



STIMULATING ROOT GROWTH.

Experience shows that bottom heat stimulates root growth, and heat from above, top growth. Onions and radishes, grown in a hotbed were all that could be desired, while lettuce made a weak and slender growth. Of the same vegetables grown in cold frame, the former two made only sufficient root growth to sustain life, and the latter was fine. The result was also good with lettuce grown on the floor of the greenhouse.

THE VALUE OF THE SILO.

The silo cheapens food for cattle because it induces farmers to grow corn for ensilage, which saves hay in winter. Where the winters are severe and the farmer leaves his fodder in the fields to go to waste the best thing for such a farmer is the silo, which is of itself an object lesson in economizing the foods for cattle. Ensilage corn can be planted late, and therefore enables the farmer to grow and store away an enormous amount of green fodder when the drought has injured the early crop.

FUTURE OF THE POULTRY BUSINESS.

When we stop to consider that the setting hen and the incubator turn out annually an aggregate of four billion chicks, which at different ages reach the markets of the great cities or are consumed by the farmers' families, besides an annual egg crop of thirteen billion dozen, which are mostly consumed on our own tables, who can deny that the American hen is the real money-maker of the farmer and the fancier?

In years past the hen was, to a certain extent, considered a necessary nuisance on the farm, their usefulness being lost sight of by their owners. Now all that has changed and those who once claimed that the hens did not pay their way have found that with proper attention they are the practical money-makers of the farmer. Fowls and eggs are growing in demand and the profits yet to come will grow apace with the consumption.—*Home and Farm.*

DRIED BLOOD FOR CALVES.

The Kansas Experiment Station says that they have found in feeding calves adding about a teaspoonful of dried blood to the milk at each feeding will change an unthrifty calf to one that is making a good growth. One that weighed eighty-six pounds at birth grew so rapidly because of the small quantity and poor quality of its mother's milk, it was necessary to take it away from her, and even then it failed to grow under their ordinary treatment. At seventy-nine days old it only weighed ninety pounds, a gain of but four pounds. He was given castor oil, laudanum, fresh eggs, calf meal, and as a last resort, dried blood. With the blood the calf commenced to improve, and in a short time was gaining at the rate of nearly fourteen pounds per week, and not infrequently as high as seventeen to eighteen pounds per week. When a year old he weighed 578 pounds—a pretty good record for a calf that gained only four pounds for the first seven-nine days of its existence. The dried blood consumed during parts of three months amounted to 71-2 pounds. At two cents per pound the cost was fifteen cents. Other later trials have shown similar results, and have also proved the blood a good remedy for scours. For weakly calves the allowance may be gradually increased to a tablespoonful at each meal. It should be well stirred in and kept stirred to prevent settling to the bottom of the pail.

DESTROYING WEEDS.

Weeds growing in the pasture or meadows should be cut very late in the season when they are in full bloom. Where the pasture consists of native grasses it may in some cases become absolutely necessary to destroy the weeds that grow in it or they will often grow so dense as to kill out the useful grass. It was for many years my opinion that the proper time to cut weeds to destroy them was early in the season, and to repeat the cutting several times when the weeds were only a few inches high. But after many years of unsuccessful attempts to destroy them, I have found that although they might be held in check they could seldom be destroyed.

Then it happened one fall several years ago while working on my father's farm, that he told me to cut down a patch of dense weeds, consisting of goldenrod, butter cups, wild asters, etc., when the greater part of them were in full bloom. At that time I thought it was a useless waste of time thinking they would appear as dense as ever the next spring. But I was surprised to see that none appeared and not for many years afterward did they appear in numbers. When weeds appear in meadows where wild hay is grown, it is more difficult to get rid of them, and the best method I know of is to occasionally cut the hay as late as possible when the weeds appear in large numbers. It will prevent them from sending up a second growth the same season and the roots will die out in most cases, especially if the season be a dry one.—L. O. F., in *The Epitomist.*

HOW TO GROW TOMATOES.

The ground, which had been well plowed and harrowed, was marked out with a shovel plow in deep furrows five feet apart, and then cross-marked three and one-half to four feet wide. With hoes we pulled out the soil where the furrows crossed, making a hole eight inches deep and fourteen inches wide.

A forkful of well-rotted horse manure was placed in each hill and covered with soil to the depth of six inches.

After thorough watering, the plants were carefully taken up from the cold frame and drawn to the hills prepared for them. One man took a hoe with an extra large blade, and while another man picked up the plant, the hoe was driven in the soil down to the manure and lifted up. The roots of the plant were placed well under the hoe, with the top facing the east. The hoe was removed and the soil pressed down with the feet. This left the plant flat on the ground.

We always set tomatoes this way and never upright, as the wind is liable to break them off. The plant will turn and grow upright in a few days, but this gives it time to toughen. By covering the stalks of the plant, it will send out roots and make a stronger, better plant and produce more fruit. We always make large hills, as they retain the moisture better.

The vines make such a rank growth that we are obliged to break them down in order to get them to ripen fruit early. When the first setting of fruit is about three-quarters grown is the time to do it. Stand up close to the plant, push the arms, with the hands close together, through the center, then spread out the arms and with a gentle side sweep press the vines as separated down flat on all sides of the hill. Press the arms down on top of the vines, so they will stay down. If done at midday you will not break one vine in ten.

We cut out the early tomato plants, but not the late ones, and if properly done they will produce four times the amount of early fruit of those not cut out. After breaking down, they are trimmed when the first fruits show color. With a pair of sheep shears commence at the root end of each bearing stalk and cut off close to the stalk all new growth that has grown from the stalk, and has formed or would produce fruit, leaving three settings of fruit to mature. After you reach the third setting of fruit, leave all that remain beyond. We leave six bearing stalks to each hill. For a finishing touch cut the tips of the vines to prevent them growing any longer.—L. C. Wright, in *American Agriculturist.*

PASTURING ORCHARDS.

Sheep and hogs are the only domestic animals that should be pastured in an orchard of young fruit trees of any kind, and they need to be carefully watched that no damage is done. The hogs are liable to rub the tree trunks, but this can be in a measure prevented by driving rubbing stakes into the ground at various points, but especially near the trough or the sleeping shelter. Sheep are liable to strip the bark from the trunks, especially in the early spring, as it appears to contain a bitter element which they crave. They may not discover this bark ration for some time, but when they do both large and small trees are stripped.

Both sheep and hogs most greedily devour the fallen fruit, whether it contains worms or is decayed. Hogs will eat all fallen fruits from cherries to apples, while sheep are fond of apples. There is some risk in allowing cattle the range of an apple orchard after the fruit is nearly developed, as they are often choked by attempting to swallow whole apples. If the trees are trained low they will pull the fruit from the lower branches and in a playful mood hook the limbs and trunks. Horses and colts will also pull the fruit from the trees, and if disposed can reach some distance from the ground.

Pasturing orchards, whether recently set or old and well developed, is attended with many risks, in most cases not commensurate with the supposed gain. If orchards were planted with hoad crops or kept fertilized and cultivated, this question of pasturing them would never have to be discussed, and the owner in a term of years be equally as well off financially. The trees certainly would be in a better condition, not only as fruit producers, but for resisting the effects of disease, which a heavy sod seems to favor.—L. D. Snook, in *New England Homestead.*

USEFUL ITEMS.

Have you a dust bath for your hens? Save all the sunflowers you can. The seeds are fine for molting hens.

Do a good job of whitewashing the inside of your poultry house soon.

We are too apt to pet and baby purebred stock. They are often overfed and made useless.

Cleanliness is next to godliness even when it comes to your poultry house. Clean up at once.

All the old wells, pits and holes should be kept covered very tight or the young ducks will fall in.

Try tincture of iron in the drinking water for leg weakness. One teaspoonful to every quart of water.

Young chicks do not eat much at a time, but they eat often. Do not omit a meal. Feed at regular hours.

Plaster, muck, fine dirt and sifted coal ashes may be used as absorbent materials to throw on the poultry house floors.

During warm weather the fowls need plenty of shade and cool water. Feed very little grain. Green bone and meat will do.

Many poultry houses have had to be remodeled or moved to another location because of haste in building. Make your plans early.

Bran should always be cooked or scalded before being used as feed, when it makes one of the best bone forming foods to be found.

The handling of sick birds to force remedies down their throats is disagreeable and even dangerous. Some hens are not worth such work.

Keep the young duck growing. Although they eat lots of food, yet they are, or at least should be, growing rapidly. You can almost see them grow.

The poultry man should take on the habit of his fowls of going to bed early, so that he may rise before the sun and have all the chicks and hens eating early.



SIMPLE GOWNS FOR BRIDES-MAIDS.

At a recent English country wedding, where the bride wore ivory soi de chime, veiled with real Brussels lace, the bridesmaids were simply but charmingly dressed in white spotted muslin, with a flounce of embroidered muslin about the edge of the skirt, and Romney fichus to match, fastened in the centre with blue lace bows. Panama hats, with floral trimmings, completed the costumes.

A GREAT EUROPEAN HEIRESS.

One of the greatest European heiresses is Miss Lucienne Premelic Hirsch, who is shortly to make her debut in Brussels, where she has been brought up in strict retirement. Most of the millions left by the late Baron Hirsch go to his granddaughter, who had a somewhat romantic history. Her father, Lucien Hirsch, when living with his parents in Paris, fell in love with Mlle. Premelic, a governess in the household, and married her. The child of the marriage was recognized by the Baron, and to her he left his vast fortune, amounting to about \$100,000,000.

WOMEN WHO FAIL IN BUSINESS.

The returns of the bankruptcy department of the London Board of Trade, as far as women are concerned, are somewhat interesting. Last year the women bankrupts numbered 373, or sixty fewer than in the preceding year, and the proportionate decrease in their case was considerably greater than that of the men who failed. Women are certainly entitled to rank as respectable bankrupts, as their assets average close on ten shillings in the pound, and their total liabilities were only £200,033. Of all trades grocery claims more victims than any other. Last year fifty-three women grocers failed with debts that amounted to £17,300 with assets of £3,100. After these came thirty-seven milliners, who had failed for £27,000, and no one will be surprised that the lodging-housekeepers followed closely after the milliner. One case well illustrates a woman's wit, though perhaps not to the best advantage. The petitioner was presented and judgment recovered when the debtor was a spinster. She, however, induced the court to let the petition stand over, and in the interval got married. She then claimed that as a married woman she was not liable to be made a bankrupt—an opinion in which the court concurred.

SUMMER FOOD FOR CHILDREN.

Children should have meat only once a day in summer, milk and eggs being substituted. Any of the cereals with milk, or, if these are not liked, milk toast, or bread and milk, or plain toast with eggs, soft boiled, baked, shirred, scrambled, poached or in an omelet, make an excellent breakfast. Fresh fish is a welcome addition to the meal. Salt cod-fish warmed with milk and a little butter, or made into balls with potato is a very digestible dish. Well-cooked fresh meat, one vegetable besides potatoes, a simple pudding or ice cream are enough for dinner. Soup may be added, and the fruit that is in season. With the latter use sugar, but no cream. Baked potatoes, sliced raw potatoes baked in milk, creamed rice or macaroni may form the substantial dish at supper. Fruit may be given in moderation.—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

WOMEN'S HATS OFF IN CHURCH.

It isn't of much advantage for a woman to wear a new hat to the Congregational Church of Janesville, Wis., for all the women, at the pastor's request, take off their hats in church just as they do in a theatre, and the opportunity to study and admire new millinery in sermon time is lost.

It isn't a popular custom with the women, but the pastor asked that it be adopted in such a manner that the request could not well be refused, and now no one cares to break the custom. It was done by the printing of this notice in the church calendar: "We wish to make it the custom in this church, beginning today, for the ladies to remove their hats during the services. It is already done elsewhere and will add immeasurably to the interest many will be able to take in the service. It is difficult to give attention if one cannot see the speaker or singers, and at present with our flat floor this is often impossible. The ladies will be glad to do this, we know, for the sake of increasing the enjoyment others may have in the services of our church."

The very next Sunday all the hats came off.—*New York Sun.*

BRIDGE NAMED FOR A HEROINE.

A railroad bridge across the Des Moines River, near Boone, Ia., is to be called Kate Shelley Bridge, after a heroine who twenty years ago saved a passenger train from destruction there. She was then a girl of sixteen and was seated in her mother's cottage when one night she saw an engine fall through a bridge daring a raging flood. Lighting a lantern, she sped away through the storm to Moingona, told of the disaster, and saved a passenger train from following the ill-fated engine to a watery grave. The State of Iowa gave her a medal for her bravery, her name has been celebrated in poetry and prose, and, as a lasting monument to her heroic deed it has been decided to name the structure now in course of construction the Kate Shelley Bridge.

WASH FROCKS.

Wash fabrics for summer frocks are charming this year, so elaborate in design and so fine of fabric that the cost of maintenance is no mean item in the

makeup of the gown. And all sorts of elaborate makeups are allowable for this one time simple toilet. For instance, a gown of novel fabric embroidered in tiny pink silk rosebuds was trimmed the entire length of its skirt with overlapping flounces curved in shape and applied flat. The edge of each flounce was banded with guipure lace. The bodice of fine white muslin very simply made was overlaid with a rounded bolero heavily encrusted with lace.

Wash gowns shirred and corded are no novelty. One often wonders how the laundress ever manages to cope with the elaborate tuckings and puffings; but, then, the secret of it is that the majority of the frocks are not expected to reach the wash tub until their best days are over. One of the most elaborate effects is represented in the garment of white muslin sprigged with rosebuds just brought by a friend. The tucked top of the skirt is hidden by the yoke of white guipure lace, a band of which also finishes off the bottom. The bodice, cut square over a rose silk yoke, is adorned with a deep lace collar threaded with narrow velvet ribbons. The puffed sleeves are banded with velvet and the girdle is a combination of narrow bands applied in parallel rows.—*Pittsburg Post.*

The practice of employing foster mothers on the continent of Europe, and of delegating the nursing of children to hirelings has become so general that many foreigners consider it a direct menace to the vitality of their race. The well known lament of Alphonse Tonssezen, the French writer and critic, over the loss of Alsace-Lorraine, was based chiefly on the fact that with the lost province his country had been bereft of the source of supply of its best nurses, and he knew that women of fashion, rather than give up their social privileges, would turn to an inferior class of nurses.

The example set by women of the higher ranks is followed by those in the middle class. The custom, begun centuries ago, has steadily become more and more prevalent, as is proved by the ever increasing frequency of legal enactments on this subject, dating from so remote a period as the fourteenth century. The peasant mother, of whom the additional requirements are demanded, is forced to slight her own child, and this also has its evil consequences. In commenting on the subject, the London Daily Telegraph states that in large or even smaller centres on the Continent not 2 per cent. of the mothers of the upper and bourgeois classes nurse their own children.

In Germany nursing has become a trade no less than in France. The position of nurse, or "amme," is also made a most enviable one. Says the Telegraph: "The amme's line are truly fallen in pleasant places. Her wages are four times those of the ordinary domestic; her daily fare is as good as that of her master, and in less wealthy families often better. Every precaution is taken lest the winds of heaven should visit her face too roughly, and she is as carefully screened from the occasional roughness of the lord and master's temper. Whoever is scolded, she goes scot free. She constitutes the pomp and circumstance of the establishment, though its owner should sally forth day after day in gorgeous uniform. The amme in her peasant dress, with the gleaming shoe buckles, the conquistach cap of black ribbon, the velvet bodice and scarlet kirtle, the silver arrow fastening her pleats, is the only picturesque feminine figure left in urban every day life. Naturally, the quality of the costume will vary according to the means of the employers who bear the cost of it, and in many instances it is entirely dispensed with on account of its expense, hence the passing foreigner will fail to gauge the number of foster mothers in proportion to the nurseries; but it is, nevertheless, a fact, that except in the very humblest grades of society, mothers delegate their first and foremost duty to hireling."

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BITS OF FEMININITY.

A new fancy of fashion is silk petticoats in strath to harmonize with the lining of the gown.

White silk roses with black velvet leaves make a chic trimming on a white straw hat faced with black.

Light blue is the favorite of all the colors for the moment, but white and a pale yellow are even smarter.

Distinguished by perpendicular lines of open work, like drawn work, with a dainty, interwoven design, is a new China silk.

Silk gowns are always useful and attractive for summer wear and it seems to be rather a fad of the moment to have them made up quite simply.

The "tailor suit" is as professional a garment as the tailor frock; it is of white linen and will please the woman who inclines to smartly severe effects.

Red parasols sing such a gay note along the highways and byways of summer resorts that they are chosen by many because of their decorative possibilities.

Fashion is reveling in flowers. A charming fancy for girls' evening gowns is a trimming of rose petals. They border the flounces at the hem, and a row of the petals is carried round the back and front. A strap of roses is carried over the shoulder, and supplemented by ruches formed of rose petals.

The colonial low shoes come in patent leather, black calf and tan. The buckles are very ornamental and appear in a variety of designs, from old silver and gilt, to brightly burnished silver and gold. These shoes are the essence of style, are dainty and feminine as were the belles who wore them many years ago, but having, withal, the smart and trim air associated with the up-to-date maiden.

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PLOUGHING THE OCEAN.

FISHING ON HORSEBACK ON THE COAST OF BELGIUM.

It is a Sport Which Has Delighted the Flemish During Many Generations—How the Nets Are Arranged For This Curious Kind of Shrimping.

I had met Frenchmen who went out shooting on horseback, and, though they did not bring home very satisfactory bags, yet they contrived to secure a certain amount of exercise in a leisurely way, avoiding all the tedium of tramps from covert to covert, the morasses of mud in ploughed fields, and various other drawbacks. But, until I went to Flanders the other day, I had never heard of fishing on horseback. Indeed, the idea sounded supremely ridiculous at the first blush. However, on closer investigation I discovered a strange and very interesting sport, which has existed on the Flemish coast during many generations, and may be relied upon to amaze any orthodox disciple of Walton. All along the edge of the North Sea shrimping is one of the chief industries of the inhabitants, who supply Paris, Northern France and the greater part of Belgium with this dainty. Their ordinary method is to wade out to sea, or else drift about in small boats, and rake the bottom of the sea with their nets. But it is not thus that the best shrimps are to be obtained. The waders, pushing nets in front of them by means of poles, cannot go out into deep enough water, and the boatmen cannot force their nets along with sufficient vigor. That, at least, is the opinion of the fishermen on horseback; but the others retort that fishing on horseback is mere gleanings, and does not bring in a return sufficient to compensate for the keep of horses. Be this as it may, the old practice is exceedingly fascinating to watch, and I trust that it may never be suffered to die out.

When you see the fisherman careering along a remote and solitary beach, with his great, wing-like nets stretching out on either side of his crupper, you are disposed to hail him as Don Quixote returning from a successful tilt at the windmills. However, in the neighborhood of Nieupoort he presents a very familiar figure, and even such conservative creatures as cows do not seem at all disconcerted by the sight of him. The process of saddling his horse for the fray is a lengthy one. First he adjusts a thick pack, padded out with straw. On either side of this are large panniers, destined to receive the catch. The traces for dragging the net are attached to the collar in the ordinary way, and the net itself is poised behind the pack. An extra basket is hung on to the side of its handle, and then at last the man may mount. This is no easy business, or would not be, save by the practice of a lifetime, for there is not too much room to spare amid such elaborate paraphernalia.

Parties of three or six fishermen generally meet at the edge of the sea, spread out their nets behind them so that the poles shall keep their mouths widely open, and ride out to sea. When they reach the proper distance they turn around and proceed up and down, dragging their nets parallel to the shore. They will have drawn lots for their places, as the one who is furthest out to sea catches the most fish. They are great smokers, and consume an inordinate number of strong cigars while they are fishing. For some hours, while the tide is going out, they "plough the sea," covering a very long stretch before they turn back and proceed over the same furrow, where the tide will have set out a fresh supply of fish meanwhile. When the time comes to turn the nets are getting heavy, as may be seen from the tautness of the ropes and the horse's increasing difficulty to proceed. Then the fishers come back to shore and deposit their takings in glistening piles. When each one has laid out his fish upon the shore he sets out to sea again, and the advance in line is resumed. But the men have now changed places, the one who was outside now riding along nearest to the shore. This change happens at every turn, so that each may have his fair chance of the best draughts. It is a curious sight when they are forging along in the open sea. They often go so far out that their horses are obliged to raise their heads very high to enable them to breathe. Now and again on a rough day a wave will come along and completely submerge both horses and riders for several seconds. However, in the interests of good fishing it is necessary to venture as far out as possible. There is really little danger, and accidents are rare, particularly as horses and men alike are so much at home at this craft.

When the day's work is done the men proceed to fill their panniers from the heaps they have collected on the shore. Here the smaller basket comes in useful. It is interesting to remark the specimens of a breed of horse which is certainly unique. Old prints and potteries prove that in old days this form of fishing was practised all along the coast of Flanders. Now it only survives at Nieupoort, Coccide and a few neighboring communes. It is certainly very ancient, and the effect of this unnatural exercise upon many generations of horses is very interesting to sportsmen. The animals are usually hardy and vigorous; their coats are allowed to grow very thick, and their intelligence is highly developed. All sorts of stories are told about the extraordinary sagacity they display both in and out of the sea. Their necks are unusually short and thick set.—*The Wide World Magazine.*

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When they reach the proper distance they turn around and proceed up and down, dragging their nets parallel to the shore. They will have drawn lots for their places, as the one who is furthest out to sea catches the most fish. They are great smokers, and consume an inordinate number of strong cigars while they are fishing. For some hours, while the tide is going out, they "plough the sea," covering a very long stretch before they turn back and proceed over the same furrow, where the tide will have set out a fresh supply of fish meanwhile.

When the time comes to turn the nets are getting heavy, as may be seen from the tautness of the ropes and the horse's increasing difficulty to proceed. Then the fishers come back to shore and deposit their takings in glistening piles. When each one has laid out his fish upon the shore he sets out to sea again, and the advance in line is resumed. But the men have now changed places, the one who was outside now riding along nearest to the shore. This change happens at every turn, so that each may have his fair chance of the best draughts. It is a curious sight when they are forging along in the open sea. They often go so far out that their horses are obliged to raise their heads very high to enable them to breathe. Now and again on a rough day a wave will come along and completely submerge both horses and riders for several seconds.

However, in the interests of good fishing it is necessary to venture as far out as possible. There is really little danger, and accidents are rare, particularly as horses and men alike are so much at home at this craft.

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MOUSE FOILED A PLOT.

Upset Young Woman's Scheme to Defraud at Last Moment.

A leading oculist of Montreal, whose practice extends far outside the boundaries of the city, relates that one day a young woman came into his office accompanied by an older woman, apparently the mother. The young woman wore colored glasses, which one might have assumed to be superfluous, as it was claimed that the girl was totally blind. What was wanted of the doctor was a certificate authenticating this claim of blindness, putting it beyond dispute; and it was frankly stated that the object in seeking this was to obtain certain aids and advantages of a philanth