

Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., December 2, 1910.

FARM NOTES.

—The young trees should be cut back about one-third of the new growth. This is a good time to do that work.

—Honey improves with age. The older it is the finer the flavor. Extracted honey is much easier kept than comb, as the latter is liable to get soiled, and must be kept in tight cases.

—Wood ashes may be applied at the rate of 25 to 50 bushels, 1000 to 2000 pounds, to the acre. One ton of good wood ashes will contain about 140 pounds of potash and 40 pounds of phosphoric acid. Spring is the best time to apply the ashes.

—The strawberry plants should be covered—best with sawdust, as it need not be removed in the spring. If this cannot be obtained, leaves will do, lightly scattered over and held in place with the clippings from old raspberry canes or small brush.

—Mulching is a law in horticulture, cannot do too much of it. When planting trees or shrubs they should be mulched, preferably with coal ashes. Leaves and straw will do, provided there is a sprinkling of poison put in to keep the mice from doing mischief.

—It is a good plan to hill up the currant bushes and gooseberry bushes and leave the mounds through the winter. To allow them to remain down in spring, provided they are taken down in spring, the roots too high, and gradually the plants will be worked out of the soil.

—The potash in ashes exists in a readily soluble form, and is thus immediately available for plant food. Ashes also contain a little magnesia and a considerable amount of carbonate of lime, which is of some importance because of its effect in improving the texture of heavy soils.

—An old farm is not necessarily a poor farm. There are farms in Europe that have been cultivated for 150 years and are producing larger crops than when first brought under cultivation. Old farms should be rich farms, because there is ample time building them up.

—Sifted coal ashes absorb liquids, fix volatile ammonia, prevent offensive odors and are valuable as absorbents under hen roosts or in stables. Wood ashes should not be placed under hen roosts nor in stables, because potash liberates the manure and the ashes as fertilizer is deteriorated.

—Concerning the use of wood ashes as fertilizer, Professor A. M. Ten Eyck says an average sample of unleached wood ashes contains 7 per cent. potash and 2 per cent. phosphoric acid, which at current retail prices of these plant foods makes wood ashes worth about 5 cents per 100 pounds, or \$9 per ton.

—Those who have not begun the compost system should begin it at once. Accumulate all the coal ashes, old rubbish, autumn leaves, stray heaps of dirt, old sod, old mortar and lime. Have convenient places about the farm where such piles can be built up in layers with barnyard manure. Turn this over later in the fall or early winter, and distribute where needed.

—Wolf has accurately compared the digestive powers of horses and sheep, and has found that sheep digest grass and hay better than horses do. There is a good deal of difference as regards details, but the net result is about 12 per cent. in favor of the sheep. Red clover is found to be more economically disposed of by horses than meadow hay, a fact confirmed by practical use. But, still less so than sheep, but good lactate is practically equally good for either class of stock.

—It is none too early to think about building an ice house. Ice is a great luxury in summer, and as much or even more so than in the cities or towns. An ice house should be so constructed as to have a double wall or air space surrounding that portion above ground, and the cost of such will be but little compared with the protection afforded. There should also be double doors. It is not difficult to keep ice in a building above ground if the double walls are used and the ice securely packed.

—The quantity of water required by a cow must be enormous when the cow yields largely. Some cows have given as much as 60 quarts of milk a day, and as milk is largely composed of water, and water is also used by the animal for other purposes than that of entering into the composition of milk, some estimate may be made of the amount she may require. Water is in all kinds of foods, however, especially in grass and green materials, but it is at all times necessary that a plentiful supply be provided.

—Agricultural science has so thoroughly investigated the San Jose, or Chinese, scale that better and more successful methods of fighting the enemy are now in use. The deadly work of the scale is upon the trunk, limbs and branches of the tree, extending to the leaves and fruit when the family of lice becomes abundant. The insects suck the juices of the plant, and in this way do the injury, first by merely checking the growth, but finally by killing the branches and twigs, resulting in death of the tree.

The San Jose scale (house) is small, of gray color, and is described as being circular in outline, somewhat convex, and with a nipple-like prominence in the center.

—Bees can endure dry cold, but not dampness. More bees are lost in wintering than by disease. Lack of ventilation is the cause of dampness in many hives. The use of foundation save a great deal of time and labor to the bees. Comb cast the bees about 10 pounds of honey for every pound of comb. Bees should not be moved during the winter, nor should they be disturbed or molested in any way. The worst enemy to empty combs in winter is mice; if allowed access to them they will destroy them. If colonies are found short of provisions during the winter they may be supplied with food in the shape of candy. Bees seldom, if ever, take a fly while there is much snow on the ground. If they are in a proper condition they will not fly at all. Heavy snows should be allowed to remain about the hives just as it fell, even if it covers the hives entirely. One result of disturbing the bees in winter is that it causes them instinctively to fill themselves with honey, and as a result they become unhealthy.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

"If I could once lay down myself, And start self-purged upon the race! God harden me against myself, This coward with pathetic voice, Who craves for ease, and rest, and joys."

These points tell the way the wind blows and just as practical hints let me give a resume of the main lines along which fashion is leading us.

First of all the greatest width of the figure is at the shoulders. The exaggerated narrow skirt that came as a great surprise to us is not accepted by the best dressed women. Even now there is an effort to introduce fullness at the back by means of a broad box plait, stitched down to the hip line. But the lines of the skirt are straight.

Another distinctive feature is that nearly all skirts except on elaborate evening gowns, are short. They are far from graceful, and no one can deny their comfort and their safety from a hygienic standpoint. The short skirt is peculiarly adapted to the quaint fashions of a century or so ago.

In coats, the favorite length for suits is "finger-length" or about twenty-six inches. Sleeves show little or no fullness at the top and are finished with a cuff of the material, moire, or velvet. On many there is a suggestion of the high waistline at the back.

Then every coat and skirt should have a blouse to match them in color. Of satin, net, or chiffon with trimmings of velvet and cut bands of the material, these are capable of making a one-piece gown.

The fashion for coats is about divided into two parts this year. There is a single-breasted affair that buttons from waist to neck, and there is the other kind that fastens to the bust and is finished with revers and turnover collar. The former keeps the chest warm; the latter does not.

It is a problem to many women how to keep the exposed part of the chest warm enough on cold days. It is no longer the custom to wear blouses of heavy material. We have adopted the thin waist with its little turnover collar or transparent chemisette as a steady, everyday garment.

The woman who wears a fur piece close against her neck does not have to think twice about selecting a coat that opens to the bust. She can wear any kind of blouse, for the fur gives sufficient warmth; but the majority of women object to fur against the neck. It overheats a tender part of the body, and almost invariably leads to colds and throat trouble. Just what can be done is the question most women are asking of each other.

The best idea has been brought out in French coats, and is being copied here by women who have a talent for doing such things at home. A wide bias band of corduroy or velveteen is doubled and interlined if one wishes extreme warmth. The ends are twice the width of the middle part. A man's cravat can be taken as a good pattern.

This little affair is then glove clamped into the coat under the collar against the cloth. It is attached again at the collarbone. This keeps it taut and smooth. Where it crosses just below the collar of the blouse it is caught with a scarf pin.

This protects the chest and does not overheat the throat. If the weather becomes mild these scarfs can be lifted from the coat without any trouble. Another point in its favor is that a woman can have three or four made for one suit, so that she can vary the color scheme as she pleases.

It is a good scheme to match one's hat or the trimming on it with these little bias arrangements. It is just such small evidences of thought in a garment that give it catch. The fashion has brought about the use of artistic scarf pins among women.

Few of these are handsome unless they are borrowed from one's husband or brother, because the haberdasher and even the jewelers offer all manner of curious stones and quaint settings for the purpose. The woman who uses a brooch or a bar pin to hold these neckpieces together makes a mistake.

Anyone who wants something warmer than corduroy or velvet can make these neckpieces out of short lengths of fur. If one does not own such there are places where skins can be bought.

There is a wide assortment of what is known as semiprecious pelts of common animals. These sell at small prices and can be transformed into snappy looking accessories. The woman should choose the smooth pelt rather than the long-haired one, as fashion favors the former.

It has even gone so far as to put the seal of second class upon sable, although the majority of the women will pay little attention to such a verdict.

Another material that is used for these snappy waistcoats is soft French felt. This is cut in one small piece strip, not double, and is lined with chamamois. It needs a barbie scarf pin to hold it together. It should match the hat in color, and therefore carry out a harmonious color scheme.

If the hat and suit are black then these cravats should be of bright and becoming colors. Any of the good shades of violet or red or copper go well with black, and give quite a fetching effect to a sombre costume.

A Musical Party.—It is a novel and pleasant way of entertaining a party of friends.

The guests are invited to come, each bringing a musical instrument, and dressed in a costume to match.

The bearer of a zither wore a Greek costume. Two made up as colored minstrels brought a guitar and a banjo.

Then there were Scotchmen with bagpipes, a Spanish gypsy with a tambourine, a funny little Dutch couple wearing wooden clogs, with flutes, and others equally interesting.

For a joke one of the men invited to such a party given recently brought with him a real hand-organ man with a monkey, to give a touch of "local color." The man and the monkey added much to the general mirth for a few moments, and left with a generous supply of coppers and food.

The refreshments are served in the form of musical instruments, and the favors are all candy boxes in the same shapes, filled with bon-bons.

While black is the first choice for the winter, after long experience with all colors, golden brown is a favorite.

The Only Time That Old John Jacob Sold Real Estate.

"One of the most stringent real estate rules of the Astor family is 'never sell,' and only one sale is recorded in the entire life of old John Jacob Astor," said Niles F. Watkins, a real estate broker of New York. "In 1830 Astor tore down his house in Broadway, cleared the whole block from Vesey to Barclay street and built the huge Quincey granite hotel known as the Astor House, which was one of the first notable landmarks in New York and also one of the best paying pieces of property.

"A few days after it was finished the old gentleman and his eldest son, William, were walking through City Hall park, where the postoffice now stands, and stopped a moment to admire the building, the finest hotel in America at that time.

"Pop, that's a mighty fine building," said William. "I wish to gracious it was mine."

"So?" answered the father. "Well, Billy, give me \$1 and you can have it." "Out came the dollar—a big silver dollar that is cherished by the family to this day—and within an hour the deed of the property was made out and recorded. "This was old Mr. Astor's only sale of real estate in his life."—Washington Herald.

A Solomon-like Decision.

A Rhode Island Justice was called upon to determine the ownership of a brood of turkeys. The flock, consisting of fifteen young ones, was mothered by two hens, a white one and a bronze, and had been running for quite a time over two adjoining farms. The owner of the white hen declared that the turkeys were his, while the man who owned the bronze hen asserted just as positively that they belonged to him. The justice was puzzled. At last a witness came forward who swore that he had seen a dog chase the flock; that at the dog's approach the young birds flew up into a tree and the bronze hen took to the woods, but the white hen turned and gave battle to the dog. The justice thereupon decided that the owner of the white hen was also the rightful owner of the brood of young turkeys.—New York Press.

A Woman's Wit.

The husband of Lydia Childs was an invalid for many years. He was not well off in this world's goods, and much of the support of the family was earned by the wife. "Thinking of this and of his wife's many sacrifices for his comfort, Mr. Childs once said to her regretfully, "My dear, I wish I were Croesus."

Whereupon Mrs. Childs, with ready wit and gracious tact, responded, "You are Croesus, for you are king of Lydia."—Los Angeles Times.

Imaginary Pains.

Don't laugh at hysterical people with their imaginary pains, says a physician. A "delusion" is reality to the sufferer. When one believes one has a pain one has the pain. All pain is in the brain, and to believe one has it is to have it. It matters not a whit whether the message is sent by one's toe that some kind friend is treading on or whether it is sent from one part of the brain to another.—New York Tribune.

Medical.

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