

Democratic Watchman

Belleville, Pa., July 20, 1906.

FARM NOTES.

Charcoal for pigs has been found highly beneficial. When confined in pens pigs will consume coal, ashes, rotten wood and even soil bricks. This is due to the lack of certain elements in the food, usually mineral matter. Charcoal serves as a corrector, and may be used freely.

Some farmers prefer to spread their manure in the fall, before the ground becomes frozen. If this is done the ground should be plowed and the manure spread on the surface, following with a roller. The matter of spring or fall plowing depends, however, upon the soil and the liability of loss by washings from rains.

The seed of crimson clover is bright reddish yellow in color and has a high polish. It is larger than the seed of red clover. This is the character of good seed. When it has turned brown it is no longer to be relied upon. The home-grown seed is to be preferred to that imported from across the water.

Silage in its fermentation produces an acid that is powerful in its effects on the cement used in silos. If the silage is made from too green corn the amount of acid is large and its effects on the silage very noticeable. One way to offset this is to apply a coat of this cement each season, putting it on with a brush. This requires little labor and time.

We raised a nice flock of Pekin ducks last year. We kept them shut up while they were small in board pens about 13 inches high, says a Pennsylvania farmer. Feed meal, shorts and bran mixture with one-tenth sand with plenty of grass and planaria. I shipped to Pittsburg, Pa., 90 cents each for them in the fall. There was a good profit in them.

The canton of Geneva, Switzerland, has forbidden the importation of rooted American grapevines, whether grafted or not; scions will be permitted entry, after passing inspection. This prohibition is due to fear of phylloxera. Geneva has 4,600 acres of grapevines; the adjoining Canton de Vaud, with 17,000 acres of grapes also prohibits American grapevines.

In clearing off a piece of new ground, where the trees are not larger than a man's arm, labor may be saved by cutting the saplings four feet from the ground. Then fasten a six-foot chain near the top, hitch a team of horses to it, and let them pull the stump out. Try this way, urges the Farm Journal, just after a long rain, when the land is loose. It's surprising how easily the stumps come out.

This group of corn varieties is most largely grown in the northern part of the United States, where the seasons are so short that the slower maturing Dent varieties cannot be depended on to mature before the killing frosts come. Flint corn is very firm, and a hundred pounds of shelled flint corn contains more dry matter than a hundred pounds of Dent corn. Many of the varieties have but eight rows of kernels on an ear.

The yield of silage varies considerably with the distance of planting. Close planting gives the largest yield, but tends to produce a weak stalk, which makes the crop difficult to cut and harvest. Three feet is probably the most desirable distance to plant sorghum, corn, and corn and sorghum. If planted more than two feet apart, the yield will be decreased; whereas, if planted in two-foot rows, the cost of cultivation will be greater.—Tennessee Station.

Many varieties of potatoes come and go, and but for the introduction of new varieties, potatoes would soon be scarce. This is due to careless selection of seed. All the tubers of a crop are sold for seed, when only the best should be selected. If only the largest tubers from the thriftest and strongest plants were retained for seed there would be an improvement in the old varieties instead of deterioration in quality. But as long as seed potatoes bring good prices there will be both good and inferior seed used.

There is a large field for the farmer to work over in order to find out what the receipts and expenses are. The farmer knows the price he received for his butter, but he may not know the cost. It is not difficult to arrive at an estimate of the cost of any article if accounts are kept. Progressive farmers keep an account with each animal, weighing their food and charging therefore. Even the fields are entered in a book and accounts kept with them. It is extra work, but it is the only way to know what the farm is doing.

The best practice is to let cows get to the water as often as they like. This is not always practicable in winter, but they should be watered at least twice a day. If the water is warm, that is, heated so that the chill is taken off, they will be glad to drink twice daily, even during the coldest of weather. There is no question as to the value of warm water for dairy cows. The animals drink more, the production of milk is not checked by the animal being compelled to drink ice water, and the return at the pail is much greater than when heating of water is neglected.

Very few, if any, mature cows are dehorned at this station, since the growth of horns is prevented by the application of potash while the calves are young. The use of potash for this purpose has proved very successful and satisfactory. We believe that dehorned cows are much more easily and safely handled, and it is certain that they are less likely to injure each other than are cows that have horns. We can see no reason why any dairy cow that is to be kept with other cows should have horns. De-horning is practiced by many Ohio dairy-men. We have no objection at this station.—B. E. Carmichael, Ohio Experiment Station.

Summer plowing will answer well on ground that has long been in sod, and which has been turned under in the spring. Such land is usually planted to corn or potatoes, and the frequent use of the cultivator keeps the ground loose and promotes decay of the sod. But potatoes for any early stock are harvested as soon as possible, which leaves the soil not only rough, but in excellent condition for weeds. By plowing the soil after the potatoes are off it will be reduced to a finer condition, the weeds will be destroyed and the second crop of weeds retarded, so that by the time the land should be gotten ready for wheat (when it should be plowed again) the seed-bed for wheat can be harrowed down fine and nice, while all the weeds will not only have been destroyed, but prevented from seeding.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who know me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower, where I thought a flower would grow.—Abraham Lincoln.

The average purchaser of wall paper and upholstery materials is keener about novelty than about beauty. It is to supply the demand for novelty in wall paper that complicated ways of putting up the paper are devised.

Patterns of white stripes of alternating moire and floral designs are now used, surrounded by borders of the same flowers used on the stripes. They are cut out on the edges, so that the separate roses, for instance, project over the panel.

Then there are panels of more impressive character, intended to be used in drawing or dining rooms. In a small room effects of this kind may be created without a great expenditure of money.

One rather dark dining room in an up-town apartment house has a large thibet waistcoat of what looks like black oak with a fringe of old tapestry. Both are of paper; but the shaded candles on the walls give the room a look of antique beauty that is very charming.

The wall paper most in demand is the old-fashioned Colonial picture paper. These old scenes of country or sporting life, so much coveted that they are even taken off the walls of old houses and high prices are paid for them. The process of removing them is costly of itself. For the paper covering only one side of a room in an old Deerfield house \$700 was paid and that did not include the cost of removal. In spite of the great demand for these papers, there has been no attempt to reproduce them. They are likely to be always a little too expensive to grow very common.

The present rage of empty rooms has led people to take a new view of wall paper. It is no longer looked on as a decoration, except for rooms that are to be without pictures or other ornamentation on the walls.

Where pictures are to be hung plain paper or papers with very small and inconspicuous designs are used. The papers of vivid colors and large, wriggling patterns, which began to appear a score of years ago, to the demoralization of public taste and the power to make every room look like an inflated parlor car, have fortunately had their day. Plain papers are now selected as a background, and not to be ornamental or decorative themselves. When fancy papers are selected they are the main decoration of the walls.

Persons of moderate means who live in flats are chiefly interested in getting all they can for the meager sum the landlord allows for decoration. Yet few of them are willing to take the advice of specialists in wall paper decoration and furnish their apartments entirely with one paper or with two shades of the same color.

The sense of space this plan gives to the average apartment cannot be understood by those who have not seen the effect. In the common case of a drawing room, dining room and alcove together, as these rooms are arranged in many flats, there is a remarkable difference when all are done in the same paper; but the old fondness for a green parlor and a red dining room is not to be overcome immediately.

In selecting a single color for an entire apartment it is best to fix on a neutral tint, a gray cream or yellow, light olive or light brown. There are shades to which almost any draperies may be suited. The color may be supplied by the hangings. The draperies may be in contrast or in more vivid shades of the cardinal color.

A cartridge waver scarcely wears well enough for use in halls or bedrooms, it may be reserved for the parlor and setting room. A paper of the same shade with a small design may be used for the rest of the apartments.

A very bold effect in such a combination is the manner of decorating her apartment that a very youthful matron recently adopted. She had her dining room and drawing room, which adjoined, papered in a cream white cartridge paper. This was not too good for the only drapery used in the two rooms was cherry colored brocade silk. This hung at the windows of both rooms and the portieres were made of it.

The hall and the bedroom walls were covered with a paper that showed on a thin lattice against a cream colored background crimson roses in clusters. This was, of course, a decoration for only young faces; and, charming as it was, there is little likelihood that it would not have grown tiresome after a while.

The tenant of the apartment was careful not to hang any pictures on the walls. The variety that she gave to the three separate bedrooms came from drapery. It was made to match some tint in the paper. One room had light green, the color of the lattice; a second a deep cream, like the background of the paper and the third a green that exactly matched the leaves on the flowers.

More enduring, and undoubtedly more suited to the abode of older persons, was an apartment with its two principal rooms papered in a cartridge combination of pale gray and pale yellow. The same shades were used on the hall and bedrooms in a paper of undefined Japanese pattern.

The color was supplied by the draperies in all but the drawing room. They were the same color as the yellow walls. Contrast was supplied in the other rooms by red, blue and old rose hangings in cotton goods and cretonnes.

Such a scheme of color would never grow wearisome, while the pink and white might soon pall on those compelled to see it all the time.

The fashions in upholstery goods change and so do the forms in which they are made up. The most conspicuous change in the fashions of upholstery this year was the return of the lambrequin or valance.

This was in a way a blessing to those persons who wanted to adopt old draperies to new surroundings.

The new style lambrequin is not a very pretentious affair in comparison with its predecessor of 30 years ago. The valance for a small room should not be more than eight inches deep. It may be perfectly straight or cut into the shape of a shield at the centre.

The new silk and cloth material called armure looks especially well made up for window curtains in this style. The only ornamentation on the valance is a guimp about the edges. This is made of silk and of the same color. Sometimes there is a strip of guimp down the inside edge of each curtain, but that is not so common.

The same fashion is used for cretonnes, in which case the valance is always edged with cotton guimp made up in the various colors in the design of the cretonne. The guimp down the front is seen frequently on these cretonne curtains, but it is not so necessary there as on the valance.

When Cod Become Blind.

Several large cod are kept in one of the tanks of the Amsterdam aquarium, necessarily near the surface and therefore exposed to a strong light from above. Now, the cod, though not a deep sea fish, is not a surface swimmer and lives at depths where the sunlight must be very much modified by passage through the water. It lives in what to us would be semidarkness. Every one of these cod exposed to the strong light is suffering from an extraordinary hypertrophy of the eye. The whole organ has become overgrown, as if in the effort to adjust itself to the use of more light rays it had become overequipped and then useless. The cod, in fact, are blind. The most interesting feature in this change is the extraordinary rapidity with which increased supply of light rays has overdeveloped the organ for its use. It has taken place not by slow degrees from individual to individual, but in a course of time to be measured by months and in every individual in the tank. If this example is a measure of the rapidity with which such changes take place among fishes, the adaptation of those creatures which have migrated from the shallow waters of the deep seas, shown by the total loss or enormous development of their eyes and the growth of illuminating organs to light the abyss, may have been as rapid as it is marvelous.—London Spectator.

A Hotbed of Violence.

The island of Sardinia is a hotbed of violence. The "Granary of Rome" resists the softening influences of civilization and remains with many of the peculiarities which distinguished it in the middle of the last century. "In the country," writes a traveler of that time, "the men are clothed in goatskins, one before and another behind, without breeches, shoes or stockings, and a woollen or skin cap on the head. The peasants always go armed to defend themselves from one another, for they are all robbers and assassins, so that traveling in the interior is extremely unsafe without an escort, and it is even dangerous for ships to send their people on shore for water unless they are well armed. In short, the Sardinians are the Malays of the Mediterranean."—London Chronicle.

A Leopard Collar.

"A leopard collar," he said, taking up a dog collar studded with sharp spikes three inches long. Fitting the collar on his dog, he resumed: "This piece of armor—for that is what it is—illustrates an oddity of the Himalayas—namely, the fondness of the Himalayan leopard for dog flesh. In the Himalayas last year I found that all dogs wore these murderous looking spiked collars. The explanation was that the Himalayan leopards conducted an unceasing dog hunt, and that in attacking a dog they always fell upon his neck. This collar with its sharp spikes is a great protection. It has saved many a dog from a hungry leopard. Often in the Himalayas a dog comes trotting home safe and sound, though with smears of blood and yellow hairs upon his collar spikes."

Names and the Law.

Speaking generally, the law of England allows a person to assume and use any name, provided its use is not calculated to deceive or inflict pecuniary loss. So the court of appeals laid down the law in Dockrell against Dougall, and this attitude of the law, the Law Journal remarks, is characteristic of our British love of liberty. French law is much more strict. It forbids any citizen to bear any name other than that which is expressed in the registry of his birth or to add any surname to his proper name. German law is the same, only it goes a little further in imposing a penalty on any one giving a false name to an official.—Dundee Advertiser.

Guns.

The Germans were the inventors of the first gun. About 1378 Schwartz, a German mechanist, manufactured numerous crude guns which were brought into use by the Venetians in 1392. It is a strange fact that cannon were made before small firearms. At Amberg there is still a piece of ordnance marked with the date 1303. Cannon were first used in war at the battle of Crecy, in 1346. It was not until 1544,

however, that they were made in England.

Well Turned.

"How old are you?" asked the insurance agent of the lady. It was thoughtless of him, and her indignant "Sir!" brought him straightway to his senses.

"Of course, you will understand," he went on, "that we have to be careful about making contracts. I merely wished to assure myself that you are legally of age."

Equally Ignorant.

The author of "Reminiscences of a Country Politician" once asked a laborer in an English village how old he was.

"I be just the same age as the queen," he said. "It be either a fortnight older or a fortnight younger. I don't rightly know which, and I don't suppose her knows either."

A Witty Forlornity.

A forlorn looking man said, "I've tried everything that I could turn my hand to, but couldn't make anything answer, and now I have decided to go up among the hills, where they say there's a wonderful echo, to see if I can make that answer."

"Sir," said Dr. Johnson to a friend, commenting upon a widower who remarked, though his wedded life had been unhappy, "it is triumph of hope over experience."

Brought to Book at Last.

Tibbie was a Scotch lass, hardworking and comely. She ruled over a grateful and suppressed family of New Englanders for eight years, and then announced her intention of marrying within six weeks.

"I suppose it is Rab whom you mean to marry, Tibbie?" asked her nominal mistress, referring to a tall, mild faced young Scotchman who had spent more or less time in Tibbie's spotless kitchen for the last three years.

"It is," announced Tibbie calmly. "Here he's been coming and sitting 'til me all these times and never a word of marrying. So at long last I said to him, 'If you've no mind to take me, Rab, ye can just say so, and I'll spend me more on bright ribbons to sit up 'til ye, but I'll tak' my money to buy one of those talking machines that plays tunes, after I've paid for a strip of new oilcloth to cover the floor where you've worn out the old one, and then I'll tak' my religious books and settle down in quiet.'"

"Rabbin was so concerned at my dear prospects and the thoughts of my savings he said he would ha'e me whenever I got ready."

"Hardup is a bad egg," "Yes, and the worst of it is he's generally broke."

Medical.

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