

FARM NOTES.

The appearance of the seed catalogues reminds one very forcibly that seed-planting time is not so very far off, and it is time well spent to carefully go over these books and make a choice selection. Plan the garden now. Send in the order before the spring rush is crowding our seed merchants and thus avoid delays or meet the verdict that the article desired has all been disposed of.

A great many farmers save their own seed from year to year. This is a good plan, but care must be taken not to hold that seed for too long a period. The seeds of some vegetables are worthless after they are two years old, while the seeds of other plants improve with age until a certain period.

For instance, the seeds of artichokes are good until they are three years old; asparagus, four years; beans, two years; kidney beans, one year; beets, ten years; broccoli, four years; cabbage, four years; carrot, one year; cauliflower, four years; celery, ten years; corn, three years; cucumber, ten years; egg-plant, three years; endive, four years; kale, four years; leek, two years; lettuce, three years; melon, ten years; peas, two years; okra, two years; onion, two years; pumpkin, ten years; radish, four years; salsify, two years; spinach, four years; squash, four years; tomato, two years; turnips, four years.

The manure for a garden is best applied in the fall and plowed under in the spring, and phosphate used in the hill and drill. Do not keep one plot too long for the garden. A change of location means less trouble from weeds, insects and fungus diseases.

Moisture must be conserved in the vegetable garden. This is usually done by tillage, and can also be greatly helped by destroying the plants as soon as they have produced their crop. At the Pennsylvania State College cabbage plants are pulled or cut off with hoes as soon as possible after the heads have been cut and sold. By the time the last heads are marketed most of the stubs and leaves have dried, so they will not interfere with disking or plowing. The ravages of insects and diseases are also checked by destroying the old plants.

Every crop that is raised on the farm should help to put the soil into better condition, both physically and chemically. This is the purpose and aim of the rotation of crops. Frequent surface cultivation makes the natural food of the plant more available, prevents escape of moisture and holds water in store for summer use. The root is the foundation of the plant. It should be stimulated to early and continuous growth by the best of care in the beginning. Organic matter is the life of the soil.

In the germination of seeds, moisture performs the most important part. For most garden seeds very little is needed. The amateur is more apt to apply too much rather than too little water. In the germination of old seed or seeds of low vitality, if water is applied rather sparingly, especially immediately after sowing, the percentage of germination will be larger and the plants more vigorous.

The difference between "moist soil" and "wet soil" is not generally understood. All soils consist of small atoms or soil particles. In a wet soil all space between these particles is filled with water, excluding the air. In a moist soil each particle is enveloped in a film of moisture, allowing the air to penetrate between the particles. A wet soil rots the seed; a moist soil sprouts it and promotes its growth.

Nitrogen (ammonia) encourages strong leaf, vine and bush growth. Potash makes firm tuber, bulb and fiber. Phosphoric acid makes blooms "set" and seeds and pods form abundantly.

If the wild growth on the farm is profuse and the tomato and melon vines run to leaf, the soil is rich in nitrogen. If trees do not thrive, onions seem soggy and tomato vines lack sturdiness of stalk, the soil needs potash. If the tomatoes, melons and grain fail to "set" plenty of seed and fruit, phosphoric acid is needed.

If one expects to take from the land a crop rich in leaf, as lettuce, increase the proportion of nitrogen in the fertilizer. If potatoes or onions are desired, provide plenty of potash. If abundant corn, wheat, melons, peaches, strawberries or tomatoes are wanted, see to the phosphoric acid.

Phosphorus is an element that is essential to plant life. The garden could not exist without it. Scientists have always wondered where the phosphorus came from which is supplied to plant life in the country. There is no danger of our nitrogen or potash giving out, because we know there are methods by which both are being continually added to the soil.

Science has now developed the theory that the phosphorus supplied to plant life is given directly through the earth worm. Experiments have shown that the mode of existence and habits of the earthworm are highly beneficial to garden soil, owing to the fact that from its body comes the supply of phosphorus. Hence gardeners should welcome earthworms in their garden.

As is perhaps known, manure, when stacked in the yard with no covering over it, loses its greatest quality, plant food, by washing of rains and exposure. On the other hand, if stored under a shed or protected, it will steam and heat, thus losing another most important factor, nitrogen. The average gardener is in the habit of storing his manure in the open air, but a better plan is to pile it in under a roof of some sort and tramp it down tight in order that no air may penetrate through it to drive out the valuable nitrogen. There is a sufficient quantity of plant food and nitrogen in fresh manure, and the garden should be well treated with it. For good vegetables there must be a rich soil.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

What we call luck is simply pluck And the doing things over and over; Courage and will, perseverance and skill, Are the four leaves of luck's clover. —Anon.

The lamp shade silhouette of Chinese pagoda inspiration is one of the newest style lines presented by Paris and recently introduced here in a series of attractive frocks for spring wear on all occasions.

Dresses of taffeta are in evidence for spring and many of these are in our favorite navy blue. A dominant trimming detail is the sash girle or belt of matching ribbon velvet, though sometimes the girle is developed with a ribbon velvet of contrasting color as well.

Separate skirts of foreign inspiration are of genuine Scotch plaid woollens and many are brilliant in coloring. These skirts are developed on both plain and plaited lines and have huge pockets and novelty belts.

An exquisite breakfast cap—note the new name for the boudoir cap of old—is of sky-blue tulle, silver metal lace and delicate pink roses. To be worn with this cap is a breakfast jacket of blue velvet, trimmed with silver lace and roses.

Wooden trimming in the form of beads and plaques of unique and brilliant coloring is an innovation in millinery for spring that Paris has recently presented and that is well thought of here.

America, we are told is prominent in the development of the sport hat, which today is as important an item of smart woman wardrobe as any dress hat and is given the same careful consideration in designing and in making.

Many evidences of the Chinese type of dress are to be found, giving assurance that this gracefully youthful mode is still to be worn. Some of these dresses, especially those of georgette, are quite devoid of sleeves, others of taffeta and even those of cloth have merely sleeve caps, though many are cut quite high at the neck.

To prevent the syrup from cooking out of a pie made of fruit or berries try pinning a strip of wet muslin, about one and one-half inches wide, around the edge of the pie. You will find that the pie retains its syrup and there is no oven to clean when your baking is done.

Nursing mothers with an over-supply of milk are often troubled by their clothing being soiled. Buy a 10-cent piece of rubber sheeting, cut it in half and sew the two pieces lengthwise. Sew two pieces of white tape at the top for shoulder straps and turn an inch hem up at the bottom and run a piece of rubber through it. This camouflage may be buttoned down the front.

If you want to roast an old chicken, the following method is fine: Steam it in the steamer or a pot which has a raised bottom, enabling it to steam, for a couple of hours, or until it is nearly done, using the fork to prick it with to tell, then finish and brown the chicken in your oven. This makes the meat and filling as delicious as a young roasting chicken.

Two tablespoonfuls of gum arabic to a quart of luke-warm water is the proper proportion to use in stiffening organdie.

When a child spills food at the table, put a tray cloth at its place, and under that a piece of white oilcloth. This prevents the dropped food from going through to the tablecloth.

When corset-covers or camisoles become worn under the arms, do not patch them. Remove the worn part from top to bottom and replace it with a panel of good material, finished with neat seams. The garment will then wear much longer and will not have a patched appearance. In order to make even the seams thus formed less noticeable, insertion can be used. This will make the corset cover or camisole prettier as well as stronger.

I always save up my string that I get on packages and bundles, not cord, but string, no matter how short. I tie them together and crochet dish rags out of them. They make dandy dish rags, and cost you simply nothing.

A shade hung on screen door and raised and lowered at will will prevent the glare and heat of the sun, and still allow the free circulation of air.

What the Mouth Reveals.—Full lips suggest cajolery and flippancy. A mouth which viewed in profile turns up in a curve indicates a frivolous nature.

A small mouth explains extreme sensitiveness and a narrow-minded outlook on life.

An extremely large mouth indicates liberality of mind but a certain coarseness of nature.

A mouth of any thickness that droops at the corners denotes one who cannot be trusted.

A close-fitting mouth revealing sharp, straight lines, indicates sternness of disposition.

Dullness of apprehension is indicated by a mouth which is exactly twice the width of the eye.

A small mouth coupled with small nose and nostrils shows an indecisive and cowardly nature.

If the angles at the corners of the lips point downward it indicates pessimism; if upward, optimism.

A large mouth denotes a shameless person with a hasty judgment not always kind, also a good conversationalist.

One with thin lips drawn down at the corners, rather bloodless and pale, is extremely obstinate, given to hysteria and melancholy.

"To give the face a good color," says an exchange, "get a pot of rouge and a rabbit's foot. Bury them two miles from home and walk out and back once a day to see if they are still there."

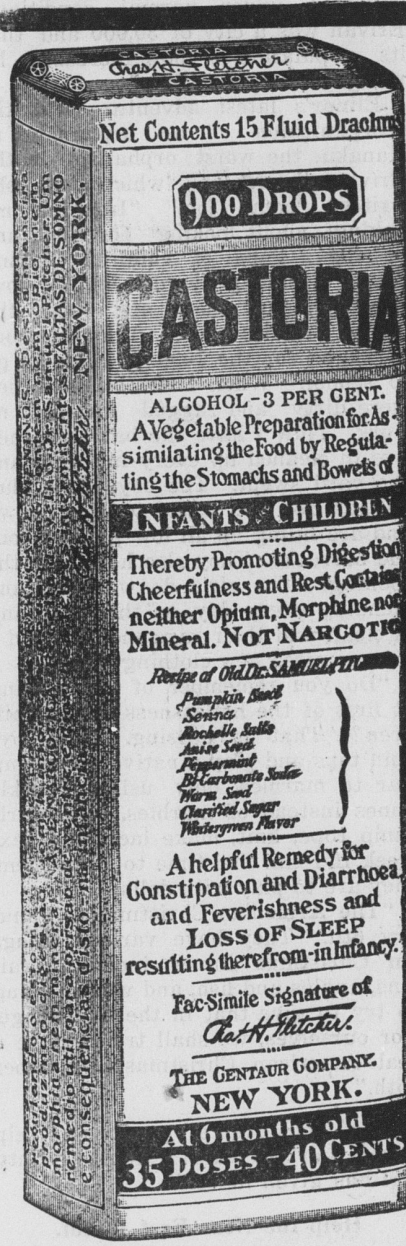
Buy With the Brain, not Eye, says Expert.

Thrift in spending as well as in saving was urged by Miss Jessie Donnelly, executive secretary of the Federal Fair Price Commission, in a talk which she made a few days ago to the women's club of the Society of Ethical Culture. The club met in the rooms of the society, Spruce street, Philadelphia.

"There is too much 'buying by the eye' and not with the brain. Virtually all of a beef carcass is ground up by the butcher because people will buy only the desirable cuts. The other parts would be palatable if they were properly cooked. But on account of the wide-spread use of the gas stove only the parts which can be fried are wanted. 'It is about as bad with clothes."

This is a period of extreme styles. The quality of the goods and the workmanship are not considered by the average buyer. Teaching school children the value of textiles and how to tell wool from cotton would be a long stride in the right direction."

Miss Grace Godfrey, of the domestic science department of Drexel Institute, said the family should be run on a business basis, with a budget made out in accordance with its ideals of existence. "Personal economy is more necessary now than ever before," Casimir H. Sienkiewicz, associate director of the savings division of the war loan committee. "The demand is greater than the supply, the value of the currency is inflated and there is undeniably much profiteering going on. For these reasons save all you can at this time."



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