit of their popularity. They're the most comfortable corsets of all for a slender figure. The prettiest little new ones have come out, made of ribbon—satin, or a dull silk with tiny, shining dots thrown to the surface in some mysterious way in the weave.

Broderie Anglaise is shown with the newest of the fall blouse designs. And hand-embroidered blouses—and blouse patterns—are everywhere.

Hints of black coming strongly to the fore for fall and winter suits are becoming more definite each day. Black broadcloth suits are the most evident form of it as yet.

Ribbon ruffles on petticoats, although rather expensive, give splendid service. Some of the ribbon ruffles give opportunity to rid them of that one objectionable feature—their greater cost than silk.

Velvet ribbons are being worn with white blouses, and white linen skirts, and with lingerie blouses and white woolen skirts. Turquoise blue is first in favor, but white velvet is worn a great deal, and the lighter shades of violet.

The most stunning new petticoats have come out, more varied in style, and in more shades of colors as well. For there's a strong probability that silk petticoats will either match the suit or dress they're worn with or be part of a color scheme that will dominate all the accessories.

Are the new corsets going to bring fitted corset covers and chemises with them? Let us hope not; for nothing could be prettier than the little French styles.

Some of the new girdles show a reaction against the girle we've worn all summer. They are narrow in the back, no wider than a narrow belt, but are deep and pointed in front.

The shirt waist fever is on most of us, raging at its fiercest heat. Shirt waists are such staple things, so necessary to the average wardrobe, that they are usually fallen upon, tooth and nail, and got out of the way in early fall.

Batiste and handkerchief linen and the same sheer stuffs that are employed for making lingerie blouses are used for the tailiest sort of shirt waists, stiff, in the sense of severe, and trimmed only with tucks and pleats applied in the trimmest of ways. The result is a surprise to most of us, for the sheer stuffs conform to the stiffer styles and make stunning shirts.

Heavy linen shirt waists are being made up now, too, for winter wear, some of them severely plain and worn with the new stiff collars—a cross between stiff mannish collars and lingerie stocks that is charming.

And, of course, albatross—plenty of white ones, and plenty of colored ones, too—and voile and the whole wide range of light-weight woolen stuffs, with enough warmth in them for even the chilliest of us, are used. Some of them have attached collars; others are worn with embroidered collars and stiff little ties, or with plain collars and embroidered ties, or both tie and collar embroidered.

Everything in the class of shirt waists is made with some sort of a yoke. There's even a hint that we'll have the old ruffled shirt waists back again, those with the front-piece trimmed each side with a ruffle.

But the most tailored styles, so far, are, far and away, the best.

Close on the heels of shirt-waist suits are treading morning dresses—things not more dressy than shirt-waist suits, but indescribably different. It's the difference between something you think of as a whole and something that is a combination of two separate things.

Without Ceremony.

There is in Philadelphia a young architect who, though entitled by birth and breeding to enter the sacred precincts of Quaker City society, has always affected a supreme indifference to social distinction, even going so far as to evince a disinclination to observe the conventionalities.

This young man tells a good story on himself. It appears that when he had proposed to and been accepted by the young woman who is now his wife he began at once to talk of the wedding arrangements.

"We will," suggested the young man, "do without some of the ridiculous fuss and feather business of marriage. We will go away somewhere by ourselves, my dear. There will be no flourish, no cards, no ceremony!"

Whereupon the girl indignantly interrupted with this observation: "My dear, we may dispense with the flourish, but I shall certainly insist upon the ceremony!"—Harper's Weekly.

An Elephant's Strength.

Bombera was the name of a big elephant employed in the construction of a Ceylon dam. Bombera drew from the quarry the stone to be used, unfatigued the chain, rolled the block with her forehead along the narrow embankment and fitted it into its place. If it were not just even she would straighten it until it was right, and all more quickly that a stone mason would have done it and nearly as accurate. Once some visitors were watching the elephant when one of them asked if Bombera could break a large stone with a heavy sledge hammer which lay near by. The rest of the party exclaimed that it was too much to ask, but the mahout said quietly: "Bombera can do anything."

He gave a command, and the elephant swung up the hammer as if it were a feather and knocked the stone into bits.

"Now take your pipe and smoke it," continued the mahout.

The animal stuck the sledge hammer in her mouth and walked off as if enjoying a morning smoke.

A Doubtful Compliment.

"My dear, I have a great compliment for you," said the Boston man to his New York niece, who was paying a month's visit and attending many serious entertainments.

"A compliment?" and the pretty eyebrows were raised incredulously. "Yes," said her uncle cordially. "Professor Mildew said he noticed you particularly at the reception Monday afternoon, and he thought you had a most intelligent face."

"There, aunty," said the frivolous young person, turning reproachful eyes on her relative. "I told you I looked like a perfect frump in that brown dress, but you said I didn't. You see what he thought, don't you? He couldn't think of another thing to say."—Youth's Companion.

Low Rates to California.

Via Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

On a number of days this summer low round-trip rates to California points are offered via the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway. Liberal return limits and stop-over privileges. Two through trains every day from Union Station, Chicago, via Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Union Pacific Line. The Overland Limited leaves 6:05 p. m., and makes the run to San Francisco in less than three days. The California Express, at 10:25 p. m., carries through tourist as well as standard sleeping cars, and the berth rate for tourist sleeper is only \$7. Complete information regarding rates, routes and train service sent on request. Colorado-California Book sent for six cents postage. Folders free. John R. Pott, District Passenger Agent, Room D, Park Bldg., Pittsburg, Pa.

Low Rates to Colorado.

Only \$30 Chicago to Colorado and return every day this summer. Return limit October 31st. Two through trains every day from Union Station, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Union Pacific Line. Leave Chicago 6:05 p. m., arrive at Denver 9:30 p. m. next day. Or, leave Chicago 10:25 p. m., arrive at Denver 7:50 a. m. the second day. Descriptive book on Colorado and California sent to any address for six cents postage. Folders free. John R. Pott, district passenger agent, room D, Park Building, Pittsburg, Pa.

Milton Fair.

On account of the Milton Driving Park Association Fair at Milton, Pa., October 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, the Pennsylvania Railroad company will sell on these dates from Belleville, Lock Haven, East Bloomsburg, Mt. Carmel, Millersburg, Middleburg, and intermediate stations at rate of single fare for the round trip (minimum rate, 25 cents). Tickets good going and returning only on date of issue.

During the continuance of the fair, trains leaving Williamsport at 8:25 a. m., 12:35 and 4:00 p. m., and Sunbury at 9:42 a. m., 1:13 and 5:10 p. m., will stop at the fair grounds. 37-24

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Mark Twain has had this little verse out in the modest block of marble which marks the resting place of his wife in Woodland cemetery, Elmira, New York: Warm summer sun, Shine kindly here, Warm Southern wind, Green sod above, Lie light, lie light, Good night, dear heart, Good night, good night. —Harper's Weekly.

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