TOPICS.

A Perfect Food for Chicks-Storing Celery-How to Grow Crimson Clover-Compost ing Frequently Unprofitable-Etc., Etc.

A PERFECT FOOD FOR CHICKS. From the time that the chicks emerge from the shell until they have assumed a comfortable suit of feathers, feed nothing but Graham bread, soaked in luke-warm water until soft. not sloppy. Give plenty of pure water, keep the chicks free from lice, and -barring accidents-about one hundred per cent. will reach the frying stage. Never feed raw meal of any diarrhea and dysentery. When I began to raise chickens, I fed raw coru meal mixed with water, and thought myself fortunate if half of those hatched lived to become large enough for table use .- A. J. Leland in the Epitomist.

## STORING CELERY.

Large celery growers are careful to store their celery only when it is quite dinary system practiced is to pack it in trenches on high, dry ground, and cover with straw or other coarse litter, ery should be stored in a special with papers and shingles with a window at one end and a door at the other. Wooden chimneys eight inches square can be placed twelve feet inches wide, can be made along the sides, into which the celery is snugly packed, with soil filled in between the bunches.

### HOW TO GROW CRIMSON CLO-VER.

In many parts of New York state factory results from it the same sea- riculturist. son. It is not a warm weather plant. The hot sun of midsummer will either kill it or drive it to a head when only two or three inches high. It is by na- three times daily. ture a cold-weather plant, and is best suited to sowing in late fall, so that it hens can see to eat. may hold the ground during the fall | Whole corn is the best food for hens and winter. We use it in this way in very cold weather as a catch crop, growing, say, from August until May, and then and do not produce fat instead. making room for another crop better suited to holding the ground during through snow looking for food or wathe summer. Grown in this way, ter. crimson clover is of great value to the farm, but we do not advise that it be frosted. No hen with frosted comb cut and cured for hay. It ripens at a | will lay. time somewhat out of season for safe haymaking, and, on the whole, we consider it better suited for ploughing fer much and never lay. under as green manure or for pasturing hogs or sheep.

catch erop, usually sowing it in the standing corn. At the last cultivation broadcast about twelve pounds per nature, acre of the crimson clover seed, then run the cultivator through the corn as usual, thus working the seed in. After the corn is cut the clover grows that makes eggs. along through the fall and winter. We also sow the seed after early potatoes; after digging we work the ground with the Cutaway harrow, sow the clover seed and then roll. It is not necessary to give any very careful preparation of the ground in preparing it for crimson clover seed, but you will make a mistake if you undertake to sow the seed in the spring, berause it is not adapted to spring sowing, and will certainly prove a disappointment.-Rural New Yorker.

### COMPOSTING FREQUENTLY UN-PROFITABLE.

On my farm of eighty-six acres I have handled annually for ten or twelve years 150 to 200 tons of manure. Much of this is obtained from neighboring towns for the hauling. The crops grown in a regular three year rotation are corn, wheat and clover. I have given a good deal of thought to the plan of composting, and three or four times have built compost heaps. My aim has always the great professionals are known and been to put the manure when possible on the fields as hauled. When this has been inconvenient or impracticable, on account of the land being soft. or for other reasons, I have resorted to composting. 'My plan in building the compost heap has been to make it circular and four or five feet high. Drive the wagon around it as the manure is being unloaded. Then tramp by leading or driving the horses over it. If I found there was danger of burning I hauled water and applied it when necessary. On one heap of ninety large loads I put at different times fifty barrels of water. This heap was built in a corner of a field where the manure was to be used.

This all entailed hard work, and a good deal of it. Making the compost heap in the barn lot, I can haul to it any time and with any load that can be hauled upon a good gravel pike. I do not compost because I think it which grows now-a-days utterly disprofitable, but as a makeshift or mat- regarded, was so sacred to the Druids ter of convenience. When I dump the that they only gathered it for their dimanure in the barn lot, I scatter shell- vinations when the great dog-star ed corn over it, for my brood sows. In arose, in order that neither sun nor gathering the corn they fine the ma- moon should see the deed.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES. nure and compact it so that it never has to be watered. The other stock in the lot, horses and cattle, help with . NOTES OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL the tramping. I would in no case consider it profitable to gather road or street scrapings for the compost heap. They contain too much sand and gravel. I sometimes gather the leaves from four acres of timber and put them in the barn lot compost heap. Wheat straw which is not needed for bedding also goes through this heap. Clover haulm I scatter on the fields from which it was taken, and plow under in the late fall and winter.

Going through the compost heap adds nothing to the manure. Hence why haul it to the heap dry and haul it away wet, entailing cost and hard labor? By my system of handling manure, I have been able to increase my wheat, clover and corn crops. Bekind to very young poultry; it causes fore using these manures in such quantities I put the land in proper condition to receive them. Upon one field that had never given, previous to my work on it, an average of over eight bushels of wheat per acre, I have raised thirty-nine bushels one year, and at other times twenty-five, twenty-six and thirty-one bushels per acre. This was accomplished without a pound of commercial fertilizer. My opportunities for obtaining manure off the farm have made it posfree from the moisture of dew and sible to speedily bring the farm up to frest. For keeping a long time the or a state of high fertility. Had these opportunities been limited, or had I been confined to the farm for the manure supply, I would not have made increasing the covering as the mercury a practice of composting, because I falls. When to be sold early the cel- do not think the profit accruing would justify the outlay of labor required. house, fourteen to sixteen feet wide, The whole strength of the argument built on high ground, the basement be- in favor of composting may be ing dug down to moist earth, the walls summed up in the following statedouble boarded on each side of the ment. It enables the farmer to get post, the space between being filled the refuse products of the farm, such with sawdust and leaves. The roof as straw, leaves and weeds and coarse can be of matched boards covered manure, into an available form for plant food more quickly than could be

done otherwise. It cannot be claimed that we haul from the compost heap more fertility apart. Narrow compartments, sixteen than we put into it, hence if we can use these products without so much labor, we are the gainers. If not properly composted, much is lost which cannot be lost if these products are returned to the land in their coarse state. Following out this line of argument, the conclusion is that for staple farm crops composting does not farmers are growing crimson clover in pay. In the culture of garden crops their orchards with great success. You and stock roots I find it desirable to cannot however, expectto sow this have a supply of composted manure .clover in the spring and obtain satis. John M. Jamison in the American Ag-

## POULTRY NOTES.

Give the fowls fresh water at least Feed as early each morning as the

Feed carefully for egg production Do not force the hens to tramp

Be careful not to let the combs get

Hens should be kept in good flesh during cold weather. Poor hens suf-

Keep houses clean and well ventilated during the day; close everything On our farm we use this clover as a up tight at night and avoid drafts. Do not complain if your hens fail to lay an egg each every day. They of the cern we go through and sow may do so occasionally, but it's not

> Laying hens require more feed that those that do not lay. Remember this and feed more of the kind of feed

Cracked corn is a good food for growing chicks of fair size provided plenty of sharp grit is furnished, but not otherwise.

Sometimes shutting hens off grain and feeding meal will cause them to lay. Sometimes a change of food will cause them to renew egg production.

Farmers who have a patch of wet land, marshy and almost useless, could get a little return by keeping geese. A few would get most of their summer food from such a spot and will pay better in proportion to their cost than any other stock on the farm.

# Two Havana Pastimes.

The intellectual pastime in Havana is chess. Chess is played at all the clubs extensively, and nearly all business and professional men are devoted to the game. There are several chess clubs, and some of them have players with world-wide reputations. Some of the international chess champions have played here, and almost all of their play understood. It is easy to get large subscriptions to secure the presence of a famous chess player from abroad.

The last of the bull-fighting probably has been done in Havana. During the war the bulls were all eaten. After the raising of the blockade the project of importing bulls from Mexico was discussed, but was finally abandoned. Now it seems likely that before any bulls can be provided the pastime will be forbidden. The natives expect to see their bull-fighting abolished as a matter of course, and there probably will be no protest. The intelligent Spanlards understand that the United States will not tolerate the pastime.

# A Plant Once Sacred.

The plant known as vervain, which is not distinguished for its beauty, and

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

cuse for such attention.

A monument costing \$40,000 is to be

Mr. Covert, American Consul at Ly- American goods passing through creglass and spectacle mountings of The users of American bicycles in American manufacture are the best Hong Kong will be chiefly men in the of such goods this company may have | English merchants who live there. a monopoly if it so desires.

A Vienna (Austria) paper declares

During the last twenty-five years the government has granted twentyfive inventors more than 100 patents each, the whole number being 4.894, the average 195. Thomas A. Edison stands at the head of the list. He has received 711 patents, Elihu Thomas 394. Francis H. Richards, 343. Edward Weston, 274, Charles E. Schrivener 248, Charles J. Vandepoele, 244, and George Westinghouse 217.

ing the financial and industrial conditions of England in so far as they have relations with the United States. says: "If the situation in England is as Englishmen now describe it, if England is actually now living on the accumulated savings of hundreds of years' possession of the world's markets and carrying trade, the date when an increased immigration from Great Britain to the United States will

the peaceful conquest of genius, en- cause they show that, although the reterprise and productive skill, and quirements for admission to college says:-"While our army and navy are becoming more and more exactwere closing in upon Santiago Ameri- ing every year, the ratio of students can manufactured goods were crowd- to population is rapidly increasing. To ing competitors to the rear in markets this great body of learners must be that have heretofore been largely con- added the large class of persons entrolled by England, Germany and gaged in post graduate studies, whose humanity the United States has made times greater now than it was thirtyits greatest record in exports and its five years ago. smallest record in imports and the largest importation of gold ever made Statistics shows that we consume

by the treasury.

A Philadelphia dealer in birds, dogs and goldfish has a new species of the finny tribe imported from Japan, which swims with the head down in the water in nearly a perpendicular position. A woman stopped before the store the other day, and after viewing the new variety went into the store and ordered the dealer to make the fishes swim with their heads elevated. The dealer became angry over ber interference with his business, and ordered her from the store. She inand an officer was sent to investigate. The fish still swim perpendicularly.

in its industries during the last few pausted.

lay in the latter city. It bears the medal if any sailor does. autograph signature of Robt. Stephenson, F. R. S., M. P., president of the Institute of Civil Engineers, who died n 1550, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. The plan, which is frawn to the scale of four inches to the mile, is all the more valuable seeing that the copies of it, which were July deposited in the Private Bill Office at the time, were destroyed in he disastrous fire which borke out at the Palace of Westminster in 1834. The bills relating to this great underaking were passed on May 6, 1833, turing the reign of William IV., and ollowing year.

esentative of an American sewing ranted.-Medical Record. pachine obtained an order from an english firm in Hong Kong for a con- Vienna, Austria has trebled its pop iderable number of bicycles, made by ulation within thirty-five years.

the sewing machine company he represented. American exports of all Medals of valor have been conferred kinds to Hong Kong are increasing on 100 Greek women who served as remarkably. Formerly kerosene and nurses in the war with Turkey. There California flour were almost the only wasn't anything to do but decorate the articles shipped there from here. Towomen, for the men furnished no ex. day ever steamer and ship from America brings cargoes of American goods. This is a direct result of the war with Spain. Goods are shipped to the erected over the grave of a simple United States forces in Mania by way Kentucky private killed in the San of Hong Kong, which, as is generally Juan fight. The soldier was only one known, is a mountainous island, hardof many wealthy men who were pre- ly a mile away from the coast of pared to go to the front in any capa- China, and in the possession of the British. The imposing quantities of

Russia's progress during 1898 has been most remarkable. Internally, that very few persons in that city read every kind of reform-industrial, edupoems, and fewer still buy them; that cational, mercantile-has been pushed puublishers refuse to print them un- as rapidly as possible. The Siberiau less the authors pay all expenses, and railway is advancing with rapid that to ask for a volume of poetry in strides. The trans-Caspian railway, in a book store is to be stared at as at a its two branches, to the Chinese and Afghan borders, is approaching completion; river transportation is being improved; everywhere there is the outreaching of a vigorous people. The borders have been extended to include Manchuria, and at last there is a Russian ice-free port on the Pacific. Politically, she is stronger than ever. In the Turkish, Persian, Chinese and Korean governments her word is well nigh supreme, her only rival being England, while her entrance into Afghanistan by the waters of the Ox-The Philadelphia Inquirer discuss- us revives the fears of Indian Russop-

It appears that one-fifth of the population of the United States is in school. That is to say, that in the classes in the country there are 16. 225,093 pupils and students. In the dents as against SS,SG4 in 1871. In 1872 the college students numbered begin to set in is bound to follow tion, whereas they now number 1.216 only 590 to each 1,000,000 of populato each 1,000,000. These figures are The Chicago Times-Herald talks of both important and encouraging be-

A bulletin of the Treasury Bureau of nearly twice as much coffee as does It is estimated that there are 199 .- all Europe, with nearly five times our 900,000 old style copper pennies some population. We consume about one return to work, but he set about elab- over the tender without warning me, where. Nobody knows what has be half of all the coffee that is raised in e of them, except that once in a the whole world. We annually send while a single specimen turns up in abroad \$90,000,000 to pay for our raw change. A few years ago 4,500,000 coffee. Leaving out the children, out bronze two-cent pieces were set affoat. grown and half-grown population con-Three million of them are still out sumes on the average fwenty pounds standing, but are never seen. A mil- of coffee per capita per year. Morelion of three-cent silver pieces are over, the coffee-drinking habit is scattered over the United States, but growing upon us. For while we took it is very seldom one come across any only 700,000,000 pounds in 1807, we of them. Of the 800,000 one-half-cent took 800,000,000 in 1898. We never pleces not one has been returned to were great tea-drinkers, and the stathe government for coinage or is held tistics show that we are dropping tea gradually yet by no means slowlyat the rate of about 20,0000,000 pounds a year. While other nations drink coffee once or at most twice a day. we as a nation have it three times a day, mixing the cream of the coffee with all manner of fruit and vegetable acids, to the great distress of our digestive apparatus. We are a brave nation, brave to rashness in our eating and drinking. In no respect does this reckless audacity shine more brilliantly than in our coffee-drinking.

Every war has its unknown, or formed the Society for the Preven. scarcely known, heroes, whose names tion of Cruelty to Animals officials, are inscribed on no tablets of bronze. but who waxed as valiant in fight or proved as alert in resource or as patient in suffering as any of the most The rapid progress made by Japan noted commanders. Dewey, Sampson, Schley and Shafter have their reward. years was mainly due to the develop- but few think of the humble heroes ment which coal production has as who sank into unmarked graves or in sumed there and which facilitated the obscure corners dared tremendous starting of so many establishments risks. That fireman on the Castine, and caused an increase of Japanese for example, was a hero if ever there goods on the international markets. was one, who, when during a run The fears expressed by British and under forced draft in action, the loos European manufacturers in regard to ening of a bolt at the farthest interior the sudden competition of Japan are of a furnace, let the steam in on the about to vanish now, when it is stated fire, thus deadening it, ordered the that coal production has ceased to be draft turned off, and fresh coal considerable in the Japanese Empire. thrown on the fire. When the white It appears that there is not more than fires were banked, he climbed in over one million tons of coal a year now the wet coal, treading on a plank, till nined in the whole country, and that he reached the place where the steam nine-tenths of this comes from the was rushing in, and tightened the bolt. mines of Hokkaido and Kiensen, and remedled the trouble. For three which are reported as nearly ex- minutes he remained in the furnace, when he was pulled out by his ship-The original plan prepared by mates, and the gunboat resumed her George Stephenson and his son for the course through the waters, at the forirst line of railway from Birming- mer high rate of speed, as though nothham to London was sold the other ing happened. That man deserves a

French and Our Own Army Mortality. The statistics of mortality among the French troops, recently published by M. Noel in the Revue Scientifique, show that the death rate of the troops in France amounts to 6.08; in Algiers, 12.27, and in the colonies, to 42.95 per cent. When we compare these statistics of an army at peace, and those of the mortality rate among our own soldiers in the war with Spain, which was something like 2 per cent., including those who fell in battle as well as those who succumbed to disease, it he work was begun on June 1 in the is only fair to ask whether the great outery against the excessive death Within the last three months a rep- rate in our own armies is wholly war-

# A SLEEPLESS MAGNATE.

PECULIAR MALADY OF A FAMOUS WISCON SIN MILLIONAIRE.

Elaborate Daily Routine Which Fostered Edward Bain's Insomnia-Never Occupied

or Wooed Sleep in a Reclining Position. millionaire wagon manufacturer of planted, and the plants kept down by Kenosha, Wis., who died recently at boards until the roots have taken Pasadena, Cal., never occupied a bed hold. Of course, provision for keeping or woodd sleep by assuming a reclindown the boards has to be made. This ing posture. Sitting bolt upright in a boarding process is one of the essenhigh-backed arm chair, or lying back tials of culture. The crisp, julcy proons. France, declares that the eye ated curiosity first, then demand. in a chair which tilted at a slight duct would not be secured without it. breast and dozed away for the few ter cress as blanching does to good celin the world, and that in certain lines employ of the British government and minutes of half slumber which it seem- ery. With the tough, peppery stuff on with having.

Sometimes he did not sleep more Monthly. han thirty minutes in the course of a night, dividing this into snatches of five, seven or ten minutes, and rising in the frequent intervals to take long walks about Kenosha. There was, however, nights when he secured nearly the average quota of sleep, possibly an hour at a time, rising at the end girl to her family. She is engaged in turning to the laborious endeavor to among the variegated experiences enentice forgetfulness.

Four times a millionaire, by the esti- try: tried to sleep.

man of leisure. The Bain Wagon Com- further with him. As I only wanted pany became in 1882 a corporation and a cup of coffee, I was soon back in he its president. As Edward Bain, the the cab. proprietor, there had been never-end- "Desiring to improve my mind I exing employment for him; as Edward amined the mechanism of the thing. Bain, President, he had nothing to do and, wishing to know the use of a certhe Board of Directors and draw his seen the engineer do. Gracious! dividends.

physical ill. The mechanism of the going across the prairie lickety split. France. While engaged in a war for number is estimated to be twenty-five man's brain appears simply to have I didn't know what to do, but the one undergone a subtle change that made order to me had been to stoke up, and Mr. Bain constituted himself his own heroic strength. doctor, and seems to have reasoned "Suddenly I was seized from behind that system might again restore him and thrown right into the coal bin, to a normal state. He did not care to and the conductor who had crawled in orating a daily time card. For six talked horribly. While we were backmonths of the year, the period he spent ing up to get the engineer and fireman at Kenosha, there was no shifting of I told that conductor what I thought the programme for any cause what of him, and he apologized, I have also

he was hurried by his attendant to a coming I'm going to make trouble. bath, then rubbed vigorously and dressed in fresh garments. In matters of attire be was scrupulous to the last detail. After a light breakfast he walk-

Bain owned large tracts of land, fenc- summer time, when there is very rareed into farms, and for the most part ly an east wind to help the sound. cultivated. The gates opening from Occasionally the reports are mistaken one field to another were of the sor; for distant thunder, and thus cause a man in a carriage or wagon can alarm at a time when hay harvest is four hours Mr. Bain drove from farm ing in the district that the "guns are to farm, looking at every object, but worse than thunder," and this benever speaking to his tenants.

the train which bore him back to capricious.

the morning. He took dinner with his and in the morning the guns were to the Grant House or to one of the clearest, and indeed the only telltale neighbors.

# Water Cress in Germany.

An interesting translation of an article on water cress from the German gardening is permanent. It is known youth whom she deems calculated to as the "Dreinbrunnen" districts, Deep | make her happy, and forthwith offers grow. The streams grow the water ther ceremony, and no witnesses are Too brothers, named Matthew and live of her candy and her affections.

Simon Engelhardt, took up the start made, and in 1687 ran the net-work of ditches over the land.

Old plants produce too hot and toothless an article, as all know who have had water cress in an American restaurant. In these Erfurt streams, the plants are torn out twice a year, and new plantations made from the young tips. The bottom of the shallow For fifteen years Edward Bain, the streams are heavily manured, the tips angle, he let his head fail upon his It bears the same relation to good waed his body was generally content American tables, it is no wonder water cress is not popular .- Meehan's

## A MAID AND A LOCOMOTIVE.

### Investigated, and the Train Had to Back Up for the Lost Engineer.

It comes in the letter of a Detroit of that time for relaxation before re- making a stage career, and tells this countered in traveling about the coun-

mate of his friends, he did not use his "I had grown tired of sitting among coffers to help him in the contest he the sleepy people in our car, and when waged against the hour-glass. He did we stopped at a little way-station I not seek variety; instead he assigned persuaded the engineer to let me ride to every part of the day a particular on the locomotive. The monster routine, a schedule which he never rocked like a cradle, for it was a cheap broke. It was this peculiarity of meth- branch road, running up into the od, the result of a merciless self-disci- wilds of North Dakota, but I soon bepline, that brought on in the first in- came accustomed to the pitching and stance, says his physician, Dr. G. H. tossing. When the big engineer laugh-Ripley, the malady which was destin- ingly told me to 'stoke up' I sprang ed to be his constant companion. By down, threw open the furnace door method, also, he in all probability fos- and obeyed orders. It was great schools, colleges and seminaries of all tered the disease. Always a nervous sport, and I kept stoking, getting black man, he found after sixty years of enough for a pickaninny act and ruinhard labor that he could not sleep, ing a splendid pair of kids. At the various colleges there are 217,764 stn- Previous to that time he had never next station we stopped for dinner, and I had behaved so well that the Then suddenly he found himself a engineer said I might ride ten miles

> but attend an occasional meeting of tain lever I gave it a pull just as I had There was an awful puffing, and Dr. Ripley asserts that insomnia wheezing and snorting, and by the was not the result of any discernible time I could gather my wits, we were t an example of continuous motion. stoke up I did, frantically and with

> written to the superintendent of the Awaking from his nap with the ap- road formally demanding a new pair pearance of the first light in the east, of gloves and if they are not forth-

# How Sound Is Carried.

From a high ridge in Berkshire ed from the house a short distance to there is occasionally to be heard the a horse block, where his buggy await- sound of the firing of guns at Aldershot, thirty miles to the eastward. On the outskirts of Kenosha, Mr. These guns are chiefly noticed in the open without alighting. For nearly in progress. There is, however, a saycause they forecast, not a passing or At 10 o'clock every morning he local storm, but rather the approach was set down on the platform at the of generally unsettled weather. It is Chicago and Northwestern depot. An easy to prove that it is a continuity employee took the rig home and Mr. of a uniform moisture-laden air Bain and the attendant came into stretching across that part of the Chicago. From 11.30 o'clock, the time country that is the cause of the pheof the train's arrival at the Wells nomenon. The testimony of seamen street station, until 3 o'clock in the and other trained observers goes to afternoon, he was on board a street show that homogeneous moist air or car. He rode for one hour and forty. mist is the readlest vehicle of sound: five minutes in one direction, timing that dry air seldom or never conveys himself, and then returning by the sound so readily, while an atmosphere same route to the depot to step upon of varying density renders all sounds

From a sheltered, quiet lawn the During the street car rides, Mr. Aldershot guns had not been noted all Bain sat always on the right side of through the late summer until far ou the car. At the half-way point he in one afternoon in the middle of Ausecured his lunch, a glass of some gust, when their sound rolled out mild beverage and a sandwich. When with great distinctness, the weather, he reached Lenosha at about 4 to all appearance, remaining unchango'clock in the afternoon the buggy was ed and the barometer standing firm awaiting him at the platform. He and high, In the night, however, climbed into it and made the same thunder was heard for some two round of the farms he had made in hours, the first time for many weeks, family in the evening and after the heard again more distinctly than bemeal came down town, going either fore. In this case sound had been the saloons. He did not drink, but took of a humid layer of the atmosphere a seat and talked with his friends and prooding over the country side. Contemporary Review.

# Love Custonis in Burmah.

Of all the marriag; rites of which "Practical Gardener" by Mrs. Wilhel. one ever heard those of Burmah bear mine Seliger, appears in the Hartford away the palm for conciseness and "Daily Times." Erfurt is not only fa. sweet simplicity. Here it is upon the mous for seed growing the world over, dusky lady that the pleasing duties but has a territory in which market of courtship devolve. She sees a ditches or canals are carried over the him a stick of candy. If he accepts territory through which cool water her proposal he promptly cats the toflows-and the narrow beds between ken of affection, and they are thereby the ditches are where the vegetables made man and wife. There is no furcresses. Fifty thousand bunches have necessary. In the act of eating alone been sold from this one tract in one this most primitive marriage, rite conseason, bringing in \$2,600 of our sists. But if, on the contrary, the money-a little fortune in Germany. South is not willing, he assures her The water cress busisness was start. that that particular kind of candy is ed in 1665 by one Hans Hartzau, who not to his taste, and the maiden must rented the ground for a small sum, seek elsewhere for one more apprecia-