

Manuring Fruit Trees.

The fruit tree is not particular of manure as to its diet. It does not ask for the richest provender. Even a dressing of earth, or of pure clay is very acceptable—washings from the highways, particularly so; and wood ashes, of course. In fact, almost everything that is next to valueless for other objects does very well with the fruit tree. It is true that richer or more expensive fertilizers would answer a great deal better, but not to such an extent as to pay for the difference in cost. But whatever the material may be, no farmer who desires his orchard to return him the full measure of its product can afford to neglect it in the manner referred to. Let him do his duty to his trees, and then complain that fruit will no longer do in his section if there is any shortcoming in their crops.—Germantown Telegraph.

Fruit Driers and "Evaporators."

Those who have hot-bed sashes can dry fruit by the heat of the sun in a manner vastly superior to the ordinary method. A box should be made like a hot bed frame, but with a bottom, and it should have legs to raise it a few inches from the ground. The sashes should fit closely to keep out dust and insects. In the front of the box, at the bottom, make opening under the middle of each sash, and at the rear make similar openings at the top. We do not recollect the exact size we used, but probably 12 inches long by three wide will answer. These openings should be covered with wire cloth, though in its absence mosquito netting or a similar stuff will answer. The fruit, or other articles to be dried, should be upon trays or frames covered with some coarse fabric, and raised a few inches from the bottom of the box. The sash being so placed as to catch the full heat of the sun, the drying will go in a surprising manner. The air passing in at the lower opening will become quickly heated, and going out at the upper openings a current will be established, carrying off the moisture from the fruit, etc., in the most satisfactory manner. The product will not be so white as when dried by artificial heat, but for home use just as good, and it will be free from dust and the soiling by insects. We have dried the finest sweet corn imaginable with a contrivance like this, and have no doubt of its efficacy in drying fruit.—American Agriculturist.

Forests and Rainfall.

At a meeting of the Society of Engineers in Pittsburg, Col. T. B. Roberts read a paper on "Forests and Rainfall." He claims that the destruction of forests has no effect whatever in decreasing rainfall, but tends rather to increase it. "The records of many years on five of the most important rivers in Europe show that there is no evidence to support the theory that floods are increasing in height and frequency." In regard to the Ohio river overflow, he says: "It will be observed from the records that the flood of 1884 was only four inches higher than that of 1832, fifty-two years earlier. Between the years 1851 and 1857, inclusive, omitting two years of which no records were kept or preserved, there were eight floods rising twenty-five feet or more, and five reached the thirty-foot mark. The mean high water for the sixteen years was twenty-four and seven-tenths feet. During the second period, from 1868 to 1884, inclusive, there were only four floods rising to the height of twenty-five feet, and not till the last flood did the river rise to thirty feet or over. But there seems to be nothing in these records or in any other to establish any theory either for increase in the height of floods, or for less low-water discharge due to the destruction of forests, or to any other cause. The excess of rain, the condition of the earth, were sufficient to account for the unusual flood of 1884."

The New York Crematory.

A plot of land has been purchased in Newtown, L. I., by the United States Crematory company, and ground is to be broken for a crematory in about two months. The secretary of the society, E. A. Caswell, says of it: "The building will have a rich effect without any pretentious ornaments. The chimney will be in the shape of an obelisk. Much delay is caused by listening to the wishes of some of the directors regarding the site of the crematory. These directors thought it ought to be on Manhattan Island, in order that it might be within easy reach of every one in the city. They were anxious too, for a stylish edifice. In both considerations they were finally overruled for the following reasons: "The crematory at Newtown will be opposite the Lutheran cemetery, and on very high ground, overlooking New York city on one side and Sheephead bay on the other. It can be easily reached from the Seventh street, the Twenty-third street and the Ninety-third street ferries. The crematory will be ninety minutes from Madison square. It is about equal distant from either end of New York city. The price of the land was less than it would be in New York, and hence more money was left for a building. "The land cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Of the capital stock of \$25,000 there has been \$14,000 taken. The building we expect will cost from \$12,000 to \$15,000, and a crematory furnace after the pattern of that at Gotz, Germany, one of the best we know of, and in which hundreds of bodies have been burned, will cost \$3,000. The general plan for the building will include reception rooms, and a chapel or hall, with a catafalque at the remote end of the room, and a pulpit or reading desk beyond the catafalque and near the wall. Neither the body nor the coffin will be seen after it is placed in the catafalque, unless it is desired by those in charge of the last rites. Of course there will be different arrangements at the funerals, according to the wishes of those interested. Probably the usual way will be to place the body with the coffin or flowers on a table, and to visit the catafalque, over which will be a covering or pall, which will hide the coffin from view of the audience. Then the body will be lowered into the furnace, and before the services are over the body will be half consumed. "What will be the charge?" "Not over \$25 or \$30 for each incineration. The operation will be over in an hour. No flame touches the body. The temperature of the furnace will be 2,000° Fahrenheit. Hot air destroys the body inside of an hour, leaving a residue of pure white ashes weighing about four per cent of the body. These the friends may take away with them, and completely getting rid of a victim tend to increase murders by poison?" "No. Unless a reputable physician gives a death certificate the body will not be received."

Insect Pests.

A subscriber to the American Cultivator relates how it sometimes happens that the destructive pest known as the canker worm makes its appearance on the apple tree all of a sudden, even when there has not been any hatching or visiting. Then, of course, it is too late to use any preventative, therefore cure must be sought. I have found, says the writer, under certain conditions that this worm can be destroyed by the use of Paris green. Put a heaping teaspoon of Paris green into a painful of water, apply the mixture with a force pump, throwing the water through the tree thoroughly. This should be done as soon as possible after the presence of the worms is ascertained. I found one application to be sufficient. Soon after the application of the liquid the worms came to be seen to let go and string down from the tree. "No," said Brown to Robinson with a sigh, "I haven't got change for a five, but I should like to have it for a change."

Coal-tar makes a good protective covering for woods of trees.

The compound of "The Watch on the Rhine," receives a pension of \$1,000 a year.

ODD ITEMS.

A crooked mouth, unless caused by disease, denotes a crooked, unreliable talker; all congenital defects of the organs of speech indicate mental or moral deficiencies.

A Liverpool bicyclist who was riding down a steep hill near that city was shot through a cottage window by the breaking of his machine.

The district around Galena, Kansas, is credited with being the largest zinc producing locality in the world. Last year 70,000 tons were mined.

The proposed world's fair at Rome has been postponed until 1894, as France has set its heart on having one in 1889, the centennial of the revolution.

Arizona's total production of copper this year is expected to be nearly 50 per cent greater than last year's yield, amounting to 17,000,000 pounds.

The project of having policemen detailed daily to weigh coal delivered to the customers at retail, and see that the full weight is given is now agitated in San Francisco.

A Macon woman was lately fined \$2.50 for striking her husband on the head with a bed slat in a quarrel about blackberry pie. The next day she stole all his money, \$40, and left for parts unknown.

A horse at Riverside, L. I., by his weakness for eating chickens is causing his owner considerable trouble. The horse eats chickens, feathers and all, whenever he can manage to catch them.

Few people but forgetters know that the banknote paper on which American legal tender national banknote currency and Government bonds are printed is made entirely at Dalton, Mass.

The reason why negroes are such good cooks lies in the fact that all persons with full lips can judge better of viands, and care more for gastronomy, than those whose lips are thin and bloodless. Those lips which possess the largest glands possess also the most power to detect flavors.

A New York ice cream manufacturer claims to be able to make ice cream keep a year in just as good condition as when first made. It is unlikely. Corn starch and chalk keep sweet a long while.

A horse made entirely of sheep's horn, invented at Lyons, France, is used especially useful in the case of horses unsteady on town pavements. It costs rather more than iron, but is very durable.

The wings of the common fly, according to Paul Mayo, vibrate at the rate of 330 strokes per second, while during the same time those of the mosquito make about 2000.

A Magnetic Man.

A MAINE WONDER WHO PERFORMS STILL GREATER FEATS THAN THE NOW CELEBRATED GIBB FROM GEORGIA.

John Downs, of Auburn, Maine, possesses a power that is much more extraordinary than the Hurst girl's, even if there be no deception about the latter. Downs is known as the bewitched blacksmith. Fifteen years ago he had just become aware that the exercise of his power was involuntary and he was in great distress of mind over its possible consequences, having just had a painful demonstration of what might occur from its presence. He was not a particularly strong man himself, but by touching others he seemed to endow them with extraordinary strength. They could lift him, or he was able not only to carry on his man being, but he could lift animals with it. I remember once seeing a team stalled in a road leading to Auburn. They were attached to a heavy load and the forewheels of the wagon ran into a deep rut. Downs was unable to pull them out. The driver was about to remove a portion of the load, when Downs stepped to driving by. He stopped, and, telling the driver to leave the load as it was, he rubbed each horse on the head with a quarel about blackberry pie. The next day she stole all his money, \$40, and left for parts unknown.

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"Holding a large sale, and is circulating all over the country."

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"In compounding a medicine whose virtues are so palpable to every one's observation."

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