

HOME-MADE FERTILIZERS.

Care and Foresight Will Save Much Needless Loss.

The following is from the Ohio Farmer: Let us look at an average barnyard—one that may be met with most anywhere. Here we see a large pile of horse manure steaming away as though on fire. Here a pile of cow manure all frozen so it cannot rot its own litter before summer. There a pile of dry corn-stalks, as they have been thrown out of the feeding-room. In one part of the yard stands a straw stack that the cattle round and pull down, but the scatterings are left close around the stack, and are tramped two feet deep, while a few feet from the stack the ground may be seen. The corner of the yard where the outdoor feeding is done is the only portion that is in any order for manure.

Now I will leave it to my readers if I have not described an average barnyard. This is where farmers are to blame. It is but little trouble to keep our barnyards in proper shape if we only will. Let us ask the proprietor of our sample barnyard if he has so much work during winter that he cannot attend to his yard. His answer will be: "No, but I thought the barnyard could take care of itself." With most of farmers there is a great deal of spare time during the winter. Their work, aside from stock feeding, is not very pushing, and a day's time now and then would not be missed. Let us have that day once in a while to straighten up that yard, and I will see to it that you are paid for it next fall. Let us take a fork every few days and go around that straw stack, taking the loose straw that is under foot and cover up that bare spot of ground. Throw it wherever the manure is thin, and the cattle will tramp it more, making better manure of the straw, while it helps the quality of what is already there. Take a horse and sled every week or so, and move that pile of horse manure and that pile of corn-stalks. Put them around in thin spots in your yard, like you did that straw, and then see what a difference it makes in your yard.

Above that cow manure pile, just have a few stock hogs where they can get at it, and I dare say it will be taken care of. Two or three hogs are the best aids you can find to assist about the yards, but in justice to the hogs I will say that it is not the best thing for them. But every farmer has a few stock hogs that he is carrying over winter, and I am sure he cannot keep them cheaper than in his barnyard, where they get most of their living out of the cattle droppings and what is left after feeding. If your cattle are fed on corn in the stable, the hogs will thoroughly scatter the manure pile to secure the corn.

But now let us look a little to the bedding of our cows and horses. You read of A's or B's plan of securing liquid manure by troughs and pits, but you say you cannot do that way. I will tell you what you can do. Go to that straw stack and take largely of straw to bed your stock with. Don't be afraid of it, but make their bedding deep, especially behind them, where it will catch all the droppings. Then in cleaning your stables don't sort the straw too close, but throw out all that is dirty and fill up again with clean straw. The result will be that you are saving nearly all the liquid manure as well as broiler A or B does it, and you have not had any of the trouble you were so afraid of. Moreover, your cows have had the benefit of a nice bed to sleep on, and they come out of the stable looking clean, instead of reminding you of a walking manure pile, as we often see cattle that are poorly bedded. There are some who have not got this extra amount of straw to lavish on their stock. To all such I say, go to your nearest saw-mill and get sawdust, and use freely for bedding, as this is as nearly as good an absorbent as straw, and makes good bedding.

Now, my brother farmers, such of you as will not give heed to the subject of foreign fertilizers and articles pertaining thereto, just try my plan for your own home-made fertilizers, and see how much you can increase them, and just that much will you increase your profits on the farm. Let us keep our eyes open through the winter, and at every opportunity turn a hand towards the barnyard, and manage carefully until we turn our stock out in the spring, and then we will counsel together again as to how we will handle what we have already saved, so as to improve the quality, and reduce the quantity, thus lessening the expense of removing to the field.

Quantity of Seed to an Acre.

The following should be kept for reference: "Barley, broadcast, two to three bushels; bean, pole, in hills, ten to twelve quarts; beans, in drills, five to six quarts; broom-corn, in hills, eight to ten quarts; buckwheat, one bushel; cabbage, in beds, to transplant, half pound; carrots, in drills, three to four pounds; Chinese sugar cane, twelve quarts; clover, red, alone, fifteen to twenty pounds; clover, alsike, alone, eight to ten pounds; clover, lucerne or alfalfa, twenty pounds; corn, in hills, eight to ten quarts; corn, for silage, three bushels; cucumber, in hills, two pounds; flax, broadcast, one and one-half bushels; grass, Kentucky blue, three bushels; grass, orchard, three bushels; grass, English rye, two bushels; grass, red top, three bushels; grass, Timothy, one-half bushel; grass, Hungarian, one bushel; grass, mixed lawn, four bushels; hemp, one and one-half bushels; mustard, broadcast, half bushel; melon, musk, in hills, two to three pounds; melon, water, in hills, one to five pounds; millet, common, broadcast, one bushel; onion, broadcast, two to three bushels; onion, in drills, five to six pounds; onion for sets, in hills, thirty pounds; onion, sets, in drills, six to twelve bushels; parsnips, in drills, four to six pounds; peas, in hills, one and one-half bushels; peas, broadcast, three bushels; potatoes (cut pieces), ten bushels; pumpkin, in hills, four to six pounds; radish, in drills, eight to ten pounds; rye, broadcast, one and one-half to two bushels; radish, in drills, eight to ten pounds; radish, in drills, twelve to fifteen pounds; sage, in drills, eight to ten pounds; squash, bush varieties, in hills, one to six pounds; squash, running varieties, hills, three to four pounds; squashes, to transplant, quarter pound; turnip, in drills, one pound; turnip, broadcast, one-half pound; vetches, broadcast, two to three bushels; and wheat, standard, one and one-half to two bushels."

SHADES OF BLACK.

How the Human Race Graduates from Black to White.

A familiar human example will make this general muddiness and uncertainty of nature realizable to every one. If we see a negro in the streets of London we immediately recognize the broad difference that marks him off from the common mass of white men by whom he is surrounded. But that, of course, is only because we take an individual instance. We say quite dogmatically: "This man is black, thick-lipped, flat-nosed; I call him a negro. These other men are white, thin-lipped, sharp-nosed; I call them Europeans."

Quite so; that is true, relatively, to the small area and restricted number of cases you have then and there examined. But now suppose you go on to the Sudan—a rather difficult thing to manage just at present, Mr. Cook's through bookings to Khartoum being temporarily suspended—and start from thence down the Nile through Nubia to Alexandria. At first on your way you would see few but thoroughly negro faces—black skins, thick lips, flat noses, etc., according to sample. As you moved northward into Egypt, however, you would soon begin to find that, while the skin remained as black or nearly as black as ever, the features were tending slowly, on the average, to Europeanize.

Yet there would be nowhere a spot where you could say definitely: "Here I leave behind me the Nubian type and arrive at the Egyptian." Never even could you pick out three or four men quite certainly from a group on some riverside wharf, overshadowed by domed palms, and say on the evidence of skin and features alone: "These men are Soudanese, and the remainder are Nubians."

Then, if you went on still through Sinai and Palestine—the regular Eastern tour—you would find at each step the tints getting lighter and the faces more Semitic. Passing further through Constantinople, Athens, South Italy, you would observe at each change a lighter complexion and more European style, till at last, as you crossed Provence and approached central France, you would arrive pretty well at the familiar English type of face and feature.—The Cornhill Magazine.

The Russian Snow-Shoe.

The Russian snow-shoe is a long thin strip of well-seasoned birch wood, about seven feet long by four inches wide, curving upward like a skate in front, and with a slight longitudinal groove along the centre of the under surface, which gives a grip on the snow when going up hill. It is fastened to the foot by a leather strap passing over the toe, and a latch bar with a hook at the heel. On these shoes the Olonetz peasant almost lives during the winter—shooting down the steepest hills, scaling the most difficult slopes, and traversing the thickest and most broken forest with an ease that seems well-nigh miraculous. Running, or rather skating, on snowshoes in an open and hilly country, with a slight crust on the snow, is one of the most exhilarating forms of exercise possible. The shoe is not lifted from the ground, but allowed to work freely from the ball of the foot. Over the flat, four or five versts an hour is considered good going for a long distance, though on a spurt considerably more can be done. The double shuffle which old Feodor used to develop on occasion filled us with envy and admiration. Snow-shoeing down hill, however, is the "cream" of the sport. A few quick steps launch you into space, and, bringing your shoes parallel, leaning slightly forward, swaying your body to meet the inequalities of the ground, and guiding yourself with a long stick—provided with a knob at one end for propulsion against the snow, and a hook at the other end with which you may "hang on" to any handy tree when ascending a hill—down you shoot with ever-increasing velocity, and a delightful feeling of the absence of all effort, till your momentum dies gradually away on the plain below. But going back again—ah! that is a different matter, and on a slippery slope an awful conviction of impotence comes over the beginner when he pants about half way up, "blown" with his exertions, and feels that just at the critical point his shoes are beginning to slip from under him, and he will be carried down again in an ignominious squatting position at the bottom of the hill.

Beards.

The Moors hold by their beards when they swear in order to give weight to their oath, which after this formality they rarely violate. The length of beard seems to weigh with them more than the stock of brains. Admiral Koppel was sent to Algeria to demand satisfaction for the injuries done to his Britannic Majesty's subjects by their corsairs. The Dey, enraged at the boldness of the ambassador, exclaimed that he wondered at the insolence of the English monarch in sending him a message by a beardless boy.

The Admiral, somewhat nettled, replied that if his master had supposed wisdom was to be measured by the length of the beard, he would doubtless have sent the Dey a he-goat. This answer so enraged the Dey that he ordered his mutes to attend with the bow-strings, saying the Admiral should pay for his boldness with his life. Nothing daunted by this threat the ambassador took the Dey to the window, and showing him the English fleet, said if it was his pleasure to put him to death, there were Englishmen enough in that fleet to make him a glorious funeral pile. The Dey, who wore a long beard, took the hint from the man who had none.

An Electrical Typewriter.

An electrically operated typewriter has been for some time in use in Boston, which is so arranged that it may not only be used in the ordinary manner for office correspondence and copying, but may be electrically connected with a similar instrument at a distance, so that a copy of the work may be automatically reproduced thereon, even in the absence of an attendant. Such a machine apparently possesses great possibilities of future usefulness.

Forest Resources.

The value of the product derived from our forest resources amounts to more than \$1,000,000 annually, and is surpassed in the value of annual product by no other single industry excepting agriculture.

Things Worth Knowing.

To clean the dingy rattan chair that has never been painted wash it in hot milk in which a little salt is dissolved.

Steel knives or other articles which have become rusty should be rubbed with a little sweet oil, then left for a day or two in a dry place, and then rubbed with finely powdered, unslacked lime until every vestige of the rust has disappeared, and kept in a dry place wrapped up in a bit of flannel.

There is false economy, which costs more than it returns; such as saving old medicine bottles, partially used prescriptions, the tacks taken from the carpet, or working days to save or make that which can be bought for a few cents.

In packing bottles or canned fruit for moving slip a rubber band over the body of them.

The introduction of grated pineapples into cake is voted a great success.

A neat laundry bag can be made of white Java canvas worked in block pattern with red embroidery cotton.

How to Keep Ice in a Sick Room.

A very simple but little known method of keeping ice is to draw a piece of thick flannel tightly over some deep vessel, like a bowl, for instance, and fasten it there. The ice is placed on top of this drumhead and covered loosely by another piece of flannel. In this condition the ice keeps cold and even freezes to the flannel. Thus a small piece of ice can be kept near the patient all night, so as to avert many weary marches up and down stairs to the refrigerator.

To break the ice a sharp needle or hat pin is the best thing. Force it in and you will be astonished to see how easily it will divide the ice.—*Youth's Companion.*

The amount of gold coin in actual circulation in the world is estimated by the Bank of England officials to be about \$65 tons.

A WOMAN'S LIFE.

SOME THINGS MEN DON'T CONSIDER
Thousands of Women Suffer Daily for Years without Complaining.

Men cannot know the sensibilities hidden in the delicate organisms of women. Thousands suffer without knowing why, and die the death daily for want of knowledge that relief is so close at hand.

Lydia E. Pinkham will forever stand highest in the love of suffering women. Because she discovered the cause of woman's weakness and suffering, and found the means to remove it. Diseases of the Uterus and ovarian troubles are most universal; you can see their ravages in pale faces; it is incited by halting steps, dizziness, faintness, irritability, melancholy, extreme lassitude, nervousness, sleeplessness, and disturbances of the stomach. You will hear your friends speak of the "readful backache," the crushing sense of "bearing down."

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