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PLANT DISPERSION.

The Part Taken by Birds in This Important Work.

Two Ways in Which Seeds Are Carried by Different Species of Birds-The Agency to Which the World Is Indebted for Its Pepper Supply.

[D. Morris, in Nature.] The part taken by birds in the dispersion of plants is one of great interest in view of the difficulty of accounting for the appearance of certain species in remote islands, no less than in localities nearer to each other, or divided by such barriers as mountain ranges or deep seas. This subject has, more or less, engaged the attention of botany travelers from the time when Dar-win published his classical "Journal of Researches," nearly fifty years ago, down to the publication of Mr. Hemsley's "Botany of the Challenger Expedition." In the careful summary of plants probably dis-tributed by birds, it is mentioned that seeds may be carried by birds in either of two ways: First, by seeds, especially those provided with barbs and hooks, attaching themselves to the feathers of birds, and in the case of aquatic or burrowing birds being embedded in mud and thus carried accidentally outside; or, secondly, by seeds swallowed by fru-givorous birds being for a time lodged within, and dejected afterwards in such a state as to be capable of germination. My object now is not to treat generally of this subject, but to place on record two remarkable and striking instances where seeds carried and dispersed by birds have come immediately under my own observation. The examples which I shall here describe will, I believe, show clearly that birds are capable of acting as very effective agents in the dispersal of plants, and that the results are so apparent as to be placed beyond reasonable doubt. In cases where

seeds of a light character are provided with barbs and hooks, they are well adapted for attaching themselves to passing objects, and are most favorably placed for disper-sal by means of birds. The particular plant with barbed seeds which I described under this category has not, I belive, been mentioned before; but it is deserving of notice, as it fully meets all the requirements incidental to this form of dispersal, and, moreover, I have had, for some years; very favorable opportunities of observing its behavior. This plant is Uncinia jamaicensis, Pers. (Cyperacea), which grows in damp places in the mountains of Jamaica, at elevations of 5,000 to 6,000 feet. It is generally found overhanging small pools of stagnant water or on banks of mountain rivulets. Its slender tapering spikes, when ripe, literally bristle with long exserted rachilla, each shaped something like a shepherd's crook (hamate), but with the

Now, such places as are affected by this Uncinia are also the frequent resort of numerous birds that come there to drink or bathe, or to seek coolness and shade. In the case of migratory birds, and especially those that cover long distances in their flight, the high lands are generally those first touched. This is doubtless owing to the elevation at which they fly to escape surface currents or local objects. I have often noticed birds from the north (the United States) on their way south, the vitality of the spores through the and again birds of the south returning to | winter." the north in early spring, frequenting the high lands of Jamaica, and resting there for a time before continuing their journey. Some such birds have been easily caught by hand, so exhausted were they with their long flight. In two instances I have found small migratory birds so completely en-tangled in the hooks of the Uncinja that they were unable to extricate themselves; and, unless set at liberty at the time, would probably have died in that situation. In these instances the hooks of the Uncinia overstepped their proper function; for, obviously, no benefit would arise to the plant from the death of the birds, but only in the removal of the seed to another place. Larger birds, of course, would not be caught; but, on the other hand, if they came within reach of the Uncinia, they could hardly get away without detaching a large number of the fruits and transporting them wherever they went. It follows, as a matter of course, the Uncinia jamas censis is found plentifully distributed in the track of migratory birds, and is found in similar situations in the mountains on the mainland in Central America, Venezuela, Ecuador, etc. So much for seeds with barbs and hooks.

We now come to the second class of seeds, namely, those which are swallowed by frugivorous birds and dejected in a state suitable for germination. The most striking examples I know of the dispersion of such seeds, and of the results which immediately follow, are shown in connection with the pimento industry of Jamaica, which depends entirely for its existence on the offices of frugivorous birds. The pimento of commerce is the dried fruit of the pimento allspice, or Jamaica pepper tree (Pimenta vulgaris). No other country supplies this article (although the tree itself is widely distributed both in the West Indies and on the mainland), and the value of the exports of pimento from Jamaica has reached (in 1880) a total of £100,000. This is probably the largest spice industry in the world, and, to repeat what is mentioned above, it is wholly dependent upon the action of frugivorous birds. In Lunan's "Hortus Jamaicensis," published about the end of last century, it is stated that "the usual method in forming a new pimento plantation, or 'pimento walk,' is nothing more than to appropriate a piece of woodland in the neighborhood of a plantation already existing; or in a counwhere the scattered trees found in a native state, the try are woods of which being fallen, the trees are suffered to remain on the ground till they become rotten and perish. In the course of twelve months after the first season's (rains), abundance of young pimento plants will be found growing vigorously in all parts of the land, being, without doubt, produced from ripe berries scattered there by the birds, while the fallen trees, etc., afford them both shelter and shade." In a foot-note it is added that "birds eagerly devour the ripe seeds of the pimento, and, muting them, propa-gate these trees in all parts of the woods. is thought that the seeds passing through them undergo some fermentation which fits them better for vegetation than those gathered immediately from the tree." The present plan for forming pimento plantations in Jamaica is exactly as described above. In fact, the planters firmly believe that no other plan is likely to produce good pimento walks, although it has been shown by experiments in the

A Westchester County (N. Y.) lawyer's bill for \$2,500 was cut down by the court to \$450.

Botanical Gardens that, by careful treat-

ment, plants of pimento can be raised in

nurseries in large numbers, exactly as any

other economic plants. It remains, how-

ever, that all the present pimento planta-tions in Jamaica have been formed by the

action of frugivorous birds.

FOR FARMERS.

Give the poultry pure water in winter is well as in summer, and heat it before pourng it into the drinking vessel.-Rural New

Cows THAT have no bedding are often injured in the knees by getting up or down, especially if the floors be wet and slippery.

—Troy Times.

A New York Tribune writer says that two ounces of saltpeter dissolved in a quart of warm water and thrown into the distern will remove the offensive odor of the water.

OFTENTIMES a bad tooth or something fast in the mouth will cause an animal to run down. Where one acts queer open the Sharp teeth are bad and should be filed off .- Farm Journal.

THE most successful shepherd of the future will have his mutton on the market as regularly and in as good condition as his wool. The same man will make both products as good as possible.-N. Y. Herald. MR. STABL, in the Indiana Farmer, thinks

that women usually make better bee-keep-

ers than men. Bees, he says, must be

treated like children, kindly and patiently, and such work woman does better than An excellent method of utilizing the hayseed and dust is to place it where the hens can scratch it over. They will find quite

an amount of valuable material which would be useless for any other purpose .-N. Y. Times. FARMERS can improve their corn by growing seed-corn in a patch by itself, where special attention shall be given to the matter of fertilization. Now is the time to

mature plans for next year's planting .-Swins are populous in the United States. According to Statistician Dodge of the Agricultural Department there are about eighty swine to every one hundred of our population, while in Europe there are only

fifteen to each one hundred persons. THE draught-horse enthusiasm grows with increasing success all over the West. Western farmers have decided to raise a better class of horses and more of them. The grade draught-horse is a universal favorite in the highest demand at the highest price, a cash article, a profit and a-pride to the breeders .- San Francisco Chronicle,

THE plan of a farmer for securing large crops is thus stated by him: "I tell my men to harrow the ground until they think it is harrowed twice as much as it ought to be, and then I tell them it is not harrowed half enough." Thorough pulverization of the soil is more important than any other work bestowed upon a crop. - Western

In answer to the question: "Does alsike clover make dark-colored honey?" several correspondents of the Bee Journal say it does not. Others say it makes a honey hooked part so closely fitting and elastic that, if drawn along the back of the hand, it would grasp and draw out the finest slighly darker than that from white clover, but not as derk as buckwheat honey. One reply says aisike clover honey has a pinkish color; another that it is every way equal

to white clover honey. THE botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture says, regarding prevention of diseases in orchards: "Many of the diseases of our fruit orchards might be remedied, or at least diminished, by raking together and burning the leaves as soon as they have fallen. Above all, these leaves should not be used as material for compost, for it is probable that this would only serve the better to preserve

As a metal-preservative, the Farmers' Advocate recommends a coat of thick lim wash. Another good article is made by dissolving an ounce of resin in four ounce of linseed oil, and while hot mix this with a quart of kerosene and stir well. This is laid on to smooth iron with a paint brush or with a rag. To remove rust from tools, nothing is better than a mixture consisting of a little oil of vitriol poured slowly into a pint of water, and apply this to the rusted metal. Wash off with water, following with the preservative.

FARMERS and dairymen must not place too much reliance in the eleomargarine law raising the price of butter. If better prices are to be had, they will be for good butter alone, for the day when carelesslymade and badly-kept butter will sell at a paying price has gone. In fact, nothing to-day helps the sale of oleomargarine so much as the presence of this poor dairy butter in our markets. Consumers want pure butter, but where they can not get it sweet and pleasant to the taste they will, of necessity, take oleomargarine .- N. E.

Farmer. Ir well laid, a stone drain should last as long as one of tile. If a considerable amount of stone is used and there is a good outlet a stone drain will never fill up so that some water will not pass through it, Too great a fall or too large an amount of water is apt to displace stones. Hence at-tempts to make the stone in the form of an arch often fail. One side or the other is liable to be displaced, and presently a stone is pushed into the channel. Earth accumulates around this and the efficiency of the drain is impaired. Tile set in a ditch just wide enough to receive it can not easily ba

displaced .- Western Rural. THERE are few markets in which enough difference is made in price of hay on account of quality. Excepting those who feed fancy horses, few men are particular enough what they give their teams. Hay full of weeds and stained withal sells within two or three dollars per ton as high as that which is bright and good. The higher price is generally the cheapest, even leaving out the comfort and the satisfaction of the stock eating it. There is only one exception to this rule. Clover hay is always low in price. Even when well cured it usually sells low. Much clover, however, is badly stained and often musty, as it is the kind of hay most difficult to cure well.-Chicago Tribune,

GETTING ON IN LIFE.

How a Young Schemer Won the Friendship of a Wealthy Lady. [Chicago Journal.]

A young lawyer who recently located in Chicago is fresh from Brooklyn, N. Y. He adopted a rather novel and winning method of getting on in the world when he wanted to complete his education and had nothing of his own to defray expenses with. He as-sumed the role of coachman and went among the homes of the wealthy to find employment. He was at once engaged to serve a widow lady who had no family of her own to care for. This young man, having graduated from a Western college, was quite a cultured fellow, as the lady soon discovered. She managed to talk with him frequently and in a few months he had so won her good esteem that the coachman's livery was exchanged for a different attire, and he became secretary and private man-ager of her every-day business affairs. The young schemer then pressed the point that he wished to study law. He was given an opportunity with a good preceptor and all expenses paid, and made his home in his former employer's house. The same lady sent him to Europe for a year, and finally gratified his ambition to practice law in Chicago by sending her protege to this city fully equipped for his profession.
The curious part of it is that the entire case developed just as the young man plauned when he went in search of a rich employer.

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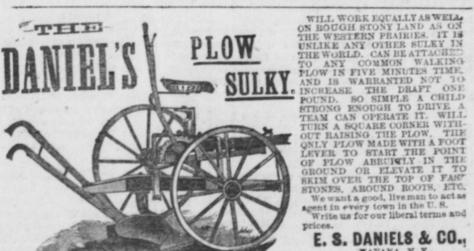
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