

## FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

### NOTES OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

#### The Home Price of Feed--The Guinea Fowl--Oats and Barley--Bedding Tuberos Begonias, Etc., Etc.

##### The Home Price of Feed.

When farmers feed much that they produce to stock kept by themselves it is not fair to the stock to charge for the feed what it would bring in the market. Feeding at home saves much labor in marketing, and there is besides the manure pile, which returns to the soil a great deal of the plant food that the crop has taken from it. If the stock is reasonably good it ought to pay the farm value of the grain and fodder that it eats. In that way the farmer is making more than he could by selling it. By improving his stock the farmer can make it pay market prices for all the grain he feeds it.

##### The Guinea Fowl.

It seems strange the pretty guinea fowl is not more reared than it is, no fowl lays so well, none rear their young with so little trouble or care to the owner. They hatch out in the meadows or fields, and invariably bring home quite a nice flock of such pretty little birds; they fly up in trees to rest when quite small. If set and reared under ordinary hens they are very gentle, and will make their nests with the chickens. The writer has for years packed great quantities of guinea eggs in the fall; we use them all winter in every way; they keep well. Never packed chicken eggs, as the guinea eggs keep nicely and the chicken eggs are not to market. The guinea fowls are sent at all destructive. —Country Gentleman.

##### Bedding Tuberos Begonias.

Tuberos begonias have improved in habit and character since they have become better understood by growers, and are to-day among the first of plants for bedding in open ground. Not the least of merits is continuous and profuse bloom from early summer until frost. The blossoms of the several varieties are of all shades of color but blue. Another thing in favor of the plants is that they may be grown successfully in pots, either in the open ground or in the window during winter. The best soil is that which is rich yet loose in texture, loamy, rather sandy soil being just the thing. The bulbs may be planted in the beds where they are to bloom, but earlier blossoms will be had if bulbs are started in pots or boxes, using sandy loam or leaf mold. Pots should not be much larger than the bulbs, and plenty of drainage must be furnished by using stones and broken bits of pots in the bottom. Cover the bulbs lightly with soil, moisten the soil thoroughly, and keep it moist, but not wet, at all times. Place the pots in the window of the living room, repotting, as soon as the foliage starts up, into a slightly larger pot, changing to a still larger one if necessary before transferring to open ground, which will be done in late May or early June. When the plants are to be put into the outdoor bed, soak the soil in the pot thoroughly with water, put the plant in a hole with the ball of earth adhering to the roots, and just deep enough so that the top will stand out of the ground, as it did in the pot. Shade for a few days and during the summer give an abundance of water. After frost the bulbs should be taken up, dried somewhat in the sun and packed away in dry sand in the cellar until spring. Each year the blossoms will be finer from the old bulbs. —Chicago Record.

##### Shade for Sweet Peas.

It is now two years since I began experimenting with sweet peas, and met with unusually good success. At the outset I chose two sites with a view of ascertaining which was the better. One had a southern exposure, the lines extending east and west, entirely protected on north side, while upon the other the lines were planted to extend north and south, front the east and protected on the west and north. The seeds were put in about the first week of April. Those planted on the south side came up first, and the vines grew tall and beautiful, while the others were comparatively slow in showing themselves above ground.

For the south side vines I had provided wire netting and for those on the east side used ordinary twine fastened to stakes set about three feet apart. I soon found the netting, although by far the more convenient, by no means a good arrangement for the vines, for the wire, acting as a conductor of heat, withered and dried them so that by noon the stems hung limp and flabby, while the flowers had lost their brilliancy of color. I began to notice this almost as soon as blossoms appeared, and then watched to see if the same thing occurred with my east side vines. I found it did not, and also that the stems upon these grew much longer before the buds opened than upon the others. By the end of July my south side vines were gradually dying from the bottom upward, and practically done blossoming. I consider this due principally to the location, for at no time during the day were they in shade, and I have found afternoon shade indispensable to the healthy growth of sweet peas. The netting simply aided the drying-up process and should be considered objectionable, no matter what the location, because of furnishing undue heat to the vines.

My east side peas proved a complete success. They grew higher and greener each day and the stakes, which at first had been set leaning about six feet above ground, had to be pieced out and extended to eight feet. Some of

the vines outran even this height and came near putting Mother Goose to shame by rivaling Jack's beanstalk. The stems were long and strong and the flowers, many of them, were as large as are represented by the pictures in the seed growers' catalogues which I had previously thought greatly exaggerated. These vines blossomed until the middle of October, by being protected from frosts, and were still green and flourishing when pulled up in order to prepare the ground for another season.

The following year I planted only upon the eastern site, lines extending north and south, entirely protected on the west, using no wire for the runners, and the results were equally good. I should therefore say from my own experience that, other well-known favorable conditions as to soil and moisture being present, this location is of primary importance in the successful cultivation of sweet peas. —L. A. Whitney, New York, in the New England Homestead.

##### Thin Seeding of Grain.

Less grain per acre is sown in this country than by English farmers, with whom three to three and one-half bushels of oats are often deemed necessary. English summers are nearly always moist, and as farming is generally rich it needs this thick seeding to make the plants crowd each other from the start and thus prevent too luxuriant growth. Here such a seeding on land of moderate fertility might not produce anything but the straw of grain without any heads. We once drilled some oats in a field and found at the end of the row that a wider balk was made than the single width of the drill passing across the rows at each end would cover. We were only sowing with the drill two bushels of seed per acre, so we thought, not to leave any balks, to drill twice across each end. But the second drill width, though it made a good appearance, early dried up and amounted to nothing about the time the oats should head out.

If clean, sound, plump oats can be had, a bushel and a half drilled in with some phosphate is better than a greater quantity. There is no crop, not even wheat, to which commercial phosphate is so well adapted as the oat. With this light seeding of oats, which should be drilled early, we gave the oats a light harrowing just after the young shoots began to come up. This broke down the ridges between the rows, and entirely covered the leaves that first put forth. But it gave a great stimulus to root growth, and in a few days two or three or maybe more shoots would be put forth by the root for every leaf that was destroyed. The harrowing also loosened the surface soil, so that any crust formed by rains will be broken. The new leaves will start up so quickly and so plentifully that no more crust will form on the surface through the season. Such grain always covers the ground at harvest with a better crop than can be got from two to two and one-half bushels of seed sown per acre, but not harrowed after the grain comes up.

The grain grown from such light seeding is nearly always plump and full, and is worth more for seed than grain grown in the usual way. On rich land with a fair season we have grown 90 to 100 bushels of oats from so light a seeding as one and one-half bushels per acre. Nor need this be surprising, as a single oat grain has been known to produce six to seven stems, bearing a head well filled with oats. It is plain that as usually sown much of the seed oats fail to produce anything. Oats are often threshed while still damp from the field, and if such oats are put in close bins the vitality of their germ is quickly destroyed by heating. To make sure of getting sound seed oats they should not be threshed until winter, and never be allowed to heat in even the least degree. Every such seed put into the ground will not only grow, but it can be made to produce a hundred fold, though this is hard to secure under ordinary crop conditions. All our grains are doubtless for our climate sown more thickly than is necessary. More attention to the quality of seed and its ability to germinate would pay farmers better. Grain that either will not grow, or that makes such a feeble growth that neighboring grain dwarfs it, is about the most expensive manure a farmer can use. Yet this is what many farmers are doing with a large part of the seed grain that they put into the soil, where it simply rots and furnishes plant food for the seed that could germinate. —American Cultivator.

##### Farm Items.

Keep a close watch on the chickens for croup.

A swill of ground oats and barley is very good for sows and pigs. Add a little soaked corn as soon as the pigs are old enough to eat.

Watch the hired man and see that he takes proper care of the horses. There is as much in caring for horses as there is in feeding.

Stables should be well ventilated, lighted and drained; should have tight floors and walls, and be plainly constructed.

A person suffering from any disease, or who has been exposed to a contagious disease, must remain away from the cows and the milk.

Bad ventilation in the cow stable is often the cause of bad butter. The cow breathes the foul air and the milk becomes tainted.

In cattle feeding experiments it has been shown that rations rich in protein are more conducive to rapid growth and finer general appearance than rations rich in carbohydrates.

If silage is fed to cows a short time before milking, an odor will be observed in the milk, but if fed shortly after milking the silage smell cannot be detected.

### READY MADE TEETH.

#### Sow Facts as to Their Manufacture and What Becomes of Them.

Hundreds of thousands of artificial teeth are manufactured and sold every year. What becomes of them? It is like asking what becomes of pins and other things which are practically indestructible.

Before making a guess, it is worth while to consider how artificial teeth are made. The story is told in Nantucket of a sea captain who was a great whistler until he lost one of his front teeth by accidental contact with a belying pin. For some time he be-moaned his lost accomplishment until he found that he could whistle very well with an artificial tooth whittled out of a piece of wood. When a performance was desired he would calmly carve out an incisor and put it in position. Then the audience would wait until the tooth was swelled by the moisture of his mouth so that it would not slip out.

When plates were discovered and the expert dentist was able to supply a whole mouthful of new teeth, the teeth themselves were carved out of ivory. But constant grinding would wear away the ivory, and these elephant teeth were not satisfactory.

To-day all artificial teeth are made of porcelain, and will outlast a Methuselah. Those which are known in the trade as "store teeth," being carried in stock by the big dental supply houses, are manufactured in enormous quantities.

The porcelain material, which contains various mineral proportions, is worked up like a sort of dough or plaster, forced into molds and fused by intense heat in a furnace. Each tooth is covered with enamel, and has one or more metal pins in the back to hold it to the plate.

In large lots these teeth can be made very cheaply, but there is one item of expense that cannot be overcome, and that is the cost of the metal holding the pin. The only metal which will stand the intense heat of the porcelain furnace is platinum, and that costs at the rate of a cent a pin simply for the raw material. A great deal of money has been spent in experiment to discover some substitute for platinum, but nothing has yet been found.

While a cheap grade of "store teeth" can be bought for a few cents apiece they are not nearly as satisfactory as the standard commercial article which is used by most dentists. A big supply company will carry hundreds of samples of teeth, all of standard qualities, but differing greatly in size, shape and color. In color alone from 25 to 100 varieties may be presented.

But as there are people who are not satisfied with ready-made clothing, so there are people who are not satisfied with ready-made teeth. False teeth may look just as well as or better than real ones, but public speakers, singers and other prominent people want their own teeth reproduced in all their peculiarities of form and color and fillings, if they have them. They want teeth that cannot be told as false, and they get them—not all at once, perhaps, but one by one, as the originals give out.

In teeth that are made to order nothing is impossible, from the short, white teeth of normal youth to the long, discolored ones of extreme age, and the prices range with those of waxes.

The teeth are set in plates of rubber, gold and aluminum, but the highest achievement is considered to be a platinum plate upon which has been fused a lining of tinted porcelain similar to that used for gum work. Tinted plates have been made of the same material as the teeth, but as the porcelain shrinks in the firing, the fitting of such plates is uncertain.

And now for the answer to the question, "What becomes of false teeth?" Sometimes they are lost, sometimes stolen, and sometimes left as a family legacy. Generally, however, they are buried with the owner and lie forever hidden in the ground.

It is occasionally suggested that there is quite a business in second-hand false teeth, but if there is such a traffic it is not of large proportions. Second-hand teeth are valuable only for the platinum wire that they contain, and when they fall into the hands of regular toothmakers they are smashed up to get the platinum out.

Not long ago a man who found a double set of teeth went with them to a dealer, thinking that he had a prize. The finder was surprised when the dealer refused to make an offer, and said that 10 cents a set was all they were worth to any one but the person whom they fitted.

The expensive teeth are not marketable, and the marketable teeth are not expensive. That is the whole thing in a nutshell.

Yet teeth have been used over. A lady went to a dentist with a set of teeth which had belonged to her mother, who was dead. She said that she had worn them, and now that her own were gone she wanted the old set remounted for herself. It was done. —Boston Herald.

##### Smithers' Retort Sarcastic.

Mr. Smithers is a somewhat fastidious young man who is looking for a new boarding-place. Smithers can't abide the regulation boarding-house and always tries to live with a private family. He is now convinced that an "ad" which solicits boarders for a "nice, private family" is often a snare for a stuffy, double flat, inhabited by one small family and 24 boarders.

Smithers called one day last week at a place with a glowing description just on the flank of Michigan avenue's aristocracy.

"Hum," suspiciously like a boarding-house," thought Smithers, as he took in the dimensions. A collarless servant who opened the door confirmed

his suspicions, but he had gone too far then to back out. A sharp-nosed, snippy landlady came in, with a top-lofty air.

"Er—ah, I believe I am mistaken," he began. "I supposed I should find a private family. By the advertisement—hu-m—"

The laughter and the familiar boarding-house hum of fourteen clerks and ten lady stenographers came up from the dining-room in the basement. The mistress of the conglomerate "private family" drew herself up proudly.

"You are entirely mistaken, sir," she asserted, in a rasping, \$7-a-week voice; "this is not a boarding-house, although we have a few friends living with us."

Smithers sniffed the air. There was a distinct odor of prunes and corned beef.

"Well, I must say," he remarked, as he turned up his coat collar and fled down the steps, "that it smells like a boarding-house, madam." —Chicago Record.

### THE HEN'S WORK.

#### Scientific Data as to Eggs--At 25 Cents a Dozen They Are Extravagant.

The Agricultural Department, through its experiment stations, has been investigating the food value of hen's eggs. According to a large number of analyses made of American eggs at the various stations, an egg on an average weighs two ounces and has the following percentage of composition: Shell, 10.5; water, 66; fat, 9.3; and ash, 0.9. A side of beef contains on an average about the same percentage of protein, but a larger percentage of fat. Eggs belong to the nitrogenous group of foods, and would naturally and quite properly be combined in the diet with materials supplying carbohydrates (sugar and starch), such as cereals, potatoes, etc.

At the California experiment station the chief object of the examination was to determine whether there was any basis of fact for the popular opinion that eggs with brown shells have a higher food value than those with white shells. It has been said by some that the brown eggs are richer than the white ones, but this statement is not borne out by a chemical analysis, and the physical examination proves that the main point of superiority, though extremely slight, are possessed by the white eggs. The minute differences that are found between the two groups are exceeded by variation between varieties within the same group. It may be stated that there are practically no differences so far as the food value is concerned.

The Michigan station made tests of the effect of the character of rations on the composition of eggs, but no marked variation was observed. In connection with other work the digestibility of eggs was studied at the Minnesota station, and it was found that the protein of eggs either soft or hard boiled was entirely digested in five hours, the method of cooking having some effect upon the rate of digestibility, but not materially affecting the total digestibility. The results agree quite closely with those reported some years ago by Rubner, a German investigator, who found that 97.1 of the protein of hard boiled eggs was digested. Digestion experiments were made at the University of Tennessee with healthy men on a diet of bread, milk and eggs, and it was found that from 99 to 95 per cent. of the protein and fat was digested, which warrants the conclusion that eggs do really possess the high nutritive properties which are popularly supposed to belong to them. From its investigations as to the kinds and amounts of food consumed by persons engaged in various occupations and the relative cost of such foods the Department finds that, compared with other foods at the usual prices, eggs at twelve cents per dozen are a cheap source of nutrients; at sixteen cents per dozen they are fairly expensive, while at twenty-five cents a dozen and over they are extravagant.

### Some Fish.

The followers of Izank Walton on board a man-of-war are wont to ply the gentle art (with a line alone) from over the ship's side during the evening. A sub-Lieutenant, who was not particularly liked by his junior messmates, was one day so engaged, when a midshipman, seeing the line depending from the "chains" above, reached out of one of the main deck ports and gave it a couple of violent tugs, in imitation of a fish biting. Up the line was hauled with alacrity, but, of course, with no result. Once again the "sub" essayed to catch this big fish that had given him so heavy a bite. This time the middy's plan was more elaborate, for getting a companion to keep the necessary strain upon the upper portion, he hauled up the lower part of the fishing line and attached to the hooks an old shoe, an empty bottle, a holy-stone, and a sardine tin. Having carefully lowered these to the full extent of the line, he gave it a more powerful pull than ever, and the expectant fisherman above hauled in as fast as he could, hand over hand. But his language, when he discovered the nature of his "catch," is too much to ask even an unfortunate compositor to set up in cold type. —The Cornhill.

### The Mother-in-law in Court.

This didn't happen in Georgia, but it "happened" just the same. "My mother-in-law is the cause of all my troubles," said the prisoner when arraigned before the magistrate for failure to support his wife. "You should have courted your mother-in-law," said the judge, "and then you would not have any trouble. I courted my mother-in-law," said the Court.

"I thought as much, your Honor," said the prisoner; "you look as if you'd been through the mill." —Atlanta Constitution.

### FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

#### A MISPELLED TAIL.

A little buoy said: "Mother dear May Eye go out too play The son is bright, the hair is clear, Owe! mother, don't say neigh!"

"Go fourth, my sun," the mother said; His ant said: "Take ever slay, Your gneiss knew sled, all painted read,

Butt dew knot lose ewer weigh." "Ah, know!" he cried, and sought the street

With hart sew full of glee— The weather changed and snow and sleet And reign fell fierce and free.

Threw snowdrifts grate, threw wat'ry pool, He flue with mite and mane— Said he: "Withough I wood walk by rule,

Eye am knot write, 'tis plane.

"Ide like two meat some kindly sole For hear gnu dangers weight, And yonder stairs a treacherous whole; To sloe has bin my gate.

"A peace of bread, a gneiss hot stake, Ewed chews if Eye were home; This cruel fate my heart will brake, I love knot thus too Rome.

"I'm week and pail; I've mist m' rod."

Butt hear a carte came passed— He and his sled were safely toad Back two his home at last.

#### "DRIVER" ANTS.

In Africa there are ants that travel at night in great droves and visit every house in the village. Then everybody in that house wakes right up and hurries out into the streets. They have to, and so do the dogs and the cats and the rats and the spiders and the cockroaches and everything that has life and can move, for these ants are so fierce and so hungry, and there are so many of them, that everything must get out of their way or be eaten up. It does not take them long to get through eating everything there is in a house, for the people there are poor and do not keep much to eat in the house at one time, and then they go on to the next place, and the people go back and crawl in bed. These troublesome insects are known as driver ants, and they travel in a long procession that is solid with ants about four feet wide and sometimes several blocks long. Travelers in Africa who meet them in lonely places keep as far away from them as they can, for there are not many people who really want to be eaten up.

#### OLIVER TWIST IN JAPAN.

A recent traveler in Japan tells of a peculiar kind of school carried on in the capital city of those islands which it is to be hoped has not its duplicate in many countries. This is no other than a kind of academy where little children who have been deserted by their parents, or who are friendless orphans are taught begging and thieving by chiefs in these professions. Under five years of age the little waifs are rented out at from two to five cents a day to veteran mendicants for the sake of helping to inspire pity; the weak or unfortunate are, therefore, specially desirable.

From their five years upward the children do their begging by themselves. At the age of fourteen or fifteen, under the pretext of gathering waste paper and other rubbish, they prow round the courtyards of the houses and commence to steal. Their usual weapon is a long stick, the end of which is steeped in glue, and with which they are very adroit in removing trifles from open windows, etc.

At sixteen they are taught the art of picking pockets with skill and dispatch, and from the rank of beggars rise to the rank of thieves. Daily lessons are given to the young thieves by the chiefs of each band, and the apprenticeship lasts as long as from twelve years of age to nineteen. The whole thing has been reduced to a regular system; pocket picking and burglary are carefully taught in every detail, specialists having been known to go to the large European capitals to study different methods of abstracting a purse. Such a one sometimes has as many as 160 shrewd pupils at a time under his tutelage.

The whole thieves' colony is regarded by a code of laws, and these are administered with the utmost severity. The youngest thieves keep ten per cent of their earnings, the better class of pickpockets forty per cent, and some fifty per cent, or even sixty per cent. The surplus of the profits is invested in the teaching of pupils, and employed as the chiefs of the community deem necessary for the general well being. The thieves are great adepts in disguise, and it is very difficult for the police to catch them red-handed.

#### TAME SQUIBBLES.

Harry had gone with his mother to market, and had spent the only three pennies he had in the world in buying peanuts for the squirrels in the grounds of the State House. There were a great many of the little animals, and in the trees were boxes in which they made their homes.

As Harry and his mother entered the grounds an old woman with a big basket on her arm full of provisions brushed past them. She had gone only a little way when she noticed the squirrels skipping over the grass. She seemed surprised, and stopped to look at them.

The moment she stood still the squirrels ran toward her from every direction, thinking she wanted to feed them. Not understanding this, and terribly frightened, the old woman gave a yell, and dropping the basket ran on as hard as she could go. When she thought she was at a safe

distance she looked back and saw that the basket was almost hidden from view by the squirrels, which were greedily devouring a bag of pop-corn they had broken open.

Harry could not help laughing at the old woman's fright; but he brushed the squirrels off the basket, and then carried it to her, the little animals running after him.

The old woman was very glad to get her basket again, and very much surprised to see Harry stand still and let the squirrels run all over him to get the peanuts in his pockets, under his collar, and in his littlered mittens. It was great fun for him and for the squirrels, too; but the old woman thought it very dangerous sport.

"If I were your mother you shouldn't do that," she said, as she walked away.

Harry looked up at his mother and laughed.

"I'm glad I have a mother who isn't afraid of tame squirrels," he said.

#### DOROTHY DREW AND THE QUEEN.

Dorothy Drew's own account of her visit to the queen is given in a sketch of the young grand-daughter of the late Mr. Gladstone in The Young Woman:

Her first view of Windsor Castle from the train moved her to reflect that it was "just as nice as our castle." Then she came very near getting excited, the two white horses and the royal carriage that came to meet them, with the footman behind and the groom on horseback in front, pleasing her very much. And when Princess Beatrice met them at the door, Dorothy, forgetting that queens do not meet their subjects on doorsteps, imagined that the princess was her majesty. Dorothy still relates how she and her mother had a little sitting-room and a bedroom, with big fires, and with the bed all made, just as if they were going to stay all night; how they sat down to luncheon with the "grownups," and how "the one who sat by me" was very nice.

"Have you ever met the queen before?" the lady-in-waiting asked Dorothy.

"No, I have not."

"Haven't you ever seen her?" the lady repeated.

"Oh, yes, I have seen her, but she has not seen me."

Then Dorothy relates how she went down the long corridor to put on her new frock and her silk gloves and how a grand servant all dressed in red came to say that the queen was waiting.

"The Indian man whom the queen likes very much" was at the door, and the next moment Dorothy stood before the great queen whom her "grandpapa" had served for sixty years. To Dorothy she was just another woman like her grandmamma, with a white cap on her head, and Dorothy courtesied and kissed her, and told her her name was "Dorsie"; that they all had pet names at the castle, and so on and so on, and many interesting pet names were revealed on both sides.

"The queen put on her glasses and asked me to go to the other side of the room, so that she could see me better," Dorothy explains, "and then she took a little jewel case and said: 'This is for you.'"

"I opened it and saw a darling little brooch with a diamond Y and a diamond R and a turquoise I, and a little crown at the top made of red enamel. I courtesied and kissed her hand and said, 'Thank you very much.' She looked very nice and kind, and I liked her very much."

Then the queen kissed the little debutante again and Dorothy and her mother returned to town.

The story is also told that at Haverden one morning Dorothy refused to get up. When all other means had failed to coax her out of bed, Mr. Gladstone was called.

"Why won't you get up, my child?" he asked.

"Why, grandfather, didn't you tell me to do what the Bible says?" asked Dorothy.

"Yes, certainly."

"Well, it disapproves of early rising; says it's a waste of time."

Mr. Gladstone knew his Bible better than most men, but he was not equal to Dorothy. For once in his life he was non-plussed.

"You listen, then," went on Dorothy, in reply to his exclamation of astonishment, and turning up her Bible she read the second verse of the 12th Psalm, laying great emphasis on the first words, "It is vain for you to rise up early."

#### New Disease for Women.

Some local doctors are treating a new trouble known as dog palsy. Most of the victims are women. Those troubled with the affliction are persons who have been traveling about the streets, each holding a chain or cord, to which is attached a dog. The lively fox-terriers are responsible for the most aggravated cases of the palsy, as they jump about so much when out for an airing. The hand, usually the right, shakes and swings when free, just as if a dog were pulling at it on the end of a chain. Bulldog palsy is less pronounced, though it is said that the steady pull of that breed has lengthened many a pet owner's arm. The treatment for the palsy is absolute rest for the arm, and an admonition not to lead—or, rather, follow—the dog with a chain. —Philadelphia Record.

The Royal Academy of Science, of Amsterdam, has paid a delicate compliment to the English-speaking world by ordering that its transactions shall in future be printed in English, instead of the native Dutch, in order that they may be more available to the scientific world at large.

Mexico is spending about \$200,000 a year for United States furniture.