

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF TIMELY INTEREST TO THE FARMERS.

To Get Fancy Prices for Milk...Bran a Valuable Food...Economizing With Manure...A Bed of Peonies.

ECONOMIZING WITH MANURE.

It never pays to stint the manure dressing in any crop that requires much labor to grow it. All the labor is made more effective in proportion as the soil is made more fertile. In other words, on rich land crops that require most labor may be grown with profit, while on poor soil the balance will be on the loss side of the account. The proper idea of economizing with manure is to apply it where it will most aid in increasing soil fertility. This is in every case where a part of the benefit of the manure will be soon applied to growing a large clover crop.

WHY LILY OF THE VALLEY FAILS

One of the most frequent causes of failure with lily of the valley is that the roots are too crowded. The remedy is to thin them out by digging out clumps here and there where the roots stand thickest, and manure the bare spots. Another cause of failure is that the roots have been planted too deep. The crowns should be level with the surface of the ground or but very little below it. It thrives best in a shady location.—New England Homestead.

BRAN A VALUABLE FOOD.

Bran is much more highly thought of as feed than it used to be. But it has its limitations and should not be relied upon entirely when fed alone. It is an excellent feed to give to animals that have a surfeit of corn, and should always form a part of the ration of fattening sheep.

Fine wheat middlings have all of the excellencies of bran, and will be eaten in greater quantities by fattening hogs. The bran and wheat middlings furnish a greater proportion of albuminoids than corn has, and therefore supplement its deficiencies.

Wheat bran is an excellent alternative for horses fed on timothy hay in winter. It will keep their digestion good and will be all the better if a tablespoonful of old process oil meal is added to each mess. Wheat middlings are not as laxative as bran, and are better therefore for horses that have to work hard, though both the bran and middlings contain much of the nutriment that builds up bone and muscle and increases strength.—Colman's Rural World.

ART IN AGRICULTURE.

Art in agriculture is coming to be more and more noticeable every day. With the advent of new methods, improved implements and a wider knowledge of the field, the agriculturist is rising higher in the field of useful or ornamental art as the years go by. We may say that sharp competition is no small factor in this progressive movement, says the agricultural student. Take, for example, the manner in which certain products are prepared for the open market. The improvement in the condition of certain dairy products and fruit on market in the last few years is truly wonderful. The reason, of course, is that people always buy that article which is put up in the most tasteful and attractive style, and are willing to pay a little more for it. With this change comes a more wholesome effect upon the article itself, and disease is much less disseminated through food at the present time than formerly. Greater precautions are taken now than ever before in preventing the spread of contagious diseases in this manner, and with the increase in the size of the cities and the greater liability to ill-health, these precautions cannot be observed too carefully. Thus the agriculturist, to be successful, must keep right up to date in his readings and methods.—Mirror and Farmer.

A BED OF PEONIES.

Peonies can be planted either in the fall or spring. On the whole, the fall is the better time. The hot weather often comes on so rapidly in spring, when the frost is once out of the ground, that there is but a short time for planting. Roots removed and transplanted in the fall have all the fall and winter to heal over any wounds and be ready for starting at the opening of spring. If removal is delayed until spring, the first season's growth would be apt to be much more feeble.

There is probably no way to prevent moles from any particular spot if they frequent the ground. The proper thing is to trap, catch and destroy them.

It is quite a matter of taste and ground room and other conditions that will decide how many plants to set. A bed of peonies cannot make much show except for the short time the plants are in bloom. They are very showy while they last, but a bed devoted to them would look very sombre after the blooming season. Three or four plants of peony in a group look very well, but if a bed of some size should be devoted to them it would become uninteresting. Our correspondent's idea of planting gladioli among the plants is a good one. Besides planting peonies in small groups of three or four, we would place them at the front of a border of shrubs.

Varieties should be selected to show as much difference as possible among the flowers. If the plants are planted in good soil and well cared for, they may bloom the second year, but not

very much can be expected from them until the plants have become strong.

FEEDING PUMPKINS.

Hogs and cattle will enjoy pumpkins with their corn and make better returns for the corn if they have as much pumpkin once or twice a day as they will eat up clean. We have seen pumpkins hauled to the field and dumped out by the wagonload, resulting in a gorge, disgust or disorder, and the feeder practicing this method does not think much of pumpkins, as his stock will eat them once only. If the pumpkins are fed in small quantities at the start the stock always is ready for them when offered, and the droppings show a more complete digestion of the corn. Pumpkins are so succulent that there is no need of stop of bran and middlings to balance the ration with corn on clover field or grass. Some hold that the seeds ought to be removed from the pumpkins, as the seeds affect the flow of urine, but we have never found any necessity for it. A neighbor fed two milk cows all the pumpkins they could eat twice a day, with their usual amount of millfeed. The cows ran on pasture during the day. To one cow he fed pumpkins with seeds removed, and to the other he fed the pumpkins with seeds, and added to her mess those taken from her mate. This test was continued for six weeks, and the cow receiving the double portion of seeds increased in flesh and yield of milk. Fed as a part of the ration with corn, the pumpkin can be made a saving of outlay for purchased feeds and prove of great value in the feed lot or cow stable. Pumpkins are too watery and weak to rely on as the main feed, but fed as an adjunct or fourth note, D and G, we believe they are safe and have great value.—Barn

TO GET FANCY PRICES FOR MILK

Present and recent low prices for pork only suggest a different method of the disposal of the product. The cost of production at the present time is low, and my own experience teaches me that with this feature in their favor, farmers can arrange to make pork raising mean more to them, so far as dollars and cents is concerned, than ever before. A poor hog is expensive at any and all times to the feeder, and never will return in his carcass the value he has cost. Keep pigs that will be ready for slaughter any time after three months of age, and that will make the choicest family pork.

The pig ready for market, the question comes up how to get the most dollars out of him. This can be accomplished by dealing directly with the consumer, and in no other way can this feature be gained. Well-to-do families in our large villages are only too glad to secure a supply of home-fattened pork at a price well in advance of the Western product. Like every other branch of farming, the highest success cannot be gained without some effort on the part of the farmer to get desirable customers. The best customers desire the carcass neatly cut up ready for use. This would be a new feature with many farmers, but it would mean a good many extra dollars for those who will persevere in working up such a trade as this. This plan, to a large extent, does away with the competition of Western pork. It is certain that wholesalers will not interest themselves in the disposal of the home-grown product, and rarely will the smaller marketman pay any advance, claiming that the Western is more desirable in every respect.

The advantages of pig raising to the farm are many. Much material, containing much and desirable feeding value, can be used in the pigpen, with marked profit, which would otherwise go to waste, and the farmer never would appreciate a money benefit only for his pigs. Manure of the highest quality for plowing under accumulates rapidly in the pigpen if kept supplied with the proper material, such as weeds, sod and grass in summer, and a plenty of bedding in winter. Do not allow the business to dwindle, as has the good old-time sheep industry, but push it for all it is worth.—American Agriculturist.

HOW TO TREAT A MAN—BY A HORSE.

When a man drops from sheer exhaustion or illness, promptly seize an end board or a cart stake and pound him on the head and on the ribs. If this does not recuperate him, kick him violently in the belly. This treatment will restore him if persistently administered. If a man finds his load too heavy and feels that it will seriously strain him to proceed, kick off a fence board and knock him down—and hammer him thoroughly with the board. This will give him renewed energy, and he will make no more fuss. But do not on any account reduce the load. That will look too much like common sense or humanity, and he will be likely to balk again when overloaded.

If a man refuses to drink when you offer him water, don't give him any water for two days. That will "teach him" to be thirsty at any time you find it convenient to attend to him. It is a good plan to ply the whip frequently on a man who is at work. No matter if he is doing his best, hit him now and then on "general principles" and to prevent him taking any comfort. If his load is not heavy, oblige him to go enough faster to make up for it. Work him hard enough to bring down the average life one-half, as is done with horses. If no whip is handy, use a club. Tie your man's head back in an unnatural position, with his eyes toward the sun. This will give him a "fine appearance" and "prevent straggling." Of course he will not be able to do as much work in this fix, but it makes him wretched, so it is all right.

In winter remove his clothing "to prevent his taking cold." He will also

"dry quicker" when you overwork him. You must hang a blanket on his back (but leave his neck and limbs exposed) when he is not at work. Men thus treated are "much healthier" than when allowed winter clothing. If not perfectly convenient to feed a man who is working for you at noon, let him go without, and by active use of the whip secure as much work as the food would have secured. Of course it wears out his vitality and distresses him, but that is no matter.

Put tight shoes on your man and keep them there until he is very lame with corns. To change his shoes costs money, not much, but some, and lameness and misery are of no account if you can save a dollar on shoes a year. When you hire a man do not be hampered by any humane notions. Get all you can out of him. True nobility consists in getting money, not in decency or kindness, or what some noodies term "character." Get money, even if it is all blood-stained. These are correct principles, I am sure, for I learned them when a colt from my master, who treated all his horses on this plan—and don't he know what's what?—Humane Journal.

MEXICO BOILED DOWN.

Interesting Facts and Figures About Our Sister Republic.

There are 19 volcanoes in Mexico. Mexico has 59 lakes and great lagoons.

Mexico has a coast line of over 6,000 miles.

Mexico has vast deposits of onyx and marble.

Slavery was fully abolished in Mexico in 1837.

The army of Mexico comprises about 40,000 men.

The area of Mexico is about 750,000 square miles.

The "valley" of Mexico is 7,500 feet above the sea level.

Mexico is about ten times larger than Great Britain.

There are only 463 square miles in the federal district.

Cotton factories in Mexico employ over 25,000 people.

Mexico's rainy season generally lasts from May to September.

The traveler in Mexico is seldom out of sight of mountains.

The average orange tree of Mexico raises 1,000 oranges a year.

There are probably 300,000 men employed in the mines of Mexico.

Mexico is the richest mineral country in the world, not excepting Peru.

The largest state is Chihuahua, with an area of nearly 90,000 square miles.

Pearl fisheries still furnish employment for many men on the Gulf coast.

Great quantities of sulphur are mined in the craters of several extinct volcanoes.

It is said that no country in the world shows so great a variety of plant life as Mexico.

The tax upon pulque in the City of Mexico alone amounts to over \$100,000 a year.

Mexico has a maximum length of 1,390 miles and is 540 miles across at the widest point.

Slight earthquakes are frequently felt in Southern Mexico, but they are very seldom severe.

There are upwards of 40 tribes of Indians in Mexico, who speak as many different languages.

The waters of the Atlantic and Pacific are only 140 miles apart at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Twenty-seven states, two territories and a federal district comprise the political division of Mexico.

The Gulf of Mexico has a breadth of 1,100 miles from east to west, and has an area of 700,000 square miles.

From an estimate after the election in Mexico in July, there are about 14,000,000 people in the republic.

The active volcano Popocatepetl is 17,708 feet high. The extinct volcano Orizaba has an altitude of 18,314 feet.

The City of Mexico is the finest of summer resorts. Its elevation is 7,350 feet and its average temperature 62 degrees.

Mexico has expended over \$500,000,000 in public improvements within the last 15 years, besides meeting other obligations.

The Cycle of Droughts.

H. C. Russell, a scientific man of New South Wales, announces as the result of a prolonged examination of history from the earliest times that seasons of drought recur with unvarying regularity at intervals of nineteen years. Of 208 droughts recorded since the year 900, all but fifteen conform to his theory, which is that there are every nineteen years one long period of three years during which the rainfall is somewhat deficient, and a shorter period between each of the long periods when the deficiency is excessive. He even finds a confirmation of the Bible chronology in the facts that the dates of the Egyptian drought in Joseph's time, the drought during King David's reign, foretold by Elisha, and that predicted by Elisha, all fall into the nineteen-year period.

Moose Elk Nearly Extinct.

The moose elk of Norway will soon be extinct. The law says that no more than one shall be killed on one property in a year. But as it says nothing about the size of the property, the owner of a tract of land with moose on it subdivides it into small plots, and then a moose can be killed on every plot without breaking the law.

It may not be generally known, but the drawing of Du Manier which claims the widest circulation is the label on the Apollinaris water bottles.

Tobacco seeds are so small that a thimbleful will furnish plants for an acre of ground.

THE MUSIC OF NIAGARA.

A Musician Hears the Harmonies and the Rhythm of the Mighty Cataract.

Eugene Thayer, the well known organist, has published an analysis of the music of Niagara Falls. He says: "It had never been my belief that Niagara had not been heard as it should be, and in this belief I turned my steps hitherward. What did I hear? The roar of Niagara? I heard nothing but a perfectly constructed, musical tone, clear, definite, and unapproachable in its majestic perfection, a complete series of tones, all uniting in one grand and noble unison, as in the organ."

Mr. Thayer then describes at some length the compound nature of a given tone, and illustrates the overtones or partials of the lowest C of the 32 foot pipe of the organ. Then he continues:

"I had long had a suspicion that I should hear all this at Niagara when her wonderful voice should first greet my ears. It was just as I had supposed. How should I prove all this? My first step was to visit the beautiful Iris Island, otherwise known as Goat Island. My next step was to stand on Luna Island, above the central fall, and on the west side of the American fall proper. I went on the extreme eastern side of the island in order to get the full force of the larger fall, and sat among the rapids. Next I went to the Three Sisters Island."

"With more or less variation of pitch at these and many other points, I heard everywhere the notes of the chord of G, only four octaves lower."

"I arrived at my conclusion both theoretically and practically. Let me first call attention to the third and fourth notes, D and G."

"The ground note, G, was so deep, so grand, so mighty, that I never could realize it or take it into my thought or hearing, but these two notes, only four octaves lower, were everywhere, with a power which made itself felt as well as heard."

"But, it will be replied, these two notes were too low to be detected by the sense of hearing. How did I determine their pitch?"

"I first caught the harmonic notes above them that were definite in pitch and then, counting the number of vibrations of these lower notes, easily determined their distance below."

"And here comes a curious feature which proves that Niagara gives a tone and not a roar. The seventh note, the interval of the tenth, was of a power and clearness entirely out of proportion to the harmonies as usually heard in the organ."

"Were the tone of Niagara a mere noise, this seventh note would be either weak or confused, or absent altogether."

"What is Niagara's rhythm? Its beat is just once per second."

GEORGIA'S ALLIGATOR CHILDREN.

They Were Born With Scales and Other Saurian Markings

Down in a far away Southern portion of Georgia is an extensive swamp called Grand Bay. It is a branch of the great Okefenokee Swamp. On the borders of this swamp live a pair of freaks the like of which are not to be found elsewhere. They were known as the "alligator children," and are the offspring of a man and woman of the poorest class of piney woods "crackers."

The eldest of the "alligators" is now twenty-three years of age, and is the best of health, except for her deformity. Shortly before the birth of this child the mother, Mrs. James Dawdy, was frightened by suddenly coming upon a huge alligator. The little girl shortly thereafter born to her was in appearance half human and half reptile.

Her head and face was elongated, her jaws protruded. There was only a very scant growth of hair on her head, and down her back extended a row of dark callousities like the scales on an alligator's back. She had a well defined tail several inches long, and her fingers and toes bore an unmistakable resemblance to an alligator's claws.

About a year later a second child was born, a boy, and he showed the same peculiar markings, only they were not so strongly defined as those of the girl.

Both children were mutes, and all efforts of the parents to teach them to utter intelligible words were unavailing. The girl made her wants known by a sort of whining sound, and when angry would snarl like an alligator. She was very unruly. The boy was more tractable, but both he and his sister displayed all the characteristics of the alligator.

The girl would be now about five feet high if she could stand upright, but the same number of feet long would be the more appropriate way to describe her longitudinal dimensions. The jaws bear a strong resemblance to those of an alligator, and curving claws, caloused by long use in creeping about the floor, disfigure her hands and feet.

The boy is more docile and exhibits a higher degree of intelligence, and will accept sweetmeats, holding them in his jaws as he crouches in the corner, munching them with evident satisfaction. He, too, creeps on all fours about the house.

The other children of the family are of average intelligence, and show no kinship with their less fortunate brother and sister.

How Eagles Fly.

An eagle circling in the air maintains his wings steadily motionless, but he spreads his tail as wide as possible and works it like the quarter revolution of a screw. The reactionary force which he thus displaces drives

him forward, and, by exerting more force of pressure with one side of his tail than with the other, he diverts his course either to the right or the left. The change in the bird's position is attended with short, quick motions, as the point of one wing is stretched forward, while that of the other is turned backward correspondingly.

These short, convulsive movements of the tail escaped the observations of the ornithologists until quite recently, and the fact of them not being noted caused many exhaustive articles to be written on the "Mystery of the Eagle's Flight." Stein der Weissen, the Austrian naturalist, appears to have been the first to notice the rudderlike motions of the eagle's tail. He says: "These motions of the tail would probably have escaped me also but for the fact that I had so often observed the peculiar construction of the side tail feathers." It is interesting to the naturalists and the laymen alike to know that "the mystery of the eagle's flight" has at last been explained.—St. Louis Republic.

A Movable Postoffice.

A postal van for collecting the mail, and sorting it on the way to the general post-office, has recently made its appearance on the streets of New York. It is drawn by a pair of horses and its internal arrangements are somewhat similar to those of the new postal cars which were recently placed on the Third avenue cable road. In size and appearance it is not unlike an ordinary Fifth avenue bus. It is painted a plain white, unrelieved by any striping, and entrance is made from the rear by a door, below which are steps reaching well to the ground. Along the left hand side of the car is fixed the sorting and stamping table, and the front end is taken up with a letter rack. In the ceiling are placed two powerful gas burners which are supplied from storage cylinders, arranged beneath the floor of the van. A driver and two clerks are assigned to each vehicle.

The post-office authorities have shown commendable enterprise in placing these experimental vans in operation. They are a further extension of the idea which led to the placing of postal cars on the cable roads, which is to utilize the time occupied on the journeys from sub-post-offices to the general office, by sorting the mail in transit. The postal van can reach sub-offices which are not served by the cable cars, and its greater mobility will render it an exceedingly useful branch of the service.—Scientific American.

Foreign Bits in New York.

The early pedestrian through some of the uptown streets frequently catches an odd bit of color that is not visible during the rest of the day. The Italian and French table d'hôte managers are at work soon after sunrise, and their employees are busily engaged at cleaning up the establishments before it is time to cook breakfast for guests.

In many of these places the cooks and down-stairs helpers are friends or relatives brought over from the old home by the successful proprietors. They cling to their old habits and dress for a long time. People who passed one of the large upper Sixth avenue table d'hôte restaurants early this morning saw three young men sweeping out or cleaning windows, and the dress of each one was what would be seen on all workmen in a similar class in a lower Italian town. One wore a brilliant scarlet wide sash about his waist; another had on a tight-fitting pair of cotton trousers, and all wore a sort of combination shoe and slipper, with extraordinarily high heels, a kind not manufactured in this country.

Novel Use for Sheep Brains.

Professor Burt G. Wilder, of Cornell University, in a recent address in Boston advocated the putting of the brains of sheep into the hands of school children, even in the primary department, for the purpose of scientific study. "Schoolboys," he said, "may describe the rivers of Africa and even the canals of Mars, and yet know little about the topography of their own cerebrum." By putting the brains of a sheep into their hands, even in the primary department, they are soon interested in the subject, he declared. "Should this plan be tried in good faith," said Dr. Wilder, "I venture the prediction that out of the first hundred led so to learn all will be made better citizens and parents; a score will be never perfectly qualified to teach or to practice medicine or law or to preach theology, and at least one will become an investigator and contribute to the honor of his country and the enlightenment of the world."—New Orleans Picayune.

Mules for Bear Hunters.

The proper beast for a grizzly bear hunter to ride is a good mule. Dr. W. F. Edgar, U. S. A., tells in Recreation why a mule is best.

The doctor was wandering near a camp up in Washington State on a mule. He had his rifle with him, and seeing a big bear in the trail, fired. The bear tumbled over, and out of sight. It looked like a clean kill, and the doctor started toward the place, and was nearly in sight of the hollow where the bear had disappeared when the bear climbed up over the edge and went at him.

It was then that the mule was of the utmost service. The mule rose on its hind feet, turned sharp around, and headed for camp. A horse or a mustang wouldn't have been quick enough, the bear was so close, but all the hunter had to do was to hang on. The mule knew what to do without being told.

The eight great water companies of London now supply nearly 6,000,000 people with about 183,000,000 gallons of water a day.

Cutting Teeth at Eighty-three.

Two of the oldest men in Baltimore are now undergoing the suffering of cutting teeth.

One is Thomas R. Rich, aged seventy years, an accountant. Six years ago he was knocked down by a trolley car. His eye teeth were loosened and fell out. For six years he mourned their loss, and now he sheds tears at the arrival of their successors.

Two well defined teeth have appeared in the place of the others, and the old man's jaws are so swollen that he can hardly eat.

The other aged tooth-cutter is William H. Hill. He is eighty-three years old, and is suffering with a new wisdom tooth.

Mr. Hill is one of the oldest residents of South Baltimore, and a pensioned veteran of the Mexican war. During the Civil war he belonged to the Union League of Baltimore, and was a member of the party that helped dig a trench at Druid Hill Park for the reception of Harry Gilmore's band of Confederates who were expected to try and raid the city.

Mr. Hill had a narrow escape from being hanged in Northumberland county, Virginia, during the Rebellion by a band of young Southerners. They had collected a party of six Union sympathizers and had ropes about their necks. Hill was one of the party.

All were saved by the arrival of a big fellow named Jackson Walker, whose capture the Confederates were discussing. He made his appearance on the scene very suddenly. He was armed to the teeth, and, leaping into the crowd, quickly dispersed it, and the Union prisoners made their escape.

The old gentleman delights to tell this story, and declares that was the only time in his life that he ever felt as badly as he does now when cutting a wisdom tooth.

Edibles From Refuse

All visitors to Paris rave about the delicacy of the food and daintiness of the service. They do not know some of the ways followed by restaurants and chefs. At the lower class of Paris restaurants a very ingenious fraud has been in practice for half a century. They make beef tea or bouillon without beef—warm water colored and flavored with burned onions and caramel as bouillon. To supply the little grease bubbles which connoisseurs demand was the only trouble. Finally a cook hit upon the ingenious device of blowing a spoonful of fresh oil over the soup. The oil immediately forms in tiny beads on the surface and there is your soup. Nowadays every cafe of this sort has its employe aux yeux de bouillon, whose sole duty is to make the little eyes or bubbles of grease on the soup.

Parisians are immensely fond of ham, so much so that the number of hams eaten in Paris could not be furnished by all the pigs killed in France, even allowing for the shoulder as well as the leg being cured—this being the French practice. The demand is supplied by buying up old ham bones and ingeniously inserting them into pieces of pickled pork, which are trimmed into shape, covered with grated bread crusts and then sold for ham. In this way a bone does duty for hundreds of times. Still, the supply of bones was limited, and it was not inconvenient to be put out if one's neighbor did not return the ham bone which the dealer relied upon securing the day before to recover for you. So a man conceived the idea of manufacturing ham bones wholesale, and made a fortune from the sale of these artificial foundations. Nowadays, therefore, ham is plentiful in Paris.

The Story of a Poem.

One of the most touching poems on prison life ever written was from the pen of Colonel H. C. Parsons, a gifted lawyer and railroad promoter, who died last June at his home in Virginia.

Previous to moving to Virginia Colonel Parsons defended a young man who was accused of murder. The evidence was seemingly entirely against the prisoner, but his counsel was firm in his belief of his innocence, and, though the necessary evidence to make that fact plain was not brought out at the trial, the Colonel succeeded in making the jury feel as he did, and a verdict for acquittal was rendered.

The young man had been in jail for several weeks, and, after the congratulations at his release were over, his counsel asked him: "Well, how does it feel to be free?" What the young man's answer was no one but the Colonel knew, but he was inspired by it to write a very beautiful poem, which was at the time of its first publication very widely copied.

A Check to Diphtheria

Dr. Dixey, in his paper on the vital statistics of diphtheria in London, speaking of the antitoxin treatment, asserted with confidence that the diphtheria mortality of the metropolis has received a considerable check, which it is difficult to attribute to any other cause than the introduction of the serum treatment. This conclusion of his is, of course, directly at variance with that arrived at by Dr. Lennox Browne, to which we recently referred in this column. Dr. Gordon Sharp contributed a valuable paper on the soil in relation to diphtheria and its organism, in which he arrives at the conclusion that diphtheria would appear to be endemic in certain districts; that soils organically laden, and with an impervious sub-soil, may become favorable breeding grounds for the bacilli, but that deep drainage would appear to render such soils innocuous.

The New Jersey Historical Society has declined the offer of the trustees of Princeton University to provide apartments in the new library building at Princeton for their exclusive use.