FARM AND GARDEN NOTES

ITEMS OF TIMELY INTEREST TO THE FARMERS.

About Subsoiling---Picking Ducks---A Tonic for Hogs---Late Peas for Home Use---To Wean Foals.

LATE PEAS FOR HOME USE.

There is not generally a very good market for late peas, because after the first new peas have satisfied the appetites of lovers of this vegetable the price rapidly declines and it will not pay to grow and market it. But a fresh succession of peas until fall is very desirable, and it is easily in the power of every farmer to secure it by later plantings. The farmer ought always to have fresher vegetables and a longer season for them than the average city resident can expect. It is one of the advantages of country life that he should not only not forego but make the most of. It is hard work providing three palatable meals through the summer for men at work on the farm. A plentiful supply of green peas will furnish food that is not only palatable but nutritious.

PICKING DUCKS.

Duck feathers always bring a fair price, especially white ones, and should be saved when dressing the ducks, if they are sold dressed; if not sold dressed do not pick just before selling. The amount received for the feathers ought to pay for the dressing.

The breeding ducks may be picked several times a year, usually four to six. Do not pick until the feathers are "ripe," which can be told by pulling a few from different parts of the bodies of several birds. If they come out easily, without any bloody fluid in the quill, they are all right and should be "picked" or many will be lost. In picking pull only a few feathers at a time by taking between the thumb and forefinger and giving a quick downward jerk. Do not pull the bunch of long, coarse feathers under each wing.

Before you begin picking, tie the duck's feet together with a bit of listing or other soft cloth, and if the duck is inclined to object to the picking by thrusts with the bill, slip an old stocking or something of the sort over its head. Use no unnecessary harshness with any of the birds and be especially careful with laying ducks. Sitting ducks and those that are soon to be set should not be picked. In hot weather much of the down may be taken from the drakes. Do not take any in cold weather.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

A TONIC FOR HOGS.

Theodore Lewis, the well-known swine-raiser of Wisconsin, gives, in Hoard's Dairyman, his method of preparing charcoal for hogs. A cone-shaped hole is dug in the ground near the hog house, four or five feet deep-five feet in diameter at top and one foot at bottom. A sheet-iron cover is provided. A fire of shavings is started in the bottom, and corn cobs added by degrees as they get aglow until the pit is full. If they burn faster on one side, lift them to the opposite side with a pole. When all are well aglow, cover the hole with the sheet iron and seal edges with earth. Next morning there should be twelve bushels of charcoal. Store the charcoal in space salt barrels, breaking it with the shovel in filling. Put six bushels of it in a large box, add one bushel of hardwood ashes, eight pounds of salt, and mix thoroughly. Then dissolve one and one-fourth pounds of copperas in a pail of hot water and sprinkle it over the mass with a watering pot, mixing it through. Then make a self-feeding box, with cover, and place it where the hogs can have free access to it, staking it so that it cannot be rubbed over.

CLEANLINESS IN THE DAIRY.

We have always been taught, writes Professor De Witt Goodrich of the Ohio Dairy School, that "cleanliness is the foundation of dairying," and science has been trying hard for the last few years to impress upon us why it is the foundation of dairying: That we must keep the atmosphere of our stables as pure as possible to reduce the number of dangerous germs; that we must take great care in cleaning the cows' udders before milking, lest harmful bacteria fall into the milk pail; that we must remove milk from the stable immediately, lest it become contaminated with the little wretches; that all milk vessels must be sterilized with steam or boiling water and freed from all organisms. But instead of stopping as I sometimes wish they had, they go on to tell us that the air, water, soil, and in fact everything, except perhaps healthy animal tissue and milk from non-tuberculous cows before drawn, teems with bacterial life. No wonder many of us get discouraged and give up the fight, leaving the field to the germs, good, bad and indifferent, and let them fight it out among themselves, the bad usually coming out ahead. But is it reasonable or practical to go to the other extreme and sterilize all milk or cream and then fertilize with the particular flavor-producing germ we desire? Certainly not yet, and I doubt very much if that time will come, though such flavors or "cultures," are now on the market.

TO WEAN FOALS.

When plenty of cow's milk can be had it is just as well for the foal, and better for the dam, to wean them when four months old. The writer has weaned them when three months old, and kept them growing right along, as well as when running with the dam, by teaching them to drink cows' milk and feeding them ground oats mixed with wheat bran.

Before beginning to wean a foal the young thing should be thoroughly halter broken, and the sooner this is done after the foal is dropped the better. The colt or filly should also become accustomed to eating oats, both whole and ground, wet and dry. This can be easily accomplished by feeding grain to the dam regularly night and morning in a box or trough set upon the ground or floor, or so near it that the colt can reach the grain.

After seeing the dam eat a few times the youngster will be curious to know what it is that interests her so, and will soon begin to nibble at the grain. After once getting a taste, it will not be long before he will be on hand promptly to take his ration whenever his dam is fed. It is well to teach him to drink cows' milk before beginning to wean him, if convenient, but if he will eat wet ground oats and shorts with a relish that part of his education can be postponed until taken away from his dam.

With colts well halter-broken and taught to eat grain, the weaning process is not difficult and the growth of the foal need not be checked. When there are but few to wean, and there are plenty of stalls to accommodate them, a very good plan is to put a stout ring on each side and near the front of a very wide stall, placing the rings high enough to prevent danger of injury by stepping the forward foot over the halter when the head is lowered to the floor.

If a wide stall is not convenient, the mare and foal can be placed in adjoining narrow stalls. When this is done, it will be best to have an aperture made in the partition separating the stalls, just large enough so that the foal and dam can get their noses together. The grain ration of the dam should be discontinued when the weaning of the foal begins. She should be fed on dry hay, watered often, but sparingly. The object is to prevent the secretion of milk.

At first the foal should be allowed to suck three times a day, taking only a portion of the milk from the udder. After the first three days let him suck only morning and night, giving him just enough to relieve the distended udder. At the end of a week do not let him go near his dam. Look after her closely, however, for several days, and milk her by hand once a day for another week, then every other day until she is well.—Horse Breeder.

ABOUT SUBSOILING.

The question of subsoiling is beginning to attract the attention of farmers all over the country. A few years ago, says F. S. White of Iowa, when I bought a subsoil plow and commenced to use it, I was made fun of. Now some of our best farmers and horticulturists are advising the use of subsoil plows.

The matter is one that must be determined by conditions. There are many localities where it would be a waste of time to subsoil. A deep rich loam, which the ordinary plow will not reach through, and those soils with a loose, sandy or gravelly subsoil, would not be benefited by subsoiling. The soils helped are those having a stiff clay bottom, with a shallow soil above, and those having a hard gravelly subsoil. These require deeper stirring than can be given with common plows. The object of the work is to loosen this hard bottom, and by letting the air get to the lower layers, they are greatly improved and gradually changed by it. As to the depth, this will depend largely on the soil. From 10 to 20 inches is advised. I think it would be best in central Ohio to begin subsoiling 10 inches, gradually increasing the depth each time until 16 to 20 inches have been stirred. All the bluff lands along the rivers and creeks have more or less of this stiff clay subsoil, and where these lands have become worn from cultivation, subsoiling would be of great benefit and would largely increase the crops.

The work is done by following the ordinary plow, running the subsoiler in the bottom of the furrow made by it. The subsoil plow does not throw the dirt out or on top, but simply stirs up the bottom, leaving a loose mellow bed to be covered by the next furrow of the first plow. This loose bed affords good drainage in wet weather, the deep furrows carrying off the surplus water. In dry weather they will gather moisture from both below and above, thus storing up a supply for feeding the roots of crops, much longer than the same soils will do under our old system of cultivation. So the subsoiling is good for either wet or dry seasons, and if the work is done in the fall, the loose beds will gather enough moisture to enable early crops to bridge over dry seasons and make a fair yield.

Most farmers know that on much of our land we turn over the top soil and scrape along on the hard clay or gravel bottom, which becomes more compact each season. It is hard to get the plows down into this hard layer, and if we could, it is not desirable or profitable to turn the clay up on top. Thus we see at once the importance of the subsoil plow. Another great advantage in subsoiling is that such soils will hold manure twice as long as they did before. There is no chance for the manure to wash out. It is taken up in the solid and gradually works down in this loose bed, where it is held until consumed by the growing crops. This letting down of the manure and top soil and air, is the process which gradually changes the whole character of the land, and with proper rotation of crops and a few good crops of green manure turned under, we would soon have a deep rich soil, instead of only a few inches of top or surface soil. Subsoiling has shown its value perhaps more largely on root crops than on others. This work on the soils I have described has increased the yield of root crops at least one-third. The philosophy of subsoiling is so plain that we can readily see its advantage, and it is a practice that will soon become common.—American Agriculturist.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

A good cow is not always fat; she converts her food into milk rather than into flesh.

Dairy cows are said by some to have so worn out their teeth at ten years of age that they are unprofitable.

See that the cows have some sort of shade in the pasture, or a chance to come to the barn or shed, these hot days.

Provide plenty of water where the cows can get at it, not only for their comfort but for the sake of your pocket book.

The sooner milk is cooled after being drawn from the cow the better. Why would not the same rule apply to cream from the separator?

The canna roots that were late in starting may now be potted for taking inside, and they will make very attractive winter bloomers.

Pinch back the geraniums, carnations, jasmines, etc., intended for winter blooming; the more points to the branches the more blossoms.

How is the water supply in the back lot? Those colts or that young stock may be suffering from want of water. Better look into the matter now.

With good management a butter farm should grow richer and richer. A ton of butter removes only a few cents' worth of fertilizing elements.

See that all weeds are kept from the flower beds now; if a single one is missed, and allowed to ripen seed, there will be trouble ahead for next year.

Pansy seed may be sown now in a sheltered bed, and with slight protection during the winter the plants will be ready to bloom very early next spring.

The larger part of the cows kept by the farmers don't pay, but they don't know it. This is carelessness that is very expensive, and should be avoided.

Over-churning compacts the milk into the butter in such a way that no amount of washing can get it out. To avoid this, stop when the butter is in a granular shape.

Some good butter-makers let the butter stand in strong salt and water after churning, claiming that it salts the butter more evenly, and more effectually removes the buttermilk.

One of the important items in making dairying most profitable is to weed out all unprofitable parts. The average farmer cannot afford to fool with cows that do not have at least some desirable quality.

A farmer could now buy a thoroughbred rooster very cheap, while they are young. He could raise him, and next spring kill off all other roosters, and thus have something that will grade up his dunghill stock wonderfully, at very little cost. If the farmer won't bother with it, then let his wife do it.

If you have a piece of waste land, that is absolutely good for nothing, why not turn it into a poultry yard. A dry, stony spot where vegetation never grows, is just the place fowls will do well in, especially in wet and cold weather. You are realizing nothing from such land now and hens might bring you a profit.

Mystery of a Gravestone.

The good people of Seabrooke, N. H., are much interested in a mystery connected with their village graveyard. One of the best-known citizens of the village for many years was Jonathan Walters. Rich and influential, he was turned to in life for advice and help in all matters of not only public but private concern. When he died he was followed to the grave by sorrowing hundreds, and his resting place in the cemetery has been ever since one of the spots best known and most generally visited. Mr. Walters was married twice. His first wife died some years ago. She, too, was immensely popular in the village, and her death was genuinely mourned. Some time after her death Mr. Walters took to himself a second wife and died a little later, in 1894.

The second wife erected a plain stone of white marble over the grave, simply marked with his name and date of birth and death. Nothing strange was noted about the stone at the time, nor, indeed, for some months afterward. It looked like the rest of the sombre signs of death's ravages.

On Memorial Day Mrs. William Eaton, a resident of Seabrooke, was looking at the Waters headstone, when suddenly she discovered the picture of a woman engraved on the stone. She examined it in amazement and called others, who corroborated her story. Those who had known the first Mrs. Walters declared it was a good picture of her. Those who claim to have seen the face describe it as perfect in lines, the eyes, nose, mouth and ears, and even the brows appearing plainly. The hair is also said to be very distinct, falling loosely on the woman's shoulders. The man who carved the stone declares there is nothing cut on it but the lettering, and the surface of the marble is apparently untouched. It is only at a distance of a few feet that the image can be seen. More than a thousand people from the village and surrounding country have seen the gravestone in the last few days.—Philadelphia Press.

ADVERTISES HIS INJURY.

A Kansas Farmer Bound to "Get Back" With the Railroad.

Farmer Jake Stoddard of Doniphan County, Kansas, believes in telling the world of his grievance. He has been wronged and he is determined that all who whirl by his house on the Burlington road shall know all about it. Uncle Jake's troubles are told by a signboard which stads near his house by the side of the railroad tracks. The passenger on the Burlington, if he is a lover of the romantic scenery which abounds in northwestern Kansas, may observe form the car window as the train from Atchison approaches Fanning station a large sign covering a board one by five feet, nailed to a pole twelve feet high, which reads:

This Man Has Been Wronged By The Railroads.

When the road was built it suited the convenience of the company, according to a local correspondent, to lay the track within ten feet of the corner of Farmer Stoddard's house. The construction gang plowed through his barnyard, removed his hen house and cut a wide swath through a fine young orchard which was the pride of Farmer Stoddard's heart. The agriculturist fixed his damage at a high figure; so high in fact, that the company compelled him to go into court and take what he regarded as a ridiculous sum.

It was not long until the trains were running. When the first excursion steamed out of Atchison the passengers, when the train reached Farmer Stoddard's place, observed the sign in bold, black letters, with a background as white as snow. Stoddard had painted the sign himself, and, while it was not executed in the highest style of the art, it could be distinctly read.

Farmer Stoddard has raised a large family of boys and he has taught them to hate corporations. Not less than a half dozen dogs of a doubtful breed can always be found on the Stoddard place. The dog, too, are taught to hate the railroad, and when a train passes the entire pack runs out and barks at it. The old farmer feels that he is in a measure getting even. Brakemen on freight trains have great sport throwing pieces of coal at the dogs as the train passes. Stoddard figures that he gathers up almost enough coal around his premises to keep one stove running through the winter.

This Rat Catches Birds.

A rat that catches and eats birds is the latest novelty on the West Side. Under a sidewalk at Twelfth and Loomis streets lives a rat. From the size of the rodent and his gray whiskers it is evidently an old resident in the neighborhood. Unlike some other rats, it does not depend on cheese and bread for his living, but prefers a nice, juicy sparrow.

On the corner stands a building occupied as a saloon, and in front of the saloon is a watering trough, where teamsters allow their horses to slake their thirst. The teamsters also find the place a very convenient one to feed their horses while they sample the proprietor's free lunch and lager beer. As a result, the pavement is thickly strewn with oats pushed out of the feeding sacks by the hungry horses.

An army of sparrows has been attracted to the place, and each morning the pavement is covered with the little fellows eating their breakfast.

The rat, having cultivated a taste for sparrows, now has one for breakfast every day. Hangers-on around the place have come to watch the manoeuvres of the rat every morning. Soon after daylight the sparrows make their appearance, and the rat slyly crawls out of its hole. After looking around to see that the coast is clear the rat selects a plump sparrow, and, while the bird is busy filling its crop, the rat makes a spring and secures its prey.

The bird is dragged under the sidewalk, and nothing more is seen of the rat until the following morning, when he comes out for a fresh victim. So expert has the rat become that those who have seen it say it can catch and kill a bird as cleverly as a cat.—Chicago Chronicle.

Lumber Used in Box Making.

In a discussion of the amount of lumber consumed in the making of boxes, Barrel and Box, a paper recently started at Louisville, is authority for the statement that a certain Chicago soap concern uses every year $105,000 worth of white pine soap boxes in Chicago and $80,000 worth of cottonwood boxes at St. Louis. The total number of boxes used by this company last year was 1,541,666. Another Chicago concern uses 1,500,000 boxes every year. The firm operates its own box factory at Rhinelander, Wis. There are fifty other soap manufacturers in this country, and Barrel and Box estimates that altogether 150,000,000 boxes are used in packing soaps alone. Two of the larger soap manufacturers expend each year $400,000 for boxes. If 3,000,000 boxes cost $400,000, 150,000,000 boxes would involve the expenditure of $20,000,000 for soap packages alone. Continuing the calculation through the vast range of packing-box demand, which involves almost every industry known to man, we can imagine how enormous is the expenditure in its grand total, and what an amount of lumber is consumed in its manufacture. It is evident that the making of boxes furnishes the largest percentage of the demand for the coarser and common grades of lumber, and that, as the years pass, there will be a sure outlet for low grade white pine, cottonwood, yellow pine, and all other lumber that can be worked into boxes.—Northwestern Lumberman.

Met an Army of Rattlers.

Mrs. D. O'Dell had an exciting experience with a mass meeting of rattlesnakes on the Eagle Valley road while she was on her way to Highland Falls, N. Y. But for the timely help of Wm. Carpenter, the serpents would undoubtedly have enjoyed a morning meal on the contents of her farm wagon.

Mrs. O'Dell started early in order to avoid the heat. She had several crates of plump chickens which had been ordered by families in the village. Sure-footed and docile as a mountain mule was the pony that carried Mrs. O'Dell and her treasure. Wild birds fluttered and screamed in the dense woods through which the road lay, but the pony heeded them not. Suddenly, when emerging from the Pond road, the animal stood still and seemed stunned with terror. Almost at the same instant a peculiar rattling, rasping sound filled the air, and an army of serpents began crawling toward the wagon.

Mrs. O'Dell thinks there were a hundred snakes advancing to attack the pony. They came from every direction. She almost fainted with terror, while the horse shook almost hard enough to shed his harness. Mrs. O'Dell's voice came to her aid at this trying moment. She screamed loud enough to be heard a mile away.

William Carpenter was driving to his farm when the cries of distress reached him. He was soon on the spot and a lively battle began. The snakes attacked Mrs. O'Dell's horse and tried to get at the chickens. With a stout spade Carpenter slaughtered eight and the rest fled. The horse is still alive, although bitten in a dozen places. The dead snakes are on exhibition in a drug store.—New York Times.

How the Cricket Saved the Ship.

Just as Alvar Nunez's vessels were almost on the rocks a cricket commenced to sing, which cricket a sick soldier had put into the ship at Cadiz, being anxious to hear its music; and for the two months which our navigation had endured no one had heard it, whereat the soldier was much enraged; and as that morning it felt the land (sintio la tierra) it commenced to sing, and its music wakened all the people of the ship, who saw the cliffs, which were distant almost a cross-bow shot from where we were; so we cast our anchors and saved the ship; and it is certain that if the cricket had not sung, all of us 400 soldiers and thirty horses had been lost.

Some of the crew and soldiers accepted the occurrence as a miracle from God, but Nunez himself is silent on this head, being a better observer of natural history than a theologian.

But, "from then and sailing more than a hundred leagues along the coast, always every evening the cricket gave us his music, and thus with it we arrived at a little port beyond Cape Frio, where the Adelantado landed and unfurled his flag, and took possession of the country for his majesty."—Nineteenth Century.

How Muskrats Breathe Under Ice.

W. Spoon, the naturalist, asserts that the muskrat, when obliged to go beneath the ice from one side to the other of a pond, has a curious mod of taking along his air supply. Instinct teaches him to take in a deep breath before starting, but even this he knows will be insufficient for the trip. Accordingly he halts occasionally and exhales the exhausted air from his lungs. This air, being confined by the ice in the shape of a bubble, and in full contact with the icy water, becomes almost instantly reoxygenated. When the transformation is completed the wise rat again takes in his old breath, which is now a fresh inspiration. Thus rejuvenated, he again dives out of sight and begins swimming for the other side, only coming up against the ice as often as it is necessary for him to refreshen that valuable little bit of air. But few hunters and trappers are aware of the muskrat's odd plans of changing his poisonous breath into a fresh inspiration, but those who are take a mean advantage. By striking a heavy blow on the ice the air is dispersed, and the little animal dies of asphyxia.

Alaskans Astonished by Horses.

A prospector in Alaska took some horses with him. At the first Indian village the sight of the horses drove all the dogs howling into the woods. The children dropped their rude playthings and fled crying into the huts. The men and women stood their ground, although in open-eyed wonder. After much inducement they were finally prevailed upon to approach the horses, and their wonder knew no bounds. No amount of persuasion would induce them to mount. These were the first horses they had ever seen.

The movement of the cotton mills to the cotton fields is the logical result of the increased economies that have been enforced on business of every description, and this is a movement that must continue to increase.

Increasing the Issue of Books.

The cheapening of devices for printing has had the effect of increasing the issue of books to a figure never before attained or probably never dreamed of by our ancestors. In 1894, for instance, there were issued in the United States 4,484 new works, while in Great Britain during the same period the new books numbered 5,300, while there were 1,185 new editions of books previously printed, a total of 6,485, and for the two countries of 10,969. It is quite probable that not less than 1,000 copies were printed of each work, and it is more probable that of the whole number not ten will be remembered, even by name, in 1904.

TRUMPET CALLS.

Ram's Horn Sounds a Warning Note to the Unredeemed.

THE child of God is as safe as his Father's throne.

John the Baptist reached the masses by preaching Christ.

Where there is growling there cannot be much growing in grace.

Some men hate the Bible because it is against a short yardstick.

If you want your wife to be an angel treat her like one.

When our enemies are God's enemies we shall always win the fight.

It is not so hard to do right when the mind is fully made up to do it.

If you don't know what else to do for the Lord, become a cheerful giver.

When a man's tracks point toward the saloon his back is toward heaven.

The first mile toward hell often looks as though it led straight to heaven.

You cannot always tell who is in the grave by the size of the headstone.

Church members who never smile do a great deal of harm without knowing it.

When Jesus said three times, "It is written," the devil thought it was time to go.

If sin of every kind could be seen in the face the world would be full of red noses.

It is easy to lead a Christian life only when it is made the first business of life.

It is because there are so many highly respectable sinners, that sin is so dangerous.

When a sinner is dying he finds no comfort in counting the hypocrites in the church.

On the day a man finds out that he is a fool there is hope that he may some day become a Solomon.

There is one grave from which there can be no resurrection. It is one in which we bury our talents.

The man who does not believe in Christ takes a step toward God when he begins to believe in some Christian.

Many a man is so busy in trying to reform the world that he cannot find time to straighten up his own fence.

Faith with some people means simply trusting to luck.