

Miscellaneous.

HATCHING CHICKENS EARLY.

Sitting hens are clearly annoying, where this desire is nearly constant, yet I have seen the time the first broodiness of a hen was bailed with great joy. On some occasions, especially with amateurs, early chickens are desirable, and that is when the birds are intended for exhibition. Where eggs alone are the desideratum, a constant broodiness among the hens is intolerable. To avoid this, the non-sitters should be cultivated. It is really trying, when eggs are at 30 or 35 cents per dozen, to find the majority of your hens down with the sitting disease in the winter. Yet the larger broods will do it, no matter how great the emergency. Brooding is contagious, and where once introduced among a flock of Brahmas, is likely to affect all alike. The infusion of Leghorn blood remedies this evil to a great extent, and increases the production of eggs. Where sitters for early chicks are wanted, the Brahma mother, by all odds, is to be preferred, not only from the fact that she is a steady sitter, but from many other good qualities that she possesses above all others. According to my experience the Light Brahma is the more tractable, being made quiet. The Partridge Chick hen is too sluggish and indifferent for a good sitter. She breaks her eggs, and when her chicks hatch is liable to kill them by the careless, clumsy manner in which she governs her movements.

For very early chickens, an Asiatic mother is to be preferred before all others, as her body is larger and warmer (I never found artificial heat conducive to health and strength) than the smaller bird, and this bodily warmth is highly necessary at all seasons of the year. She possesses an ample coat of feathers, which retains the warmth, and is calculated to accommodate and keep a large brood comfortable. The mother that broods them makes all the difference with the chicken, not only at hatching time, but ever after. Where early sitters are required, allow the Brahma a separate apartment from the non-sitter and there will be found little difficulty when eggs are to be set. Where the non-sitters are allowed to associate with them they soon break up any tendency to brooding, especially in cold weather. The smaller breeds generally have ascendancy and rule the roost, if not the nest. The Brahmas are quite low minded fowls, and a roost two inches from the ground suits their taste just as well as one ten feet high. The sitting hen, should, where it can be done, always have her nest on the ground, that she may walk on and off, and not be compelled to use her wings in going to and from the nest. A regular sitter that means business seldom leaves the nest other than once in two or three days.

The first week of incubation is the most critical one, for then the embryo begins its growth, and the tender life is sensitive. Any undue chilliness at that period kills the germ, and the egg becomes what is termed rotten. If the sitter shows the right turn in her movements and is set in the same nest wherein she dropped her eggs she will necessarily attend to her nest herself and her owner. It is not necessary to provide extra feed for her consumption, or put it in a place easy of access. It is sufficient if he kept in the old runways; she will find it when needed. Nature teaches the bird through instinct how to take care of herself. Early chicks require more care than the later ones. The cost of rearing is greater, but the value also is increased. The early chick is apt to receive a stunt and become dwarfed, but for exhibition purposes, when grown without deformity, is valuable and highly prized. Only the early birds become feathered and fully developed before the stores come on, and therefore they must come from the shell in the early spring months.

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.

It is coming to be better understood that success in farming depends far more upon how much one gets per acre than upon the number of acres he has. If a man's time, team, seed, implements, etc., are worth or cost \$500 a year to cultivate fifty acres, and the crops produced, whatever they may be, are equivalent to twelve bushels of wheat per acre, worth on an average \$1 per bushel, he has just \$100 left for interest of the land, taxes, etc. If the crops equal fifty bushels per acre, he has \$250 surplus for land, etc. If they are equal to twenty bushels per acre, he has \$500 surplus; if twenty-five bushels per acre, he has \$850. The rule holds good for one hundred acres, or any other area. The great question is then, how to increase the yield per acre, with only the same cost for labor, teams, implements and seed.

Quitting the question of drainage, and of green manures, and supposing the land in proper drainage and tith, there is no doubt that a sufficient amount of the right kind of manure or fertilizers will secure this 5 to 13 bushels per acre increase.

Recent observations, careful experiments and extensive chemical investigations, show that our cultivated crops need for their best growth the presence of several substances. Three or four are seldom abundant in soils, or are largely available in but few, and are rapidly exhausted by the removal of crops. Two of these, for example, phosphoric acid and nitrogen, are indispensable as plant food, and to develop and prepare other food. Lime acts like manure in feeding or preparing food for plants.

Of these four substances, nitrogen, potash, lime and phosphoric acid, some soils and crops want one, some want two and some want three, if not all of them. Good barn yard manure invariably contains all of them. So long as one can get enough of good barn yard manure, cheaply and near enough to the fields, that is all that is needed. With it, and the other conditions of the soil, its dryness and tith or mechanical condition, he might, we can raise our crops from an equivalent of 12 bushels of wheat to 20 or 25 or more bushels per acre.

But unless it be on farms mainly used in stock raising, there is far from enough manure, good yard manure, to secure the higher profits. And just here another question comes in. If a soil lacks potash only, a small quantity of this in the form of potash salts or of ashes, may be as useful as thousands of pounds of yard manure containing only the same amount of potash. In that case we could buy and apply the potash more cheaply than we could haul and apply the manure to a field distant from the yard, allowing the manure to cost nothing. If the soil lacks only phosphoric acid for a certain crop, a bag of superphosphate or dissolved bones will supply more of it than several tons of yard manure. If, then, we can ascertain just where a field lacks, we may find it very profitable to buy the special fertilizer the soil wants, and use the yard manure on those fields as need all it contains, or on those heavy soils where its loosening effect will be most useful, and where little hauling is required.—American Agriculturist.

If you want to feel well and live long Dr. Bull's Baltimore Pills. All druggists keep them. Price 25 cents.

GRAPE VINES.

Every family occupying a dwelling, in country or village, and nearly every city resident, can have and should have at least one grape vine growing, not only to 'sit under,' but to eat the fruit of. Wherever there is, within reach of some sunshine, a bit of ground a foot or two wide and three or more feet long, there a vine may be planted, trained for a long distance, on a fence, up the dwelling, on a trellis, or up a post. Its abundant green foliage is always grateful to the eye, and its clusters of cooling, pleasant fruit need no advocate. The grape vine is one of the most unobtrusive, unfastidious and care rewarding plants. Keeping standing water away from its feet, give it something to eat to make stems, leaves and fruit of, with some sunlight part of the day, and it will go to work and keep at it as long as you live. No food suits it better than a lot of bones, coarsely or finely broken, or whole ones if there be enough of them, mixed in with the soil. It will fasten a net work of roots or rootlets upon every bit of bone and extract nutriment as long as there is a particle of it left. All the training will need you can give in a few minutes before or after tea, once or twice a month. It will pay in pleasure, in foliage, in fruit.

Order the vine soon; it can come or go anywhere by mail; choose the place; as soon as the frost is well out of the ground dig it up a foot or more deep; mix in the soil a peck or more of crushed bones for each vine; from the butcher, broken up with a hammer or axe-head, will answer. When the vine arrives expose its roots as little as possible to the air; make a hole, set it as deep as it grew before; spread its roots out well each way; cover them with earth, and moisten if needed. That's all, until you need to train its shooting stems. (Our columns have told and will tell how that is done)—all the above is a very simple matter. Reader, if you have not done so, get our advice and plant, at least, one grape vine this spring; better two, three, a dozen, if you have the ground; plant at least one, whether you live on Fifth avenue or in the 'wilder Oregon.' You will thank us for the exertion not very long hence. The Concord variety, better than almost any other, will grow almost everywhere. The Delaware, Creveling and Emelena, are excellent among other good and reliable kinds.—American Agriculturist for April.

THE PEACH CROP—A LARGE YIELD EXPECTED.

A Middletown, Delaware, telegram of the 24th ult. says: 'The prospect of the coming peach season is at this time very flattering, and every day adds to the assurance that there will be the largest crop of fruit ever grown on the peninsula; 12,000,000 baskets will not more than cover the present estimate. The estimated luxuriance of the coming crop is attributed by the best judges of peach culture to the close winter and backward spring. The early fruit, the Hale's Early and Troth's are now in full bloom, and every twig and branch that is capable of being occupied by a bud is filled to its utmost capacity, and upon examination, the buds are found to be in a thriving condition. The falling off of some fruit will necessarily ensue, which will enable the trees to sustain and mature what is left to a state of perfection very seldom attained. The Crawford's Late and Reeds' Favorite give promise of a very large yield in the eastern portion of Sussex county and will exceed the last year's crop which was very large. In Queen Anne's county and Caroline, and on the Eastern Shore, the trees are in a fine condition, and undoubtedly will give a handsome yield. Some of the largest fruit-growers of these counties say the crop will be the largest known for many years. Also in the Maryland counties the orchards are all in a thriving condition, and not in the least injured, and the prospects were never better. In New Castle county, where there were no peaches last year, the production will probably be that of 1875. The prospects of Kent county for an enormous yield were never better.

"PEER AND POLONY."

'Dis non, he comes into my place last night, and calls for peer and polony,' began the witness, as George Dart was handed out by the jury.

'I ain't the man,' replied the prisoner with cheerful promptness.

'No talking back,' said the court. 'Let the witness tell what he has to say, and then you can have a chance.'

'Well, Shudge, he come into my place and I give him peer and polony, and he eats out my trunks, and vases going away without paying, when I dakes him by d-r collar. He strikes me here and here, and he dries to bite me, and I haf to call for police.'

'Now, I'll tell you how it was,' said the prisoner. 'The beer was all right, only too much vinegar in it, but that bologna had a ten-penny nail in it, and when I shut my teeth on it I broke two of 'em off and it nearly killed me. I refused to pay—only course I did. I ain't going to pay for bologna with nails in 'em. I buy my hardware at one place, and my bologna at another.'

'My gracious! What a story—what a story!' groaned the witness.

'And I haf it in my pocket, Shudge, and I broves what a story he tell. Here it is! But it wasn't there. He felt all over himself from top to bottom, but the link was missing. It had dropped by the wayside to be seen no more.

'By golly! 'Y golly!' gasped the witness, as he gave his body a last search.

GILES' LINIMENT IODIDE AMMONIA. Cures All Pain in Man and Beast. TESTIMONIALS: I had twelve strokes of Paralysis. No leg, arm and hand would move. I was unable to get out of bed. I used your Liniment Iodide of Ammonia, and in three days I was able to get up. I am now well and strong. Wm. H. GILES, New York.

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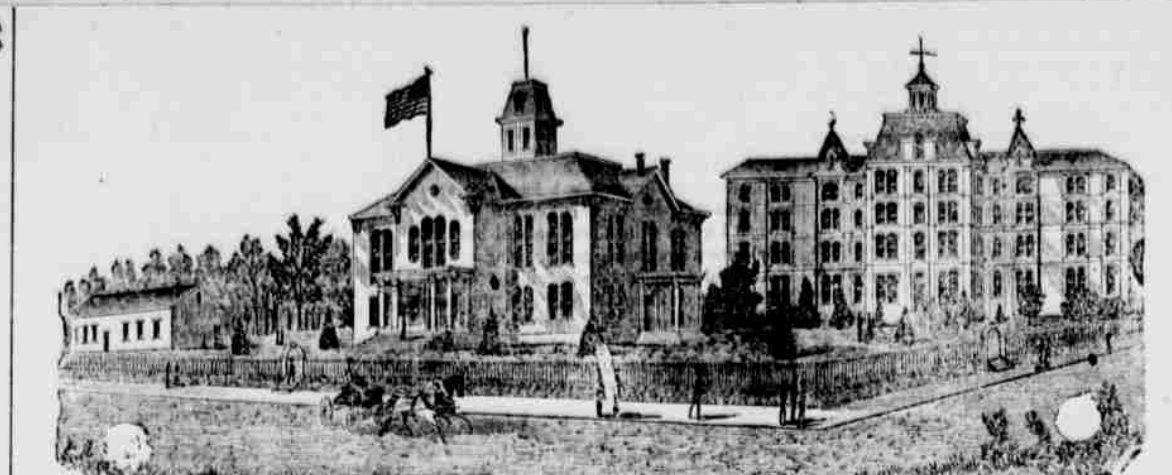
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NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILWAY. WINTER TIME TABLE. On and after Sunday, November 30, 1878, the trains on the Philadelphia and Erie Road Division will run as follows:

Table with columns for Train Name, Destination, and Time. Includes routes like Erie Mail, Niagara Express, and Buffalo Express.

NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY. On and after November 20, 1878, trains will leave Sunday as follows:

Table with columns for Train Name, Destination, and Time. Includes routes like Erie Mail, Buffalo Express, and Harrisburg Express.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING ROAD ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS. May 1, 1878.

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