



THE BASKET WORM.

The obnoxious basket worms, which destroy evergreen hedges, must be picked off by hand and consigned to the flames.

A DESIRABLE SHADE TREE.

The maple is one of the most desirable of shade trees, and of the varieties it is difficult to select, as some thrive in certain climates better than others.

IMPORTANCE OF THOROUGH MILKING

The richest portion of the milk is that drawn from the udder as the last. In experiments made to test the matter it was found that the difference was so great that with some cows the strippings consisted almost entirely of butter fat.

WATCH THE HOGS CAREFULLY.

A hog that does not care for its corn is an object of suspicion. It should at once be separated from the herd. Both the sick pig and the herd, which are as yet apparently well, should be thoroughly disinfected.

We are convinced that every farm on which swine are kept should be provided with a dipping tank for swine, in order to keep the stock free from lice and skin diseases by an occasional dipping.

CULTIVATING AN ORCHARD.

Sod is a detriment to an orchard. Trees require a cool, moist, rich soil. Cut through bluegrass sod, even after a heavy rain, and you will find the ground hard and dry.

But while clover probably possesses the most good points of all grasses, cultivating and raising some vegetable or root crop between the rows of trees is doubtless the best care an orchard can have.

WHOM KIPLING CALLED THE GREATEST.

In his capital biography of Cecil Rhodes, Mr. Hensman says that when Kipling was interviewed in 1898 as to his opinion of Cecil Rhodes, he described the Prime Minister as "the greatest of living men."

RAPID GROWTH OF FOREST TREES.

If it was not generally known how quickly timber could be grown on land that had been cleared of primeval forest, there would be many waste places planted with trees.

stumps on the homestead, an oak tree was torn out by the roots that showed thirteen years' growth and measured thirteen inches in diameter close to the ground.

During one of my rambles through the forest many years ago, in search of wild bees, a line led me on strange ground. While searching the tree I came across an old board fence that was supported in position by small trees.

RAW MATERIAL ON FARMS.

Crops are grown for use on the farm as well as for market, hence the value of a crop does not depend solely upon what it will bring when sold, but also upon the uses to which it may be applied upon the farm.

The value of the products of all animals on farms depends so largely upon the individual characteristics of the animals as to render it almost impossible to estimate the wealth of the farm manure.

The profit on the raw materials will be but little if the materials are not of the best quality, and the gain will be large if the raw materials are of themselves valuable.

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In London there are, according to the latest directory, 1,500 families by the name of Smith, 950 by the name of Jones, 700 Brown, families and 350 Robinson families.



CARDS A QUEEN'S FAD.

The principal hobby of the Queen Regent of Spain is the collecting of playing cards. She possesses a large number of curious packs, many of which have no little historical interest.

SCHOOL FOR WOMEN EMBALMERS.

One of the latest occupations which women have taken up is that of embalming. A training school for women embalmers has been established by a French woman, who has taken degrees at several European institutions.

A PATCH OF VIOLETS.

A new place to look for a violet patch is directly beneath the chin. These dainty single violets in purple and white are thickly sprinkled on a background of shaded lilac penne velvet.

BECOMINGNESS OF APPAREL.

A strong plea for becomingness in feminine apparel was made by Mme. Durand, editor of the Paris woman's paper, La Fronde, in an address on the woman's rights movement in France at a recent conference in Berlin.

NEW HEAD DRESSES.

A word of approval can be given to the new head dresses. Without excuse for being they have come into a pretty prominence, and are worth all the attention bestowed upon them.

Then there are the velvet bows, all loops and the loops pointing every way. Right in the middle there is poised a jet butterfly upon a spiral, arranged to flit as the wearer moves.

White skirts have a wide graduated flounce trimmed with two narrower flounces with scalloped edges, from which hang full ruffles of thin lace.

HOW THE TIRED WOMAN RESTS.

There is a woman up town who begins to dust the pictures when she is tired. That is her way of finding repose. Her family always know when she is on the verge of giving out from weariness.

Another woman comes home weary after a day's shopping and straightway puts herself into a chair that will tip back and allow her to get her feet on the mantelpiece.

All these are comparatively harmless ways of resting, and even the methods of another woman who when nervously weary displays it by changing the position of the furniture in her

room are not of necessity painful to others. One woman, however, confesses with shame and confusion of countenance that when she is tired, she always scolds the children.

Nothing else seems to rest me," she laments. "I know it's dreadful, but when I come home after a day's shopping, tired out, I always scold the infants. Luckily, they have come to the point when they don't mind it especially."

Mandates of the Mode. While the coat tail cannot be said to be new, it is to play a conspicuous part in spring attire. In renovating a costume, therefore, these appendages may be left on with perfect safety if they are becoming.

Box plaits are noted in great numbers and all varieties, but the single and triple box plaits prevail. One very attractive castor-cloth suit in half-tailored effect shows three box plaits at the back of the blouse and five in front.

White skirts have a wide graduated flounce trimmed with two narrower flounces with scalloped edges, from which hang full ruffles of thin lace.

Parasols covered with silk in bright-colored flower designs rival those in black and white in general favor, and one of the ideas of the season is to have the flowers in all over designs as well as in the wide border effects, popular last year.

Some of the handsome thin black goods have the most gorgeous designs in colored silks. These are in floral designs, and the most brilliant colorings in rich reds and other deep shades.

A simple child's coat of white pique is trimmed only with embroidery, a simple handworked scallop. This finishes the edge down the front, the lower edge, the top of the little standing collar, lower edge of the two coachman's collars, and the sleeves around the wrist.

FRENCH ART NOT APPRECIATED.

He Was Not Allowed to Draw on the Tablecloth

A story is going the rounds of New York studios just now which deals with the experience of a French artist who is not unknown to fame in his own country and who recently visited New York. He has since returned to Paris, and the story can be told, though the artist must remain nameless.

He dined alone one evening in the Holland House, and he was well pleased with his dinner. While lingering over a cordial he decided to show his approval of the meal and service by drawing an elaborate sketch on the immaculate linen cloth which covered the table.

"I tell you to stop spilling the tablecloth," repeated the head waiter. In vain the Frenchman explained that the hotel was welcome to cut out the sketch and have it framed.

The Frenchman was sadly offended. Indeed, if the whole truth was told, he was angry, as angry as he had ever been in his life. He crossed Fifth Avenue at the risk of being run down by the stream of cabs.

When the English rooks are building their nests frequently a rookery is disturbed by big quarrels over the placing of those huge bundles of sticks in the treetops.

I was present at the trial where a man with a split-second watch timed a very ordinary denizen of the border, who drew his six shooter and emptied it in a second and a quarter. It takes a tyro that long to pull trigger once when he is all ready.

When Corn Was Discovered. Before the settlers landed at Plymouth they sent out a number of parties to explore the country. One of these parties consisted of sixteen men, under Captain Miles Standish.

When He Spelt It the Wrong Way. "Which reminds me," said Representative Ryan, of Buffalo, "of a man up in my city who was a mighty poor speller.

"Bill, I hear you are the worst speller on earth. I understand you can't spell 'bird.'"

"I'll bet you \$5 I can," said Bill. The money was put up and Bill straightened up and spelled 'bird.' "Pshaw!" said the other man, "I understood you spelled it 'b-u-r-d.'"

"Might have sometimes," said Bill, as he tucked away the five-dollar bill, "but never when there's anything in it."—New York World.

The lord mayor of London receives a salary of \$50,000 a year, and has to spend twice that sum to maintain the dignity of his position.

PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFLY TOLD.

The Latest Happenings Gleaned From All Sources.

MAN KILLED; HIS WIFE TORTURED.

Misked Robbers Commit Murder and Ransack a House, Taking \$200 Worth of Booty—The Suspect Captured—Borrowed Coin to Sue Her—Feared Consumption; Killed Herself—Bodies of Miss Victims Recovered.

Pennsylvania Pensions: Jeremiah Spriggs, Johnstown, \$8; Robert B. McNight, Erie, \$6; Daniel B. Mowry, Washington, \$12; J. J. W. Schenover, Knoxville, \$12; Theodore W. Hillier, Bloomfield, \$8; Miller Ickes, Newberry, \$10; John Walbert, Pittsburg, \$8; James J. McAfoos, Decker Point, \$12; Samuel Robertson, Harshville, \$10; Mary J. Stowder, Huntingdon, \$8; Barbara Orr, Pittsburg, \$8; Mary Grandan, Conneautville, \$8; Eliza A. Spaulding, Port Allegheny, \$12; William Cheeseman, Girard, \$8; George W. Taylor, Edgely, \$8; Robert W. Thompson, Washington, \$12; David Clark, Veneta, \$8; Warren Graham, Northeast, \$8; Orren D. Way, Chandlers Valley, \$14; Alex. O'Donnell, East Waterford, \$10; James Vance, Allegheny, \$12; Elias Powell, Rankin Station, \$8; Mary Erb, Wormleysburg, \$8; Catherine Brant, Latrobe, \$8; Margaret Schugarts, Punxsutawney, \$12.

The recent floods throughout the Schuylkill Valley have left unusually large deposits of coal dirt on farm land along the river and many suits for damages will result.

Tyron, a thoroughbred running horse connected with the stable of John J. Ryan, was struck by a trolley car while prancing at Third and Townsend streets, Chester, and fatally injured.

Because the inability of M. Howard G. McGowan, manager of the Berks county farmers' institutes and lecturers, to reach Stouchsburg owing to the badly drifted public roads, the institute at that place was indefinitely postponed.

The first of a series of institutes to be given by the Fourth District of the Delaware County Sabbath School Association, was held in the Upland M. E. Church, Chester, R. D. Miller, president of the district, presided. The principal speaker was Rev. A. B. Van Ormer, whose subject was "Systematic Bible Study."

Orders have been issued from regimental headquarters calling an election March 19 in the company armory at Indiana to elect a captain in Company F, Fifth Regiment, N. G. P., to fill the vacancy caused by Captain Hughes being elected major. Major Hughes will conduct the election.

Three masked burglars broke into the house of Henry Smith, an aged resident near Saxonyburg, a little country town, brutally murdered the old man, tortured his aged wife in a fiendish manner and escaped with \$200 worth of booty, after having ransacked the place.

The burglars crushed his skull with an ax, and to make their work sure sent a bullet through the victim's head. Mrs. Smith was tortured until she revealed the whereabouts of the money in the house. While torturing the woman the robbers vented their fury by breaking every thing within reach.

Michael Gwatt, who was arrested on complaint of his wife for beating her and trying to get away with a sum of money for which she had sold her property, was sent to jail at Wilkes-Barre by Alderman Donohue. As he was being led from the square's office Gwatt cried to his wife, "Won't you give me \$5 to hire a lawyer?"

Charters were issued by the State Department to these corporations: German-American Savings and Loan Association, Allegheny, capital, \$1,000,000; Eureka Knitting Company, Philadelphia, capital, \$50,000; the Pennsylvania Knitting Mills Company, Reading, capital, \$5,000; Majestic Apartment House Company, Philadelphia, capital, \$5,000.

Harry McMullen, the 14-year-old son of Charles McMullen, of Lebanon, was found dead in the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad yards. No one saw the accident. The body was found by a car inspector. Deputy Coroner C. D. Weirick decided that death was due to an accident.

It is said that when Mayor-elect Vance C. McCormick, of Harrisburg, takes office he will appoint Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph B. Hutchinson, of the Eighth Regiment, National Guard, as his chief of police. Colonel Hutchinson is a strict disciplinarian.

Buildings containing five stories and tenements were destroyed by fire at Shenandoah. Loss, \$20,000. They were owned by Fitzgibbons Brothers, of Ringtown.

Lawrence Colliery, at Mahanoy Plane, owned and operated by the Shaffer estate, of Pottsville, was permanently abandoned. The colliery employed nearly 300 men and boys and had a monthly payroll of \$25,000.

D. Lloyd Thomas, a young lawyer, who campaigned with the Governor's Troop in Porto Rico during the Spanish-American war, was thrown from a sleigh at Mahanoy City, fracturing several ribs.