

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

NOTES OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS

How Moisture is Retained—Hydraulic Cement for Peach Borers—Selecting the Pigs—Low to Grow Seed, etc., etc.

How Moisture is Retained.
The many ways by which moisture may be kept in the soil to be used by the growing crop are judicious ploughing and tillage, mulches, underdrainage, applications of lime, salt, etc., and the adoption of the crop to the soil. The importance of thorough tillage, or something that can take its place, cannot be impressed upon the minds of farmers too strongly. I have read that deficiency in rainfall with intensified agriculture is preferable to abundant rains and neglect by the cultivator.—New York Weekly Witness

Hydraulic Cement for Peach Borers.
Professor Smith of the New Jersey experiment station was quite successful in combating tree borers by mixing hydraulic cement with skim milk and applying to the trunk of trees. This forms a continuous coating and will remain in good condition during the entire summer. The larvae cannot penetrate it and a surface of this kind will not be selected by adult insects for the deposition of eggs. In all cases the cement should be broken up with a stiff brush when the danger season is over.

Boiling Water for Lice.
If you have through neglect allowed the poultry house to become overrun with lice, there is no surer way to rid it of them than to thoroughly scald the walls, roosts, nests and floor. What few lice escape this operation may be exterminated by applying immediately thereafter a coat of whitewash and kerosene.

The waste water on wash day admirably serves the purpose by simply returning it to the kettle and letting it boil. Apply it liberally to every part of the building, using a good sized cup for the purpose. Remove all straw and litter and drench the outside of all nest boxes.

This work should be done as early in the day as possible, and the house should then be thrown open and the sun and air given free access to it. During hot, dry weather the fowls will rid themselves of lice by means of just baths, which they invariably take every day. During the winter this dust bath must be furnished them, and now is a good time to gather in a few barrels of dry road dust.

Selecting the Pigs.

In selecting the pig best suited for converting food into pork there are several matters to be observed and these should be paramount at the outset, as no after care can compensate for errors of selection. Fineness of bone insures having but little offal, and a pig with fine bone seldom disappoints his owner when he is slaughtered. A broad, dishd face, with snout short and turned up, indicates an aptitude to fatten and is one of the surest indications of a good pig. No hog should have bristles, as these have been bred away from all the best breeds, and they will not be tolerated at present on any respectable farm, as they indicate coarseness, restlessness and preponderance of offal. Besides these outward indications, which include squareness of form, fineness of hair and depth and length of carcass, the propensities of the pig should be observed. He should not be a squealer, nor should he be restless. He should eat quietly and after his appetite is appeased should patiently lie down without even travelling around the pen. As a rule the disposition of the pig and his propensities correspond to his form, and but few errors will be made if the selection of the pig is made as directed. No corn should be fed till just previous to hardening the fat, and all heating or fat-producing food should be avoided as much as possible during the summer. A pig when in the pen will do well enough on vegetables, refuse, etc., if given a little bran and milk daily, as corn can do its duty later in the season.

How to Grow Seed.

If one is determined to grow his own seed there are some rules that must be observed, if a reasonable degree of success is expected. To prevent crossing only one variety of any species should be grown the same year. By growing one variety one year, a related variety the next and so on, there will be no crossing. If different varieties are grown, they should be grown as far apart as possible, although as already stated, there will even then be danger of mixing. It is not advisable to use any seed that is over one year old, if it can be avoided. Save seed only from the very best plants. Any vegetable that is not good enough for table use should not be selected for seed production. The early maturing plant will furnish seed that may be relied upon for early maturity. In saving cabbage seed save it from the seed that is produced from the full head and not the stump. The seedmen destroy every plant that is not up to the highest standard. Remember, too, that when the same stock is used for several years, on the same ground, it will likely deteriorate. Fresh stock should be occasionally introduced and even if it comes from an adjoining farm, it will probably be better than your own seed.

Gather the seed when it is ripened, but before the pods burst. If a large quantity of seed is to be saved, it will be necessary, however, to gather it before it is fully matured, or there will

be a loss from shelling. If seed ripens unevenly the stalks that are bearing the immature seed may be cut and set in a shady place, and the seed will ripen.

Systematic Horse Breeding.

In order to make this branch of farming pay it is now essential to have some system about it, and breed for one or the other of the several popular types. The market demands horses for special purposes, and those which are neither one thing or another are difficult to sell. The grade of horses has been raised, and one must aim high, but aiming high without a definite purpose in view is bad policy—almost as bad as raising scrub horses. The type of horse that is in the greatest demand just now is the road, carriage or coach horse. There is quite a wide difference in this type, for a heavy coach horse is anything but a light carriage animal. Still there is sufficient likeness in this type or division to guide one in his work. Good road and coach horses bring handsome profits to the breeder, and there is no reason why any such animals should go begging.

Next to this type in popularity comes the cab horse. The prediction has been freely made that the automobile would drive the cab horse out of existence, but up to the present this animal is in considerable evidence in all towns and cities. The modern cab horse is comparatively heavy, and light ones would hardly answer the purpose. In fact, the day of the small and light horse has passed, and we are not likely to breed him again very soon. Even in the racer the tendency is to enlarge the type, and produce horses that are heavy and long-limbed. The omnibus horse is somewhat similar in type to the cab horse, except that he is heavier. The cab horse must be a quick animal and a good traveler, approaching somewhat to the type of the road horse. But the omnibus horse must excel in power and strength, and to gain this he must of necessity be bred heavy. The next type is the draught horse. This animal is well known to farmers, and has been bred in the past to perfection more than any of the others in demand to-day. Some magnificent draught animals have been bred in this country, and we can equal any that are imported from abroad. The stock in this country offers a splendid foundation for future breeding. When we come to the last type, that of the American trotter, we are also on familiar ground. No breeders of any country have brought the trotter to greater perfection than he is seen in this country, and when we speak of this type every one should know the characteristics aimed after. The American trotter is just beginning to be appreciated abroad, and the exports of these horses may in time lead to an expansion of the business. Certainly we can breed trotters for those who wish them that will excel in almost every point.—James Ridgeway, in American Cultivator.

Poultry Points.

Allow the hen plenty of time to determine whether or not she wants to sit; do not try to hurry such matters. If the hen is inclined to fight everything and everybody that comes near her she will not make a good sitter. It requires a kind, gentle hen to be a good sitter and good mother. If the poultryman would only put two or three shingles or boards on the hen house he might save himself serious loss from roup. Feed musty grain to fowls and expect indigestion. So long as any one treats the poultry business as a side issue he will get slim profits. A lazy man ought to be at least industrious enough to keep his money out of the poultry business; it is no business for a lazy man. Raising poultry for profit requires daily attention like any other branch of farm industry. Furnish as cool a place as is practical for the poultry in the heat of the summer. For the comfort of the birds and your own profit furnish plenty of good cool water for them.

Do not bother with a bird that has a bad case of genuine cholera, but kill and bury it. In light cases of cholera give a little alum in the water, and if the bird shows improvement feed on bread and milk and table scraps. Hens that are too fat may lay blood spotted eggs. Different breeders feed chickens differently, and the whole matter is a problem. The best thing to do is to stick to the system that has been reasonably successful in your own experience. The digestion of a chick is not weak, but strong, if the food is suitable. Some think that brooder chicks are more liable to bowel troubles than are chicks with the hen; if they are given a very little or no water until they are four weeks old they will likely escape this trouble. Chicks are not all alike, and what may prove good feed for some may not prove good for others. Moulting is a serious process, for it is such a drain that the hen is liable to catch cold or contract other diseases. The moulting hen may grow fat, because the feathers require very little carbon, and may yet be weak. Do not dispose of the early moulting hen, for she will be the earliest layer. The Indian game is solid and has an abundance of breast meat.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Reserved.

Mrs. Croesus—They say Mrs. Chillingly is the most exclusive woman in society.

Mrs. Gadfly—Indeed, yes, I believe she will hardly look at herself in the glass.—New York Journal.

The Italian railways carried in 1897 nearly 12,500,000 foreign passengers, of whom 6,219,813 traveled first class, 5,088,444 second and only 380,000 third

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Doctors seem to be about the best patrons of the motor vehicle industry at present.

Walter Wellman says the pole can be reached, but he hastened back to a warmer climate with that important discovery before he reached it.

A Boston girl who received a proposal of marriage by telegraph the other day replied by wire, "Emphatically yes," and paid for the message. She must in times past have carelessly permitted a chance or two to go by.

The wonderful growth of Berlin during the last twenty years causes that city to be regarded as the "Chicago of Europe," a phrase which flatters our Western neighbor so far as external embellishment is concerned.

The Missouri hen is justified in cackling. The shipments of poultry and eggs from that State exceed the value of the combined shipments of wheat, corn, oats and hay. We may expect an early corner in hens.

It should be carefully noted by a beginner, states a well-known teacher of languages, that Spanish-American peoples do not pronounce as the Castilians do. It is better, however, to learn the pure Castilian, and then, if found expedient, make the local variations. The pure Spanish is always understood even by those who know or use only the American Spanish.

It is stated by those who are supposed to know that satin will be prominent in feminine dress this winter. This fabric once went out of fashion for a peculiar reason. A notorious English woman murderer went to the scaffold in a satin dress, and in consequence the stuff was tabooed immediately, and remained out of favor for years.

A building in Litchfield, Conn., has recently been identified as that in which the first law school in America was taught. It is a one-story wooden structure and has been occupied by negroes as a dwelling for some years past. The Litchfield Law School was founded by Chief Justice Tapping Reeve about the end of the Revolutionary War. It graduated 1,024 students before its discontinuance.

Frenchmen are taking kindly to bull fights. A bull ring to accommodate 10,000 people has just been constructed at Englewick, near Paris. Parisians should defer to civilized customs to the extent of putting boxing gloves on the bulls' horns.

The French surgeon, Dr. Doyen, has exhibited to numerous doctors and students at the Kiel University cinematograph pictures showing various surgical operations. The doctor advocates the use of such pictures for the education of students, saying they are far more effective than the most elaborately written descriptions.

There are few bandits of the "Black Jack" type remaining in the United States. Like the "bad man" of the mining camps, the outlaws who operate on an extended scale are being crushed out by civilization's advance. With them is going the last trace of romance that found its source in Sherwood Forest in the days of Robin Hood. Robbery is degenerating into the petty thuggery of the city slum. It is less romantic perhaps, but, in view of the appalling records of men like "Black Jack," it is much more satisfactory to the community.

That the world is willing to reward its humorists richly is a very good sign for the world. It indicates that the world knows how much better it is to laugh than to cry, even though it has to buy its laughter, not having internal resources of joy. On the other hand, the solemn man with a mission has a sense of his own importance to uphold him which the humorist never has; for the humorist knows that all is vanity and that he is but the iridescent bubble on the top that will be gone in an instant. A man with a mission, he never so little understood, is upheld by his mission, whereas the best that the humorist can do is to laugh rather ruefully at himself—and laughing at one's self is not an inspiring occupation.

An occasional failure of the harvests in Great Britain, France and Switzerland is now made good by the appearance of a new harvest which is as steady as the traditional ice crop and granite crop in Maine, and which differs from them only in its steady growth. This is the crop of American tourists, which has again broken the record. The leading London tourist agency estimates the European crop for the year at not less than 70,000 Americans, who have yielded an average return of \$1,500 per tourist to the European harvesters. In round numbers we may call the total \$100,000,000, or a little bit more than the value of Nebraska's 300,000,000 bushel corn crop at thirty cents a bushel.

There is nothing nowadays that a syndicate won't do, no intention that may not be credited to it, no hope that it may not entertain. Observes Harper's Weekly, An American syndicate is reported to have recently paid a million dollars for two small islands, La Cruz and La Ramon, off the shores of Cuba. They are said to be rich in iron, and—here comes in the syndicate's special rainbow—they are declared to be historically and unquestionably the islands to

which the buccanniers who sacked Panama carried the captive women and all the treasures looted from that rich town. The syndicate finds basis for the hope that this piraric hoard may still remain, and may be discovered. They say a corporation has no soul, but no one denies that syndicates have imaginations.

"America is Opportunity," Emerson declared. That every man had an equal chance here has been our boast. Whatever talent he had, in proportion to the industry with which he used it, this country has offered him in the past a free field and an equal opportunity with every other man to rise from the smallest beginnings to the largest measure of independence and prosperity. Because of this equality of opportunity millions of people have come to us from the older nations of Europe, where men born into the wage-working class remain there all their lives, and their children after them, never or very rarely rising or hoping to rise into the better conditions of the classes above them.

It is to be hoped that the projected great national park in Minnesota of 7,000,000 acres—nearly eleven thousand square miles—will soon become an accomplished fact. Such a reserve would not only put an end to timber devastation in that region, encourage propagation of game, and protect from exhaustion the hundreds of lakes and streams with which that country abounds, but it would forever place at the disposal of the people a reserve park which would afford rural delight to millions when civilization and progress have built up great cities, and the nation's domain has been occupied by the habitations of industry and thrift and of luxury. Now is the time to acquire these beautiful lands as a heritage for future generations. The National Treasury can pour out its money in no more beneficial direction than in promoting and fostering such a praiseworthy enterprise says the Christian Work.

It is time for our people to wake up and insist that Congress shall do something effective to stop the adulteration of food and medicines. The only thing, however, that Congress can do is to control the interstate commerce in adulterated articles and regulate their sale in the District of Columbia and the Territories. That we have not hitherto found it practicable to pass a national pure food law to this limited extent seems scandalous since we are behind every other civilized nation on earth. But we must understand the meaning of the term "adulteration." No one contemplates prohibiting the substitution of an artificial for a natural article. No one will be prevented from putting chicory in the place of coffee, or from making animal fats look and taste like butter. Manufactured honey may be just as healthy and palatable as the product of the bees. What is intended is to prevent the swindling connected with such practices. Our trade morals are fearfully defective, and it is the function of Congress to do all it can to improve them. Hence the object of the law should be to make the manufacturers by true labels tell the truth about the contents of their packages and bottles. The public should know what it is buying. There need be no fear that it will buy sand for sugar or clay for flour.

Two Big Vessels Compared.

The new White Star liner the Oceanic, is the largest boat ever constructed. Up to the present day the Great Eastern held that distinction. It will be, therefore, interesting to give some particulars of the older ship for the purpose of comparison. Her length on the upper deck was 632 feet, whilst between perpendiculars it was 680 feet; she was, there, 13½ feet shorter than the Oceanic. In regard to breadth the Great Eastern far exceeded the new White Star boat, being 83 feet on the beam, and, therefore, 15 feet the wider of the two. The depth of the Great Eastern was 58 feet, but that measurement was from her keel to her highest deck, whilst above the upper deck of the White Star ship there are a promenade deck and a boat deck. It was said that the weight of the Great Eastern and her engines at the time of launching was 12,000 tons; the weight of iron in the hull was put down at 8,000 tons, and the capacity for coal and cargo was stated to be 18,000 tons. If the weight of ship and engines are added to the latter figure a displacement of 30,000 tons is obtained, which is somewhat greater than that of the Oceanic.

Very Large String Beans.

Two enormous string beans were exhibited on the floor of the Chamber of Commerce by Mr. Emory Kirwan. The largest measured 27½ inches in length and had 19 beans in the pod. These beans were cultivated by Mr. Kirwan in his yard, after three years' experimenting and grafting. He says the largest he produced measured 33 1-3 inches. The vines of these beans are no larger than the average string-bean vine, and they produce as many pods as a stem, the same as other beans, and Mr. Kirwan claims they are good eating, as they are brittle and tender when first cut, and can be strung with ease.—Baltimore News.

A Song Popular in Peru.

"After the Ball" is the most popular song in Peru. You hear it everywhere, the bands play it in every programme, the sweet demoiselles pound at it on their pianos as you pass up and down the residence quarter and the peons whistle it in the street. The words have been translated into Spanish and are familiar to everybody.

NEWS FOR THE FAIR SEX.

NEWS OF INTEREST ON NUMEROUS FEMININE TOPICS.

Novel Features for a Frock—Teach Children to Read Aloud—A Beneficent Club Idea—A Feminine Felling.

Novel Features in a Frock.
A smart black frock presents several novel features. It is of light weight material, trimmed with platings of black mousseline de sole and with a deep collar of white silk, embroidered with black passementerie. The collar is square in the back, but cut in front in deep shawl points. It is edged with two rows of platted mousseline de sole and nearly covers the bodice. The skirt is made with a tunic, very close, but slightly draped on one side near the back. This is edged with a plating of black mousseline de sole over white.

Teach Children to Read Aloud.

A mother should take great pains to teach her children to read aloud acceptably. Much time and money are often expended in cultivating the voice for singing, and yet quite as much pleasure may be given by the person who reads aloud in a pleasing manner. No attempt need be made at elocution as the word is ordinarily understood; distinct utterance and proper emphasis so as to convey to the hearer the meaning of the sentences read are all that is necessary.—October Ladies' Home Journal.

A Beneficent Club Idea.

Decidedly unique among women's clubs is the as yet unnamed blind-woman's club of New York city. Projected by a few big-hearted women, it is intended that it shall offer opportunities to this unfortunate class, who, because of their blindness are apt to wander "over the hills to the poorhouse." In two ways this club will be a godsend to the sightless. In a clubhouse fitted up to suit their special needs instruction will be given in occupations that will make them self-supporting. At the same time this central club may be a place of exchange or sale of their handiwork. The social and intellectual culture of these blind women, on the other hand, will not be overlooked. There is a scheme whereby reading aloud of newspapers and books is to be a pleasant diversion while the women work, or a course of study is to offer systematic improvement in the hours of leisure.

With all these novel advantages these blind club-women may doubly console themselves with the saying, "If eyes were the windows of the soul there would be more women who squal."—Woman's Home Companion.

Confetti As a Hair Decoration.

One of the novel features of the recent floral fete at Saratoga was the appearance in the ballroom, on the promenade, and even on the streets—given over to carnival mirth—of pretty girls, whose wavy, fluffy pompadours were sprinkled with the parti-colored confetti thrown indiscriminately at any given mark by the passer-by, and often, it may be remarked en passant, by each other, when beauty observed how attractive this addition to her coiffure was.

Silver spangled girls marched about, their pretty heads liberally sprinkled with red, blue, green and yellow particles; staid matrons, with soft, gray rolls, added a not unpicturesque item to the artistic effect. More than one expressed regret that the fashion was as fleeting as the mirth which inspired its appearance. An agreeable feature of the confetti is the fact of its readiness to be brushed away, differing from powder or gold dust, which requires careful manipulation to remove it, after the ball is over.—New York Herald.

South Africa's First Lady.

Mrs. Hanbury Williams is the first lady of the land in South Africa. As sister to His Excellency Sir Alfred Milner, her position would credit her with this title. Sir Alfred is a bachelor, and devoted to the closest study of finance and statesmanship, and cares little for social gaiety, and were it not for his accomplished sister, the aristocracy of Cape Colony would fare ill in entertainment at the government mansion. As it is, there has never before been such a charming hostess to grace the "White House" of Cape Colony. A beautiful woman of the most highly cultured English type, Mrs. Williams simply radiates feminine grace and loveliness, and has become popular beyond description. This is not an easy matter at the tip end of the African continent, for one is supposed to walk in the straight and narrow path prescribed by the customs peculiar to the country. Shortly after arriving there, two years ago, Mrs. Williams infringed on one of these laws in a way that made her the talk wherever English women congregated, and an attempt was made to socially ostracize her. The racial feeling in Cape Colony is intense, and not being acquainted with this fact, Mrs. Williams, when giving prizes to the children of the public schools, after kissing a little white girl, stooped down and touched the lips of a little Kaffir girl who had achieved equal distinction with her white sister.

A gasp of horror on the part of all the ladies present followed the move, and a clergyman leaned over and acquainted Mrs. Williams how she had shocked the audience. It was rather a trying moment, but instincts of justice prevailed over taste, and when the next colored girl came along, the first lady in the land kissed her as though

it was the customary thing to do, and she found that it reacted only to her popularity.—Harper's Bazar.

The Tailor Finished Gown.

The idea in Paris seems to be wholly the tailor finish. It is not precisely the tailor finish, either; it is rather the elaboration of dressmaking with tailor fineness. Work on all gowns is remarkably complex, difficult and elaborate. The amount of fine work and the diversity of handcraft used are simply bewildering, and to the average dressmaker almost dismaying. She must, indeed, be an artist, and must have the very best kind of help in order to even approximate the dresses that this season most favors. The old prices for making cannot well be followed, as the new ideas require so much work and such fine work that the cost of production is doubled and even tripled if the costumes are finished at all in the manner which the new styles require.

Dresses of this kind are not confined to plain cloth. Every class of goods is taken into the assortment, even silks and velvets. Wedding gowns of satin are made under this new system, and in the extreme smoothness of the outline and the elaboration of the work a more refined effect is produced than ever before.

There is a charm about this fineness and neatness which the woman of good taste can appreciate so thoroughly that she is always willing to pay for it, and is never satisfied until she is the owner of a wardrobe made in this manner. The coarse, wild stitches of the dressmaker, the make-believe finishes and the indifferent touch in linings, facings and general embellishment will this season give way to a class of handiwork of which only experts are capable.

Beautiful gowns are made in plaids with fancy silks in contrast, plain and plaid cloths, embroidered cashmere robes, incise broadcloths, embroidered satins and satin-corded velvets, all sufficiently elegant and elaborate to please the demand for striking dresses, and yet at the same time so simple in finish as to suggest the regime of fine sewing.—Dry Goods Economist.

A Feminine Felling.

"Worry wears out more people than work does, and fretting causes more unhappiness in families than either sickness or poverty," writes Mrs. Moses P. Handy in the Woman's Home Companion. "Indeed, the secret of happiness may almost be said to be making the best of everything, and good humor under all circumstances the most useful virtue which man, and more especially woman, can possess. There are good women who to-day would peril life and limb for husband and children, yet who daily render their dear ones uncomfortable by going forth to meet trouble half way, and by grieving over that which is past and irremediable. If a thing can be helped by any effort of yours, go to work promptly and help it; if not, waste no time in vain repining. When your husband has made a mistake in business and times are hard do not wall over the mistake. Gather up the fragments and stand by to help him. If you can do nothing else you can at least pretend that you do not mind; can show him that you believe in him still, and prophesy that better times are coming. Nothing so chills a man's courage as the damp spray of a wife's tears. Did you never try to run your sewing machine without oil? Don't you know how the surfaces grind upon each other, and how hard the work is? Well, just as one hour of that scraping will injure the machinery more than a whole day's use would if properly oiled, just so one day's worry will dig more wrinkles in your face and sprinkle more gray in your hair than will months of patient, trusting labor. Worrying is an essentially feminine failing, and there are women who do it in spite of themselves. If you chance to be such a one, fret all to yourself in the privacy of your chamber, provided you have any privacy. But under any circumstances do not empty your bottle of cold water—or worse, your bottle of tears—over the sitting room fire."

FASHION NOTES.

Chain purses of all kinds are the rage. Detachable yokes and plastrons made of gauzy materials and lace entre-deux are not as much in favor as the fabric forms. Stiffening is now put in only four or five inches deep, cutting it straight if French hair cloth is used, but if linen, canvas or crinoline it must be cut bias.

The mania for braiding dresses is likely to continue. The nasturtium shades are beautifully copied this season in Lyons watin silk velvets and double-faced satin ribbons used in elegant, millinery. Plaid velvet in very bright shades for separate waists will be much worn during the winter, with very light-colored skirts. Shades of gray, or again, black are preferred.

One can never have too many cuff buttons or sleeve links, and now a variety is almost a necessity when the colors of the shirt waist worn demand the same coloring in the studs and links. With the tailor-made gowns there are smart mousseline de sole ties worn in all the delicate shades. The deep cream-colored ones, bordered with appliques of lace, are generally conceded to be in better taste.

The trimming era is not yet at an end. If one were to describe frocks as one really sees them and carefully mention all the numberless frills and flourishes on each particular one, it would scarcely be credited.