

## FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

**Burning Over Strawberry Beds—A Cheap Mode of Marketing—Good for Fertilizing Crops—Wintering Idle Farm Horses—Etc., Etc.**

**Burning Over Strawberry Beds.**  
As soon as the ground is frozen burn the old strawberry beds over. It will do no harm to the plants, while weeds and weed seeds will be consumed to ashes and returned to the soil, so far as their mineral elements are concerned. In the spring the strawberry plant will shoot out with better foliage and grow more rapidly by reason of the burning over of the rows.

**A Cheap Mode of Marketing.**  
Feeding the products on the farm is the cheapest mode of marketing the bulky materials. A hundred dozens of eggs will bring more money than a ton of hay, yet more ground will be required to produce the hay, to say nothing of plowing, harrowing and seeding the land and mowing, curing, stacking and hauling the hay. When corn is fed to pigs it will bring nearly twice as much as when sold by the bushel. Nothing should be sold off the farm that can be turned into something more valuable, or which can be marketed in a more concentrated form. It is transportation charges that largely reduce the profit.

**Good for Fertilizing Crops.**  
Many farmers sell their wood ashes regularly. Perhaps they receive on the average between three and four cents per bushel, and in some cases even less. Could they only be made to realize it, these ashes are worth more for fertilizing crops. It is said on good authority that the average bushel of ashes contains fifteen cents' worth of potash, and this very potash is one of the elements that the advanced farmers are trying to get into their soil. We have not sold a particle of ashes for a great many years. Most of them are put around trees. Occasionally we use sifted ashes mixed with paris green on potato vines. Such plants as onions, cabbage, or any kind of a plant that is grown for its foliage, needs a great deal of nitrogen. This is what gives the depth of green to the foliage. Plants like wheat, oats, rye, and similar seed producing plants, require a greater abundance of phosphorus in some form. This is the main reason why it is so hard on the soil to bring a crop of grain to maturity. For all kinds of fruit a great deal of potash is required. This is undoubtedly the reason why it is often recommended that wood ashes be placed around fruit trees from the fact that the ashes hold an abundance of the element the fruit requires for development.—C. P. Reynolds, in the Epitoniist.

**Wintering Idle Farm Horses.**  
In this country, where a great deal of horse power is required to get the farm work done quickly in the summer time, and where there is little or no work during the long winter months, there is apt to be an excessive and unnecessary mortality among farm horses from lack of proper feeding and care. The stable should be warm, well lighted, clean and comfortable, with good ventilation, but free from drafts. If the horses at the time of quitting work in the fall are in an average healthy condition, fed on a grain ration composed of two parts oats and one part bran, and of this mixture given one gallon per head daily, divided into two feeds (any animal low in condition to be allowed a little extra), with the usual roughage, fodders, hay, oat straw or an occasional out sheaf (a few carrots will be found very beneficial, as they are very fond of variety), watered twice a day, with access to salt at all times, groomed once a day and given a liberal amount of exercise daily out in the yard or some other sheltered spot, provided it is not too stormy, by the time spring comes they will be in good condition for spring work. When it does start, be merciful to your beasts and see that the collars fit nicely, as well as the other parts of the harness, and save a lot of suffering to your horses from sore shoulders, etc.—Allan Struthers, in Farmer's Advocate.

**A New Chick Food.**  
Rolled oats have long been a staple diet in the progressive poultryman's yard, especially for small chicks. The greediness with which the chicks devour it when moistened and swelled, and the speedy growth and sturdy building which it shows, should commend it to all who believe that there is nothing too good for baby chicks. A new foodstuff has been put on the market in the form of loose shredded wheat, the crumbs presumably from the biscuit. It is sold in bulk and the cost is a little less than the rolled oats, while it has the advantage of being fully cooked. It should be moistened the same as oatmeal, and its swelling capacity is really marvelous. If milk is obtainable it induces a wonderful growth.  
Now that the necessity of laying a good foundation is so largely realized, it is by no means extravagant to feed these rather costly stuffs for at least the first six weeks. Instead of sloppy dough I feed crumbled cake in the morning and at noon, using shredded

wheat for the morning lunch and rolled oats at noon, with the best of clean, white whole wheat for supper. My chicks number over 200 and are raised strictly for profit, which invariably means a good start, followed by good food and good care all the way along.—Annie L. Rogers, in New England Homestead.

**Cause of Suckers on Corn.**  
We are asked to give the cause of suckers on corn, and to say whether corn is more liable to sucker when drilled than when it is checked. Some varieties of corn—especially of sweet corn—will sucker badly, because the habit has been bred into them. All such peculiarities can be bred into corn, and that is an important truth that is not well recognized. Earless stalks will pollenate other stalks and they may be earless. It is another instance of like producing like. The best explanation that we can give of the cause, when it is not a fixed habit, is that the roots take up more nutriment than the stalk can use in its legitimate growth, and this additional growth is the result, states the Agricultural Epitoniist. Tobacco will sucker more on low land, where there is more moisture, than it will on a hillside that drains on the low land. Moist land, if it is not too wet, will contain more soluble plant food than dry land will. In town gardens, where water from water works is available and applied freely, corn will almost always sucker badly. Close planting may favor suckering, if our theory is correct, because the corn does not have the proper conditions for utilizing all the plant food that the roots take up. It is a mooted question as to whether it is profitable to remove the suckers from corn. Some growers remove them, and some do not. There can be no doubt that the stalk is better off without them, and the only thing to settle is whether it is enough better off to pay for the labor of removing them. If they are numerous, we believe that their removal will pay for the trouble.

**Experiment by Bees.**  
The following shows the value of experiment, whether it is made by bees or men and women: "A beginner hears the feeding of oatmeal highly recommended as a substitute for pollen. He places some near the entrances of the hives, but not a bee touches it. He is told again to wait till early spring, before the bees have access to natural pollen, and then they will take it. He does so, but, as before, not a bee notices it. He is next told to put a heap of it in the sun, a few rods distant from the hives. This time he may succeed; but it would not be strange if he should once more report that his bees would have nothing to do with it. Finally he is directed to take a piece of honey and get some bees feeding on it, then to set it on the heap of meal. The bees soon gather over it in great numbers; those that go home loaded start out many more searching all about the vicinity, to see where the treasure comes from. The hum of the busy ones on the honey soon attracts them, and, in snuffing about the pile of meal, some bee discovers that it can be used as a substitute for pollen; the others soon follow suit, and in a little time, both the bees and their owner are happy, and the pile of meal quickly disappears. After this he never has any more trouble in getting the bees to work on meal, for he knows how. The bees and their owner have both learned a valuable lesson about pollen. Is there any very great difference in the way both have been taught? Did they not both learn by practical experiment? Yes, and that is the only way to definitely and fully learn anything. We can tell people how to do things, but the hand as well as the head must be educated. Bees and people have learned by experiment. Some of the articles of diet that are familiar to us all have been found to be good almost within the recollection of people now living.

**Extending the Flower Season.**  
The amateur gardener, the real lover of flowers, will find that with very little labor and expense the season of the enjoyment of flowers may be extended, often for several weeks. It is a peculiarity of this season—at least in the Northern States—that the first frosts severe enough to injure tender plants come in October or November. In the vegetable garden, tomatoes, Lima beans and other tropical plants are killed if not protected; and the same happens in the flower garden if petunias, salvias and similar tender flowers are not cared for. There are usually three mornings of these sharp frosts in succession, as if to make sure that the work of destruction was thoroughly done. These days are usually followed by several days, even weeks, of weather so perfect that the term "heavenly" can only adequately describe it. We have it only at this season and in no other land is seen such fullness of beauty, such richness of leaf, flower and every surrounding. If we could protect our tender plants during these first days of frost, bridge them over, as it were, into these days of perfect weather, what a glory of bloom would our garden show! This is just what can be accomplished, and with but little labor and expense. When frosty nights threaten, make light frames of slats or poles over the beds and cover with some light material, matting, sheets, or even a few layers of large newspapers, fastened so that the wind will not blow them

off. But the protecting material must not lie directly upon the plants; therefore, the frame has to be a few inches higher than the top. Some years since we preserved a large circular bed of cannas, salvias and geraniums in this manner up to the day before Thanksgiving day.—American Agriculturist.

**The Swineherd.**  
Scotch swine-growers give pig-eating sows flower of sulphur to break them of their cannibal habit. A few spoonfuls of the sulphur are fed to the sows in swill several days before and after farrowing. It is claimed to be a sure corrective of the pig-eating habit. The sow that eats her pigs will sometimes eat them after they are three or four weeks old.  
Every swine-breeder should have ample pasture for the pigs, with abundant clean water.  
Salt and ashes aid digestion in swine. Cholera will be prevented if sulphur be mixed with the salt and ashes. The sulphur may be mixed with slops also.  
Lice rarely infest hogs that have plenty of sulphur.  
A clean feeding place for swine is a prime necessity.  
All sleeping places of swine should be cleaned often and thoroughly, especially in the hot weather.  
Rusty old straw is one of the very worst materials for bedding for swine. Green corn fed to hogs will cause them to have worms.  
Every hog showing any sign of sickness should be at once taken out of the herd and isolated for treatment.  
Cholera in the herd travels swiftly from one animal to another.  
When a pig refuses to eat, and thumps, and has his hair turned the wrong way, trot him out and give him a dose of ax. Make the dose a big one.

Let the pigs ask for their feed occasionally, just to put an edge on their appetite. As soon as they squeal for something to eat, let them have it.  
The healthy hog's stomach is as regular as clockwork in demanding food. When feeding for fattening, always watch for signs of indigestion. Obey the first sign by reducing rations.  
Remember that stuffing and cramming and jamming food into a pig to fatten it in a short time is a wholly abnormal, unnatural performance.  
Large herds in small quarters are liable to disease.  
**Subtleness of Rheumatism.**  
It has been known for many years that the most fertile cause of heart disease is rheumatism. Only recently has it been realized, however, that many cases of rheumatism which give rise to heart complications really run so mild a course that they are not suspected of being serious and are neglected. This is especially true in cases which attack the very young. In children rheumatism often masquerades under the name of "growing pains." In infants it often falls completely of recognition. It has become the custom to a lamentable degree to give for it the coal tar derivatives, the various antipyretic drugs, anti-pyrine, phenacetine and the like, besides various derivatives of salicylic acid. These drugs alleviate the rheumatic pain by numbing the nerves; they also lessen fever. The result of their use is that patients are enabled to move about much sooner than they otherwise would, and this throws extra work on the heart, and leads to post-rheumatic heart complications which may cripple the organ for life. The recent increase in the number of refusals of risks by life insurance companies is thought to be due to this cause. Doctors here from many parts of the world deprecate the present excessive use of these drugs. Pain is nature's demand for rest. To ally it without reaching its cause is to drug the sentinel who watches over the citadel of health because his footsteps disturb our sleep.—New York Post.

**Dogs in Pairs.**  
A foxhound, as every sportsman knows, if caught in a trap or suffering pain from an injury, is most dangerous to approach, even if you assist him out of a difficulty—say, from a pit or hole where, but for you, he would probably be drowned—he will show his gratitude by biting you. Pointers, setters and spaniels, though not quite so ready with their teeth, will, under similar circumstances, bite not only strangers but their own masters without scruple. The fat-coated retriever is totally dissimilar in this respect, and can be handled without the slightest risk. I have got them out of all sorts of difficulties, and never once met with injury. In doing so you may fearlessly let their head rest on your shoulder or lie against your face. Quite recently a valuable dog of mine got hung up in a wire fence, and a dislocation of the stifle or some serious injury seemed imminent. Running up, I lifted him bodily, struggling and terrified as he was; yet the idea of biting occurred neither to the helper nor the helped.—Blackwood.

Consul Warman, at Munich, is of the opinion that an excellent market exists in South Germany for American folding beds, which, however, must be single beds and without ornamentation, particularly without carving, which is heavily taxed.  
A mahogany coffin, with a gold monogram on the lid, is a pledge in the windows of a Cardiff pawnbroker.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

In the matter of educational fads in the public schools it may be remarked that any fad is one fad too many.

Statistics show that in Nebraska only thirty-one people out of 1,000 cannot read or write. This is the best showing made by any State.

The Duke of Abruzzi is said to be planning a balloon voyage to the Pole. He is much too fine a young man to finish his career in that way.

Of the nineteen leading cities of the country Chicago stands fifteenth in cost of fire protection, first in parks and boulevards and sixth in cleaning.

The young Wichita, Kansas woman who imagines she is married to the ghost of her dead sweetheart is not to be cheated by a little thing like death.

Alabama has a fine old Capitol, set on a hill, and rich in historical associations, but it has no Governor's mansion, and is beginning to think it needs one.

The man who strips a country of its forests injures the whole population of that part of the country, as well as the generations that come after him.

The glory of crossing the ocean two or three hours faster than somebody else is not likely to attract people who have a wholesome objection to being blown up or drowned.

Canada's mineral resources, her vast forests, her immense waterways, the great wheat lands of Manitoba and the West are the best to be found anywhere in the world.

There is a street in Chicago named Fake street, whose residents have petitioned the city government for a change of name. It was named before the word acquired its popular significance—probably in the Scottish meaning of a stratum of stone.

It is said that a close relative of the Kaiser approved of a statement for which a journalist has been convicted of lese majeste. Here is a nice problem for the most versatile of monarchs to settle.

In Norway before a girl is allowed to marry she must have a state certificate that she can cook. And yet there is a disposition among ignorant people to consider Norway some distance behind the advance guard of civilization.

Official statistics recently published show that Stockholm and its suburbs possess over 40,000 telephones, an average of nearly one instrument per family. An ideal service, combined with a wonderfully cheap tariff, has brought about this result.

It is noted that the 155 largest cities in the country show an increase in population for the last decade in almost exact proportion to the increase from 1880 to 1890; thereby indicating that the exodus from the country to the city is not growing larger.

A young woman tried to drown herself at New York City the other day. Before jumping in the river she carefully gathered up her short skirt as if she were about to walk across a muddy street. It just shows how automatic are many feminine acts.

One of the schemes for the future protection of Galveston is to raise it far enough above the sea level to keep it from being flooded by the waters of the Gulf of Mexico when driven before a hurricane. It is estimated that it will cost \$1,000,000 per square mile to raise the site of the city ten feet.

The latest plan suggested in Chicago to utilize the Ferris Wheel is the somewhat wild one to lay it on its side and make a locomotive round house of it. The wheel, which necessarily would have to be roofed over, is still to revolve and receive seventy-two engines, if necessary, from a single track, or at most two tracks. The wheel is 250 feet in diameter and 30 feet wide, and weighs 1,200 tons.

The Italians have but one disappointment in their new queen—that she cannot or will not speak Italian. Her language is French; and her foreignness is all the more remarked by its contrast with the homeliness of Queen Margherita, who belonged to the royal house of Savoy by birth as well as by marriage. Queen Elena's memories and personal traditions are Russian, the friend and protectress of her youth having been the empress-mother of Russia.

A prospector for coal in the Cascade mountain district of Washington is said to have located a deposit of pure anthracite coal, with veins nineteen feet thick and more than 25,000,000 tons in sight. This break in the uniformly bituminous quality of far Western coal is not especially significant at this juncture, but it will be attended with satisfaction by the busy citizens engaged in the development of the vast Pacific slope. The future residents of that favored section will

## THE JOKERS' BUDGET.

**Quite Sufficient.**  
Oh, fair unknown,  
Your name to me  
Is but a hidden  
Mystery.  
But that is hardly  
Worth a fuss;  
My name's enough  
For both of us.  
—Detroit Free Press.

**Seened That Way to Her.**  
"Have you read 'How Men Prose'?"  
"No; I never did care for fiction."—  
San Francisco Call.

**Good as an Alarm Clock.**  
"Are you never afraid of burglars in your flat, Deming?"  
"No, never. The baby and the parrot take turns in keeping us awake all night."

**Pence Tactics.**  
"Have you started out right with your new cook, Laura?"  
"Yes, indeed; I'm going to let her do all the things I wouldn't let the other cook do."—Chicago Record.

**A Bachelor's Opinion.**  
"Ah," exclaimed Youngfather, as he vainly tried to quiet his first born, "what is home without a baby?"  
"Comparatively quiet, I should say," rejoined his old bachelor uncle.—Chicago Daily News.

**A Mean Advantage.**  
"Dabney Diggs can't make any headway with his courting."  
"Why not?"  
"His rival is a railway man, who is always giving the girl a pass to go somewhere."—Indianapolis News.

**Test of Conceit.**  
"Blowhard has a big opinion of himself."  
"How big?"  
"Well, he's beginning to imagine he's annoyed by camera fiends."—Puck.

**Unpleasantly Shocked.**  
"What makes you look so gloomy?"  
"I just had an awful shock."  
"Did you really?"  
"Yes, I just heard a man who is the same age as myself referred to as 'old.'"—Philadelphia Press.

**An Unfortunate Effect.**  
The Monkey—Please try to look pleasant!  
The Lion—Pleasant? I want to look stern!  
The Monkey—Yes; but you'll scare me so I'll make the camera wobble.—Puck.

**A Mistake.**  
The Beetle—Would you mind telling me how to spell "unparalleled?"  
The Bee—I'm jiggered if I know. Spelling isn't my long suit.  
The Beetle—Oh, excuse me! I thought you were one of those spelling bees.—Chicago Journal.

**A Mean Man.**  
"Military men are great lady-killers."  
"Indeed they are; my life was saddened by a colonel."  
"Poor girl! Did the colonel jilt you?"  
"Oh, no; he went and got made colonel after I jilted him."—Chicago Record.

**Time Women Waste.**  
She—A mathematician has figured it out that a man sixty years old has spent three years of his life buttoning his collar.  
He.—Is that so? I wonder how many years of her life a woman of forty-five has wasted in putting her hat on straight.

**The Real Reason.**  
Angela—How careful your cousin Tom is of his wife's health! She told me yesterday that he never would let her go out shopping in wet weather.  
Helen—Careful of her health! Not much! He's ashamed to have her seen out in that rainy day skirt of hers.—Somerville Journal.

**The Child's Startling Query.**  
"Mamma," queried three-year-old Ethel, as she watched the servant washing the windows, "is Jane my stepmother?"  
"Of course not, dear," replied the mother. "What made you think she was?"  
"Cause," replied Ethel, "she's always climbing around on a step-ladder."

**Chance for Him at Home.**  
Palugger (the eminent pugilist, in a high state of indignation)—He offers me \$5,000 if I'll lay down in the fifth round? I'll show 'im, by George, I'm a gentleman!  
Mrs. Palugger—What's the matter with trying to show me you're a gentleman?

**Heroic Treatment.**  
"Well, I might like to go back to school as well as Johnnie Evans does if you'd trained me as his mother trained him."  
"How was that?"  
"She licked him every day so he'd be glad to go back."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.