

Democrat Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., August 23, 1907.

FARM NOTES.

—Barn the tent caterpillars with a torch.
—You can't out pear blight too quickly.
—Vetch is growing in favor as a plant for green manuring.
—Excessive sweating on the part of the horse is a sign of weakness.
—Try chalk and charcoal for lambs suffering from acidity of the stomach.
—Start with a few sheep and let that few be of the best. Other kinds don't pay.

—Amber, which is nothing but fossilized rosin, is found quite extensively in the island of Santo Domingo. The chief European source of the product is Königsberg, on the Baltic coast.

—It costs more to feed ducklings than chicks, but the ducklings will grow twice as fast. A duckling of the Pekin breed should weigh five pounds when six weeks old, while a chick will seldom reach two pounds at the same age.

—Now and then you will find a fellow who has hogs and cattle by the score in the feed lot who is so tight fisted that he can't afford to take the home paper for his wife and children. As a rule, this kind are likely to be neither good neighbors nor good citizens.

—One locality in Indiana derives a handsome revenue from the culture of peppermint, having 1,000 acres devoted to the raising of this plant. Another district just across the line in Michigan is engaged in the culture of the plant on an even more extensive scale.

—There are two things, among others, that we have never been able to account for touching the bovine family—why a cow will drink paint every time she gets a chance and why a calf will chew off and eat a horse's tail. Any light on these questions will be thankfully received.

—Any soil that will produce ordinary farm crops should 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. Make the soil fine and mellow by repeated harrowing, and use manures liberally.

—When corn is fed to pigs it will bring nearly twice as much as when sold by the bushel. Nothing should be sold off the farm that can be turned into something more valuable, or which can be marketed in a more concentrated form. It is transportation charges that largely reduce the profit.

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

—It is better to dilute liquid manure with water, for the reason that the water partially prevents loss of ammonia, and also because urine is too strong for ordinary plants. An excellent mode of treating urine, or liquid manure of any kind, is to add twice its bulk of water, then add a round of kaint to four gallons of the mixture.

—In view of the fact that the shrinkage in the milk flow as a result of flies and short feed in August is seldom made up, it is well to lay plans now for a clover pasture or patch of sweet corn to tide the dairy herd over this trying time. Plant the patch as near as possible to the feed lot where the cows can be fed conveniently and abundantly.

—No one who desires to protect his crops against insects should object to birds getting a small share. A young robin consumes 40 per cent. of animal food more than its own weight in 12 hours in its first stages. A pair of robins having a nest of young ones, perform a vast amount of work in a season, as each pair will sometimes raise two broods.

—Treen, flowers and shrubbery add much to the value of the house, but it is better not to set out plants for ornamentation if they are not to be cared for, as a neglected farm is a very unsightly spectacle. A farm surrounded with vines and flowers will sell when a better farm, but not so well ornamented, will not find a purchaser. Paint and whitewash also add largely to the attractiveness of a farm.

—Canna roots should be kept in the cellar. They can stand cold well, provided they are in a dry location, but moisture will seriously injure them. Put the roots in the ground after danger of frost is over in the spring. The canna is a beautiful plant, and the more rapid its growth and larger the plant the better, hence the ground for the roots should be well prepared and manure used liberally.

—The finest and softest wool is always on the shoulders of sheep. An expert in judging sheep always looks at the wool on the shoulders first. Assuming that the wool to be inspected is really fine, the shoulders are first examined as part where the finest wool is to be found, which is taken as a standard and is compared to the wool from the ribs, the thigh, the rump and the shoulder parts, and the nearer the wool from the various portions of the animal approaches the standard the better.

—Several hundred new varieties of strawberries have been introduced within the past five years, and each has had its share of praise until the amateur is confused. Failure with certain kinds is because all varieties do not thrive alike under the same conditions. Some will give better results on light soil than on heavy, some produce more runners than others, and some will not thrive except on moist soils. The beginner should endeavor to select a variety that has been tested in his neighborhood with good results. Strawberry plants may be set out in the fall, though the spring season is usually preferred.

—One of the most neglected crops after the harvest is over is the blackberry. Perhaps no crop entails so little labor in proportion to the revenue derived therefrom, yet it will pay to keep the canes free from weeds and grass, and to apply fertilizer as well. When a portion of the canes have been winter killed a good crop may be obtained from the remainder if the canes received good treatment the previous year, but as a rule the canes are left until it becomes time to cut them. Many blackberry fields that have borne good crops year after year and then begin to fail and die out are simply yielding to starvation and neglect.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

That best portion is a good man's life—His little, nameless, unremembered acts Of kindness and of love.

—Wordsworth.

To wear with white dresses the embroidered belt in heavy white linen is in very general favor. It launders as easily as a pocket handkerchief and is decidedly pleasing.

The whole question of belts, however, is a very important one when the washing frock is worn, and it is not too much to say that its effect may be made or marred by the belt. For white frocks the white kid belts fastened with oxidized or gilt buckles are very pretty, too, as indeed are the magpie-like bands in black and white kid.

For rougher and readier wear the fancy leather ones are suitable, and these can be matched to the prevailing color scheme of the gown.

Great care should be taken in adjusting the belt that it really insures the neatness of the waist, for the band bodice is always more or less of a problem to keep tidy. Some of the high-waisted effects in muslin frocks may be very prettily emphasized by a soft satin sash—made into a band, not tied—with a bow and very long ends. If buckles are worn they should be very large, and these can be adjusted, be it noted, on silk elastic waistbands with good effect. With the bolero or Eton coat, a neat waist is de rigueur, and this should, with such a style of dress, be one of our first preoccupations.

The belt up to date is, however, so wide that it is comparatively easy to confine the skirt satisfactorily under its ample band. Folded waist-belts of material, unless made in some very soft fabric, are to be deprecated as clumsy, but the choice offered us is so wide that it is possible to suit all tastes in this important particular.

The average woman prefers to arrange the flowers on her own table.

The greatest mistake which can be made however is that of providing no change of vases and flowers during the day; few things being more out of taste than the practice of ornamenting the breakfast table with the floral arrangements of the preceding night, which always somehow gives the impression that the cloth, with its wine stains and crumbs, has not been lifted since it was used for dinner.

A separate array of simple glasses or china bowls, filled with ferns and such flowers as will readily survive the night without fading, are the best, few men or maid servants having sufficient time before breakfast to go over the vases, so as to weed out dead flowers.

Fresh flowers—simply arranged, unless for a party—should always be provided for luncheon, the chief novelties in the matter of arrangement and the best blooms being, of course, reserved for dinner-time, where fashion demands a novel scheme each successive night on which the house party assembles.

Perhaps there is no more difficult art than that of arranging the veil, and the fact that the French woman considers the time passed in practicing its proper adjustment as well spent is probably one of the reasons why she excels the women of every other nation in this matter.

This season, however, she has had everything in her favor, the new veils being cut in such a manner that the difficulties of adjustment over the large cloche hats are reduced to a minimum. The upper part is carefully curved, the back of the veil being considerably wider than the front, so that there will be no over fullness on crown and brim, and the fabric will fall into the right folds, the edge just reaching to the shoulders. To put it on in exactly the same manner each time means a long and serious business, many women having it carefully arranged by the milliner in the first instance, and practicing on a spare veil and hat.

Not that a veil is necessary. Indeed, women have never worn fewer veils.

It is as well not to blink facts; black stockings are banished to the farthest outposts of fashion's realm, and colored ones have arrived instead.

They, too, are autocratic, demanding as they do for their completely pretty setting colored footwear, not altogether so perhaps, but of a color mingled with black. That is why we find black patent leather goshawks with gray, fawn, green, ruby and even purple "uppers" worn with hoisery of the tints mentioned. And yet another mandate of the mode: the "uppers" must be made of suede or chamois leather, not of kid.

Now, with the white toilets what colors look well? I am all for either mahogany or cedar when the wearer is the happy possessor of a clear complexion, damaek cheeks and bright brown or ruddy hair. It is an uncommon and wonderfully successful amalgamation of charms. Empire green is good, and purple is the most modish choice of the moment.

The white must be pure if violet be its companion, and though ivory and cream are permissible, it is still the really blanché shade that with color looks most delightful. Corset, too, is always acceptable at the seaside in the company of white.

Gray and white is the favorite excursion into novelty of the ultra-fashionably garbed woman at present. I have left a discussion of its charms until this juncture in order that they may be given their due emphasis.

How to mix Mustard—Housewives who do not already know of the following way to mix their mustard should try it, and they will be more than pleased with the result: Mix to a thin paste with vinegar; then add (say to an ordinary mustard portion) half a teaspoonful each of sugar and salt; mix well. This greatly adds to the flavor of the mustard.

A light dish for an invalid—Take any remains of cold boiled fowl and minced add two or three tablespoonsful of minced ham; season with pepper and salt, a little cayenne (if liked), one dessertspoonful of chopped parsley. Mix with a little white sauce to make it nice and moist, and make a very hot. Make some rounds of buttered toast and spread the mixture on, and serve very hot. This is a very suitable dish for an invalid.

For raspberry jam—Put the fruit into a pan, and bruise with back of wooden spoon. When they have come to the boil, let them continue to simmer for half an hour. Add then half their weight in sugar, and after this is melted, boil till jam has set. Skim carefully, or the jam will not be clear looking.

Sin and Sickness.

If there were no sin there would be no sickness, for sin is the "transgression of law," and sickness is the punishment of that transgression. Nature accepts no excuse. She punishes the malicious law breaker no more harshly than she punishes the little child who breaks the law in ignorance. And yet suffering through ignorance appeals pathetically to the human heart. It is sad to see the young woman suffering in consequence of ignorance, her body racked with pain. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription comes as a God-send to those, who through ignorance, have allowed disease to fasten on the delicate womanly organs. It always helps. It almost always cures.

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