

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

The Quality of Pasture—Beans Among Corn—Planting Potatoes Under Straw—Weedy Strawberry Beds—Etc., Etc.

THE QUALITY OF PASTURE.

All the grass roots which root near the surface make the best early pasture, for these only get much warmth in the early spring months. June grass, red top and timothy pasture are best in the order named. Clover is very poor, unwholesome feed until it begins to blossom. Then it very rapidly increases in value, but should be cut for soiling rather than pastured, as stock will trample down clover in blossom and waste more than they eat.

BEANS AMONG CORN.

Succotash was an original Indian dish, and to the Indians we probably owe the practice of growing corn and beans interspersed in the same field. Usually when the early planted corn falls a hill of beans is placed in the vacancy where the corn should have been. Still another way of growing beans among corn is to wait until near July, and then plant hills between every row of corn, and thereafter cultivate only in the rows that are free from the beans. On good land a considerable crop of beans may be grown and without interfering with the corn crop. We have tried this plan when we were living in a city, where all our gardening had to be done on a city lot, and it was necessary to make the land produce as much as it could be made to do.—Boston Cultivator.

PLANTING POTATOES UNDER STRAW.

Some years ago some one wrote a letter in a farm paper claiming the great advantages from putting potatoes on a clover sod, and covering the sets thus planted so heavily with straw that no growth of either grass, clover or weeds was possible. He claimed an extraordinary crop with no plowing, no cultivation, and only needing to pull the straw away after the potato tops had died down, and find a crop of nice clean potatoes lying where the sod had been. We doubt much whether the original story was a true one, though on a small scale it might have been true if the season was wet enough. Any one who stops to think how much straw it must take to cover 45,500 square feet of surface deeply enough so that grass and weeds cannot grow through it, will see the absurdity of believing that a potato crop of even one acre, was ever grown in this way. What would be the advantage? It would only save plowing and a little cultivation. On the plowed acre, the potatoes would be best, because those believing that a potato crop of even supposing it rotted in time for potato roots to use it. The story, though plausibly told, could not deceive any one who had much experience in growing potatoes.—American Cultivator.

WEEDY STRAWBERRY BEDS.

It was the old-time idea that there should be no cultivation of strawberry plants the spring before they are to bear. The plant gets its name from the fact that straw is largely used as mulch for the beds in winter, and this in early spring, if raked into the spaces between the rows, is relied upon to destroy weeds. It will do this to a great extent, and will also form a clean bed on which the strawberries may be borne without getting soiled. There is certainly objection to running a cultivator between strawberry rows in early spring just before the plants are ready to blossom. That will make so much soil disturbance that the soil will not be compacted again, and the fruit will be mixed with sand and dirt. Yet if the strawberry bed is as rich as it ought to be, what weeds start among the plants will attain large size and injure the crop. The best way is to remove the weeds by hand, pulling them out. If the hoe is used place some of the straw over the place dug up, so that the fruit may not be soiled. The weeds are great robbers of moisture, and if not killed in spring will not only greatly lessen the crop, but make it hard to keep the bed for another year's use.

FIVE-MINUTE CHURNS.

Every now and then there seems to be a need for calling attention to humbugs and fallacies that pester and live off the dairy interests. One that makes its appearance regularly is the two-minute churn, or, in some cases, the five-minute churn. If farmers were properly educated on the subject of churning there would be no demand for a churn to bring butter in less than from twenty to forty minutes. For twenty-five years progressive and up-to-date dairymen have known this to be true, and have governed themselves accordingly in selecting and using a churn. Editors of agricultural papers should know it if they do not know it, and therefore they should not admit to their columns advertisements of churns for which the principal claims made are that butter can be churned in them from two to five minutes. All such churns are constructed with internal devices, such as paddles, shafts and floats, all of which have a tendency to break the grain of the butter, while the churn of today that is endorsed by those who have a practical knowledge of butter making has no inside fixtures.—F. W. Mosely, in The Massachusetts Ploughman.

THE APPLE BORER.

When we came to this mountain country some twenty-six years ago it

was a wild, undeveloped country, with no fruits of any kind. The first fruit we set out was apple trees, and nine-tenths of them were dead in two years. We cursed the nurserymen high and low for sending us old, worthless, diseased trees. What few trees lived soon showed us that we were in a superior apple belt; then we began to investigate and found the borer was the source of our trouble. We used all kinds of washes, oils, tars, and to very little effect, but after long experience we find the moth's egg that hatches the borer has to be laid where it will get the extreme heat of the sun. The moth lays its eggs at the base of the tree on the south side a half inch below the surface, the only place the eggs get the proper heat, unless on the upper side of a bent limb in the top of the tree, where there is a check that gets the direct rays of the sun. Every tree we now set out we wrap with a part of an old newspaper from three inches below the ground to a foot above. The first year is the season the borer gets in the tree. The tree is destitute of sap, and the borer thrives. About the third year, if the tree is in good thrift, the borer dies out or does not get in on account of the abundance of sap. So you will notice it is only the first two years that the tree needs wrapping. What really is needed is to shade the butt of the tree on the sunny side. If a little sprig or leaf comes out on the sunny side near the ground, leave it there to shade the ground for a year or two. A piece of a board, shingle or the half of a barrel stave set on the ground on the sunny side of the body of the tree is sufficient if it will remain. Trees should be wrapped before the first hot days of spring. When I set out trees I examine each one carefully to see if there is a borer already in; if so, I dig it out.—Horace F. Wilcox, Julian, Cal.

HORNLESS CATTLE.

Many of the disagreeable features of dehorning may be avoided by preventing the horns of calves from developing. The horns of cattle consist of two parts of different origin; the outer horny shell is a growth derived from the skin; the inner part or pitch consists of bone, and is an outgrowth of the skull. At the birth of the calf each of these parts is undeveloped and only exists as a possibility, but they at once begin to grow, and in a short time the young horn can be felt as a slight elevation or button.

The horn tissue develops from the skin just as do hoofs and claws in the lower animals and nails in human beings. There is a zone in the skin about the base of the horn known as the matrix, from which new horn cells are constantly being formed, the older parts being pushed on. If we destroy the periosteum from which the bony part of the horn is formed and the matrix from which the horny part is formed, we prevent the further development of the horn. In removing horns which are already more or less developed, as in dehorning mature animals, the cut must be made deep enough to include the matrix or the stump of the horn will continue to grow. It may not be out of place here to remark that there is no danger of cutting into the brain cavity, as at this point it lies very deeply. The openings frequently seen on removing the horns are only empty spaces with which the frontal bone is honeycombed.

In calves the growing points of the horns are small in extent and can be destroyed with little trouble. In our experiments we have made use of caustic potash. Caustic potash, so called, is a pure form of the same substance which constitutes the potash sold in cans for soap making and cleaning purposes. It is in the form of white sticks, in diameter about the size of an ordinary lead pencil. As its name indicates, it is a powerful caustic, rapidly destroying the skin and other tissues if kept in contact with them. In this property lies its value as a preventative of the growth of horns.

When properly applied it destroys the matrix or growing point of the horny tissue and the underlying periosteum from which the bony pith grows.

The hair should be cut away from the young horn as thoroughly as possible, so that the potash may come in intimate contact with the parts to be treated. The only secretion should be removed from the parts to be touched with the potash by wiping carefully with a rag or sponge moistened with soap suds, or water containing a little ammonia. Parts not to be touched should not be moistened.

The stick of potash is rolled up in a piece of paper so as to leave one end exposed. The exposed end is dipped in water to moisten it and then rubbed on the button or embryo horn until the skin begins to start, care being taken that the whole of the button and the border or matrix is included in the treatment. In young calves a few days old a surface half an inch or a little more in diameter will cover these parts.

Caustic potash, or caustic soda, which answers as well, can be obtained at almost any drug store. When not in use it should be kept in a closely stoppered vial, one with a rubber stopper preferred, or it will liquefy. After the calf is two or three days old the sooner the potash is applied the better.—New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin.

A Distinguished Cattle Thief.

His honor, Judge John Wyckliff, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation, is languishing in jail at Vinita, I. T., on the charge of cattle stealing. Justice Wyckliff is a full-blooded Cherokee.

BREAD OF NATIONS.

How the Bread of Life is Made Among the Various Peoples.

It is a curious and interesting study to compare the various materials which serve the different nations of the world as the basis of their bread. In this country, where good bread, made from spring and fall wheat flour, is within reach of all, rarely a thought is given to the fact that, after all, the inhabitants of only a small portion of the earth's surface enjoy such a food. In the remotest part of Sweden the poor make and bake their rye bread twice a year, and store the loaves away, so that eventually they are as hard as bricks. Further north still bread is made from barley and oats. In Lapland oats, with the inner bark of the pine, are used. The two together, well ground and mixed, are made into large flat cakes, cooked in a pan over a fire. In dreary Kamchatka pine or birch bark by itself, well macerated, pounded and baked, frequently constitutes the whole of the native bread food. The Icelanders scrape the "leicland moss" off the rocks and grinds it into fine flour, which serves both for bread and puddings. In some parts of Siberia, China and other eastern countries a fairly palatable bread is made from buckwheat. In parts of Italy chestnuts are cooked, ground into meal and used for making bread. Durra, a variety of the millet, is much used in the countries of India, Egypt, Arabia and Asia Minor for making bread. Rice is the staple food of the Chinese, Japanese and a large portion of the inhabitants of India. In Persia the bread is made from rice flour and milk; it is called "lawash." The Persian oven is built in the ground, about the size of a barrel. The sides are smooth masonry work. The fire is built at the bottom and kept burning until the walls or sides of the oven are thoroughly heated. Enough dough to form a sheet about one foot wide and about two feet long is thrown on the bench and rolled until about as thin as sole leather, then it is taken up and tossed and rolled from one arm to the other and flung on the board and slapped on the side of the oven. It takes only a few moments to bake, and when baked it is spread out to cool. This bread is cheap (one cent a sheet); it is sweet and nourishing. A specimen of the "hunger bread" from Armenia is made of cloverseed, flax or linseed meal, mixed with edible grass. In the Molucca islands the starchy pith of the sago palm furnishes a white, floury meal. This is made up into flat, oblong loaves, which are baked in curious little ovens, each being divided into oblong cells to receive the loaves. Bread is also made of roots in some parts of Africa and South America. It is made from manioc tubers. These roots are a deadly poison if eaten in the raw state, but make a good food if properly prepared. To prepare it for bread the roots are soaked for several days in water, thus washing out the poison; the fibers are picked out, dried and ground into flour. This is mixed with milk, if obtainable; if not, water is used. The dough is formed into little round loaves and baked in hot ashes or dried in the sun.

Marriage of Officers.

The restrictive conditions at present in force with regard to the marriage of officers in the Russian army forbid this privilege under any circumstance in the case of officers under the age of twenty-three. Between the ages of twenty-three and twenty-eight years the dot of an officer's wife must amount to a sum representing the minimum income of 250 roubles yearly. On comparison of these conditions with those regulating the same question in other European armies, it may be noted that in the Austrian-Hungarian army the number of officers authorized to contract marriage is limited by a fixed proportion assigned to each grade, and these totals being reached, all further marriages must be deferred pending the occurrence of vacancies in the married establishments. The Italian army regulations, which fix the income of the fiancée at a minimum of from 1,200 to 2,000 lire, would appear to be more rational in their operation. Italian officers, however, apply a somewhat liberal interpretation to this law, with the result that the number of marriages occurring under actual provisions does not exceed more than one-eighth of the total number, seven-eighths of the officers being united under the conditions of the religious ceremony only, and thus exposing themselves to all the inconveniences which attend a marriage not recognized by civil law. Similar disabilities would now appear to be incurred by Russian officers, and suggestions have been made by the press in Russia that a general revision of the law is becoming necessary. The question is assuming some importance from the fact that Russian officers, reaching a total number of nearly 40,000, represent one of the most important classes in the state.—Brooklyn Citizen.

Six Months Without Food.

John Babcock, an old resident of Gallen, Mich., is dead, after a fast which probably breaks all records. He had not tasted food since October last. Mr. Babcock was in a runaway accident a year ago and received injuries which affected his head. In October he became worse, and for some reason which the doctors cannot explain he could not eat a mouthful of food. Every effort was made to give him nourishment, but in vain, and finally the medical men gave up his case as hopeless and left him to die. He continued to live, however, week after week, without food, until death came after he had gone 180 days without a morsel of food having passed his lips.

About two months ago Mr. Babcock's skin began to harden and to all appearances it was turning to bone. At his death his body was hard and did not seem to have had a drop of blood in it.—Chicago Chronicle.

The Oldest American Fort.

Standing, sentinel like, where the Susquehanna splits itself into the north and south branches, is old Fort Augusta, the veteran fighting stronghold of the United States. Placed beside a modern fort it would look, in size, like a dog alongside of an elephant. It is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Gross, of Sunbury, Pa., and is located in a field about 165 feet from the river bank.

It was built in 1756, after plans by Col. Gordon, as a protection against the French and hostile Indians, and was named after the mother of George III. In shape, it closely resembles a bake oven, and its interior is curious and interesting. A small mound of earth marks the spot—with an opening in the ground two and one-half feet wide. Twelve four-inch stone steps lead below. On descending, the ground space inside is found to be 10x12 feet, and eight feet from the floor to the apex of the arched ceiling. The arch is brick and commences in an offset purposely made in the wall, five feet above the ground feet. The bricks are said to be of English manufacture.

Its location at the forks of the Susquehanna was a strong strategic advantage, as it held the chief passage by waterway from the north of the state. When completed it was regarded as one of the largest, strongest and most important of all the fortifications erected on the frontiers of the provinces. Its original armament consisted of at least twelve cannon and two swivels, and one of these cannons is still in existence in Sunbury. It is of English make, of about three and one-half inch bore and weighs nearly 1,000 pounds.

Fort Augusta ranks next in importance to Valley Forge as a factor in the achievement of our liberties, and it is to be hoped that some day public spirit will see that steps are taken for its preservation, and a suitable tablet placed upon it to mark its staunch assistance in the early career of this great country.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Interesting Inventions.

Ladies' hats can be safely packed in a new hat box which has a central frame of woven spring wire the shape of the inside of the hat, to prevent it from sliding around in the box.

To protect the heads of boxers and athletes a flexible helmet has been patented in which inflatable pockets are formed to shield the forehead, chin and sides of the head to deaden the force of a blow.

A Western man has patented a handy hat fastener consisting of two curved pins set in opposite sides of the crown, with rubber cords to keep them pulled into their heads, the pins being pulled down and allowed to work their way into the hair.

Grain can be automatically fed to horses at any desired hour by a new clock driven mechanism, in which the alarm is utilized to release a weight, which opens the valve of a small hopper and allows the feed to fall into the manger.

The circulation of air in a car is insured by a new attachment having a small windmill outside the window to be revolved as the car moves, the wheel shaft transmitting power through a gear shaft to a fan wheel inside the car.

A German has devised a new method for producing water pyrotechnics, consisting of a horizontal perforated tube, which can be bent to any desired shape and placed on a sunken raft close to the surface of the water, combustibles being then forced from the tubing through a connecting pipe on a boat or the shore.

Carving as an Art.

Only persistent practice and definite knowledge make carving a pleasure and a success. Neither illustration nor diagrams are of much assistance in learning this art. As a distinguished authority on carving says in his monograph on the subject: "Illustrations cannot prove helpful because the actual thing before us bears faint resemblance to pictures, with no hints of what may be inside."

By right of precedence the carver's chair belongs to the head of the house, either father or mother, but weariness, preoccupation or more often a parent's pleasure in contemplating the increasing deftness of a clever son or daughter in presiding over and properly distributing a joint, fowl or fish, leads the elders to resign in favor of the youth when guests are not present.

Carving at the table, it is said, is now considered not only a useful art, but a social accomplishment as well. A practical knowledge of its process should be a part of the education of all young people.

Children should know how to carve by the time they are 15 years old. In France a boy is required to take his turn in cutting and serving meals at table as soon as he is strong enough to handle the knife and tallow enough to readily reach the joint or fowl. Sometimes he stands upon a broad stool made for the purpose, and he is proud when he is successful and ashamed when found imperfect.

Contrasted.

The Spanish peasant works every day and dances half the night, and yet eats only his black bread, onion and watermelon. The Smyrna porter eats only a little fruit and some olives, yet he carries with ease his load of 200 pounds.

PHILADELPHIA'S DEFENSES.

A Vessel Attacking the Quaker City Would Have a Hard Time of It.

Should an attempt be made to reach this city, a battle ship would first have the dangers of the irregular channel to brave. Successfully accomplishing the passage up the river, floating torpedoed and electric mines would be encountered probably as far as 20 miles below Fort Delaware. Escaping these, she would be greeted by a raking fire from two mortar batteries, each containing eight guns. The batteries are hidden in deep pits a few miles below Delaware City. Still continuing to advance, she would be met when twelve miles below Fort Delaware by a fire from the five-inch guns located at Fort Mott. These falling, the larger guns of both forts, Mott and Delaware, would open and further progress would certainly be arrested.

At a distance of ten miles the vessels would be in range of the three ten-inch guns. At that distance or even half that, the big guns on the battle ships could not be used on account of the limitations of elevation in the turrets in order to get such a range. At a distance of seven miles a 1,000-pound projectile from one of the 12-inch guns at Fort Mott would pierce seven inches of armor on the vessels. Each of the four guns at Fort Mott could be fired every five minutes, throwing a weight of metal of more than 2,700 pounds at each round.

As each gun was fired it would drop behind the parapet on its disappearing carriage, out of the sight of the advancing ships, where it would be loaded again, and, after being aimed by range finders, would rise to a firing position, discharging its projectile and drop again out of sight.

Further mortars are situated here. They are also hidden in deep pits and by range finders would throw their projectiles upward in an arc, dropping them on the decks of the approaching vessels. A shower of eight 600-pound shells dropped around a cruiser and on her decks, some of them going through, would probably lead to some hesitation on the part of the commander as to the advisability of proceeding further. These shells will go through several inches of deck armor.—Philadelphia Times.

Captain Vaughn's Quaker Lily.

A plant that grows at the rate of nine inches every twenty-four hours without earth or water is a curiosity in the possession of Capt. S. R. Vaughn of 324 Reed street. Capt. Vaughn calls his plant a "snake lily." It came to him through a friend in Cochin China, and when it first arrived as a bulb it looked like a huge Indian turp. It lay during the greater part of the winter in a dark closet, but recently it began to show signs of awakening from its long sleep.

Mrs. Vaughn knew the symptoms, for the bulb has been in the family's possession for several years now, and she had watched its successive bloomings and witherings during that time. Mrs. Vaughn took it out of its hiding place and set it in an ordinary peach basket with nothing at all about it except some newspapers. A mottled green stalk pushed its way out of the top of the bulb and grew at the amazing rate above mentioned until now it has reached the height of 8 feet 1 inch, and is just beginning to wilt. Of this total height the pistil or tongue issuing from the cup of the lily represents 4 feet 1 inch. Cup and pistil are both of a beautiful dark maroon color. The flower and stalk will gradually wither away and drop off the bulb. The latter will then be planted in earth, and in July and August will show a great umbrella-like spread of foliage. In September this too, will wither, and the bulb will go to sleep for the winter.—Philadelphia Record.

Found an Owl in the Cook Stove.

City Treasurer Hacheney is one of those old-fashioned men who get up first in the morning, build fires, and make some coffee for the refreshment of himself and the others as they turn out.

Monday evening he laid the fire in the kitchen stove, as usual, before going to bed. Yesterday morning when he opened the stove door to apply a match to the kindling, he was startled by a vicious snapping and the sight of some hideous, sooty-looking goblin, with huge eyes and ears, which caused him to jump half way across the kitchen. On recovering his equanimity, he made an investigation and found that a gray owl had found its way down the chimney through the stovepipe and draught into the stove. Mr. Hacheney could hardly believe his senses, and at first imagined that some one had been playing a belated April fool trick on him, but the disclaimers of all the family and the fact that the owl was liberally covered with soot and ashes convinced him that the bird had come down the chimney.—Morning Oregonian.

A Pearl of Great Price.

Five hundred and fifty thousand dollars was the price paid for the great Tavernier pearl. It was originally owned at Catifa, in Arabia, and M. Tavernier made the trip from Paris to the desert city of Arabia for the express purpose of purchasing the pearl about which so much had been said and written. He went prepared to pay any price, from \$5,000 to \$500,000. It was thought that he might succeed in closing the bargain for about \$125,000, but this proved to be a great mistake. The sum first offered was \$50,000, but the deal remained open for some days even after that offer had been increased to \$75,000. Finally the bargain was closed for \$550,000. Pearl connoisseurs declare that it is not only the largest, but also the most perfect gem of its

kind known, being exactly two in length, oval, and of spotless whiteness. Among the crown jewels of Europe there is a pearl over an inch long, egg shaped, which cost the government not less than \$500,000.

Has Forty Living Children.

A short ride from Moosup, Minn., is known as the Sparks District. In the eastern part of Killyingly, Nye Co., Bradshaw, whose record for populating the earth is such that he deserves to become famous, Bradshaw emigrated from Canada, and has lived in the vicinity about thirteen years. He is now in his seventy-first year. He has been married three times, and he is the father of forty-one children, forty of whom are living. By his first wife he had six children, including a pair of twins. His second wife bore him twenty-four children, half of whom were twins. His present wife presented him with eleven children.

Bradshaw was not fourteen years old when he was married the first time. The eldest son is now forty-four and has several children and grandchildren. Twenty-nine of the old man's sons and daughters are married, and all have children. The grandfather does not know just how large his family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren has become. He can enumerate to 100, but is in the dark as to remainder. He estimates them to be 200 or so.

The Killyingly patriarch was married to his last wife in Danielson thirteen years ago. Only one of her seven children has died. The death occurred at birth a few months ago. These are healthy and robust, like the other. Mr. Bradshaw is believed to be the banner father of New England, at the banner grandfather of the United States.—New London (Conn.) D.

Mastering the Wheel.

After discovering the fallacy the theory that the art can be acquired in a back kitchen with the curtains drawn the novice remembers a particularly unfrequented side street, lined with trees that help to obscure the lit of moon and lamps. He takes the handle bars of his machine to get the impression that the machine is of order and that he is on his way to it to the repair shop. This furnishing with an excuse for not riding, then he sallies forth, leading his wheel. The unfrequented by-street is due now, so of course he goes south, and then back to the windward side, like a cat and beats and maneuvers and hauls down his halyards and reeves thimble, and so on, and finally heaves to in front of a livery stable, where he goes through till he reaches theley, and then by a sudden port movement he emerges, trembling and demoralized, upon the darkened thoroughfare. Of course, everyone stops to watch him tangle himself in the wheel, they gather in little groups along the way, and when he falls and awakes to slide, bicycle and all, in the catch basin of a sewer, they catch between spasms of ill-timed merriment his assistance. It is well to leave him at such a time as this to tangle with the man from whom he rent the bicycle and with his Maker.—Hass City Star.

Nature's Preservation of Species.

One of the most magnificent sides of this kindly Venus was so abundant in the Columbia River, before being houses had reduced its number that the town reaches were packed with salmon, while the surface was covered with the drifting bodies of those that had perished in fierce struggle with the crowd; yet there is good authority for the assertion that not a single one ever returns alive from the biding grounds in the head waters of St. Cloud. The whole race is wiped out, utterly exterminated, as soon as arrives at maturity and physical perfection, in order that the perpetuation of the species may be assured. The whole object and end of the beautiful coordinated body, which is provided by such admirable and wonderful adaptations, which is built up so slowly and at so much cost, is rapid and to destruction. The marvelous instinct which leads the young fish to the ocean, the organization and the habits which fit for marine life—all, in a word, which makes of the salmon our ideal, a lordly fish—is worth nothing as compared with the welfare of generations yet unborn.—W. K. Brooks, in Newton's Popular Science Monthly.

By Measured Candle.

How many people have seen or heard of a sale by measured candle, or a popular mode of auction in England, and mentioned in "Pepys His Day?" Apparently you may satisfy your curiosity on the point by a visit to Aldermaston in Berkshire. "The villagers assemble in the schoolroom on the occasion of the letting of the 'Cireh Acre,' a piece of meadow land which was bequeathed some centuries ago to the vicar and church wardens of the parish for the expenses of the church. The custom is as follows: A candle is lighted and one inch below the flame is duly measured off, at which point a pin is inserted. The bidding commences, and continues until the length of candle is consumed and the pin drops out. Every three years this ancient ceremony is performed."

Curious Signboards.

In Sweden the railway stations are meals are served are known by the picture of a crossed knife and fork opposite the name of the station.

The oldest university in the world is El Ayhar at Cairo. It is the greatest Mohammedan university, having records dating 971.