FARM AND GARDEN

STUDY THE CAPACITY OF THE FARM.

Every farmer should study the capacity of his farm, so as to be able to turn its resources to the best account. Some farms are naturally adapted to grass production, and can be made to produce heavy crops of hay yearly for a long time. Other farms soon run out when seeded to grass, but are good for cropping. On such a farm a large area should be ploughed yearly, cropped and fertilized, and seeded down. For a few years good crops of grass can be obtained, and then the land needs reseeding. The aim on such farms should be to have from one-third to one-half of the tillage under the plough all the time, so that the grass land will all be newly seeded, and the farmer will be able to replough as soon as the grass begins to run out. Then there are farms that are rocky and rough. The soil is stony and fertile, but is not adapted to cultivation. Apple-trees, perhaps, will thrive with remarkable vigor on such land, and the farmer should accept the indication, and plant it to apple-trees until he has all he can take care of. A man in the State of Maine had a farm of that character. It was of little value for tillage, but he found the Roxbury russet throve remarkably well, and produced excellent fruit. He "took the hint," and set his farm largely to Roxbury russet trees until nearly thirty acres were covered. Now, in some years, he sells $2,000 worth of fruit. He has made a rock and almost worthless farm one of the most valuable in town, simply because he used it for the purpose to which it was best adapted. That is what the farmer should try to do—study the capabilities of his farm, and then try so to manage it that he will draw out of it the best that it is capable of affording. It will not do to manage farms all in one way, on account of the great diversity in soils, and physical conditions.—New York Witness.

THE CUCUMBER'S FOES.

Prof. Chas. D. Woods, Director of the Maine Experiment Station, has issued a valuable leaflet dealing with the cucumber's enemies. The essay takes up the striped beetle as follows:

This well-known insect, with its yellow coat and black stripes on the wing covers, feeds on all kinds of cucurbitaceons plants—cucumber, melon, squash, pumpkin, etc., and often appears in such numbers as to ruin the entire growing crop.

Remedies.—(1) Plow out and destroy all cucumber and squash vines as soon as the crop is off to destroy any larvae that may then be in the roots.

(2) Planting an excess of seeds, to distribute the injury, is a common practice, as is also the system of starting the seed in pots, boxes or sods, and transferring the plants to the field after they are well established.

(3) A free use of tobacco dust, lime or land plaster about the bases of the young plants is often recommended.

(4) In large fields "driving" is sometimes practiced. Before the middle of the day the farmers sow air slaked lime with the wind, and this seems sufficient to drive most of the insects to the leeward.

(5) The planting of a few large hills of squash among the cucumbers, as traps, is sometimes recommended since the insects seem specially partial to the squash.

(6) Spray the plants with bordeaux mixture and Paris green (formula 2), being careful to reach the under sides of the leaves.

(7) One of the surest preventives is to cover the hill at the time of planting with a box over which is placed mosquito netting.

WHY BUTTER PRICES HOLD UP.

Much speculation is indulged in about the fact that with all the supposed great increase in creameries the prices of butter still hold up. Hoard's Dairymen says: Those who speculate forget two or three things:

1. That the cow is the source of the butter supply, not the creamery.

2. That the more dense the cow population becomes in any section, the less proportion of heifer calves are raised.

3. That the increase in milk consumption has been so great that a very large share of the cows of the country have been diverted from butter making to that business.

4. That the increase of cows in this country is only about five per cent. yearly, so it takes about 20 years to double the cow population.

5. That the progress of dairy ideas among farmers is teaching them to weed out the unprofitable cows, thus reducing very perceptibly the milk supply for unprofitable butter making.

6. That the percentage of increase of population is much greater than the percentage of increase in cows, while the consumption of milk and butter per capita has been steadily on the increase. All these things tend to strengthen the dairy business in all its parts and keep prices to a healthy grade.

GRASS IN THE ORCHARD.

We aim to mow grass in orchards during July, letting it remain on the surface in bearing orchards. This mown grass, with the aftermath, makes a shade for the surface which aids very much in preventing evaporation, which is so much needed during the fall, to give size and finish to fruit and to assist in forming strong fruit buds for next year's crop. As this grass and aftermath decays the humus formed acts like a reservoir to hold moisture. By this method, your orchard gains each year in producing power. The appearance of the foliage of the trees and successive crops of fruit confirm this belief. If any part of the orchard needs bracing up, sow clover on the surface about August 1, without harrowing, and apply stable manure at the rate of five loads per acre, and await results. If you are in alfalfa section, sow this between the rows, and you will accumulate plenty of nitrogen to brace grass and trees.—G. G. Hitchings, Onondaga County, N. Y., in American Agriculturist.

MONEY IN BROILERS.

For those who have access to city markets, either direct or through convenient shipment, the raising of broilers is one of the most profitable lines of the poultry business. However, those who are looking for a soft snap, are advised not to undertake it, as, while interesting employment, it is anything but easy.

Of course the first requisites are a good incubator and brooder, and it is just as essential that a warm place be provided to keep them.

Chickens raised in the winter require close attention and no one should undertake the business, who is not willing to give this care even to getting up several times each night in extreme weather to see that the brooders are at the proper temperature. It sounds formidable but the profits will more than compensate. After the question of housing has been decided, the food problem must be solved, as there is danger from overfeeding. Hard-boiled egg and bread crumbs should be fed exclusively for the first week, then cracked wheat, oatmeal or milet, with green cut bone or meat scrap to take the place of insects they have access to in the summer.

Except for a little help she will need in the heavier work, this is essentially a woman's work, and it will bring her more money than anything she can do.—Indiana Farm.

DWARF PEAS BEST.

When selecting peas for an early supply the dwarf varieties will be found most suitable, as they do not have to make heavy growth of vine before coming into bearing. The more wrinkled the seed the better the quality of the pea, though some of the earliest peas are not wrinkled. The Champion is one of the best in quality, but is not early, and is not as prolific as some varieties. This is an excellent time for planting early peas, if the ground will permit.

RATIO OF SEEDS TO STRAW.

The ratio of seed to straw varies greatly. On rich land, manured with nitrogenous fertilizers, the growth of straw is great compared to that of grain, and the same in wet seasons, being the reverse when the season is dry. To prevent lodging it is recommended by some that an application of lime and salt be applied in the fall on the land intended for the grain crop.

Benevolence in 1906.

The total amount contributed by citizens of the United States for philanthropic purposes during 1906 falls far below the record of some other years. Those who look for a progressive annual increase in charity contributions must be disappointed. During the last year a total of $51,230,294 in large contributions was given to educational establishments, art galleries, hospitals and asylums. The benefactions for these objects reached the great total of $107,360,000 in 1901. The variability of such statistics is shown by the statement that the contributions in 1900 aggregated $47,500,000. It is estimated that the small contributions to charitable uses in 1906 would aggregate not less than $10,000,000, swelling the total philanthropic offerings to $61,230,294.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Parcels Post Figures.

Avocates of the parcels post are publishing some interesting figures showing that the British Post Office during 1905 carried 97,000,000 parcels at about one-sixth the charge paid for like service in this country. At the same time the British postal surplus was $24,000,000, while the United States postal deficit was $14,000,000. On the face of it this might seem to show better management in England, but such a conclusion would ignore the more difficult problems of the American postal service, including our vast distances through thinly settled country, as compared with the short mail routes in populous Britain. The burden is on the advocates of an American parcels post to show that it would not bankrupt our government.

Japan's Thirst For War is Endless

By Albert S. Ashmead, M. D., Late Foreign Medical Director Tokio Hospital, Japan.

THE empire of the Mikado to a Japanese means spiritual empire and not a mere material or temporal empire. For many centuries, while the Mikados (Heavenly Gates) were isolated in their Holy Seclusion, behind the Devil's Gate, at Kioto, there reigned mere temporal rulers, the Shoguns (great generals), at Tokio. In 1867, the beginning of the Meiji era, the Sat-Cho (Satsuma and Choshin provincials of high degree), a political ring, overthrew the Shoguns and brought the figurehead of the empire from his sacred isolation at Kioto.

He is the religious head of the nation, typefying the Bushido (war spirit) of the people, that is all. He is not Emperor—a word the Japanese do not know, although they use it to deceive Westerners. A Mikado is Tenno (son of heaven or God). He never dies, but hodzurus (translates). He is God in man's form and as such can only reign in the spirit of the nation.

The real temporal ruler of the Empire of Japan is that Sat-Cho, a political clique, and the Mikado is only puppet King. His mentality is of a very low order, in fact all the high nobles of Japan under the old order of nobility were rather effeminate, if not really imbecile. The Mikado is no exception to this category. Therefore he is easily handled politically by the ringsters, whose only aim is to satisfy Samourisu, or Fushido, the war spirit of the nation, handed down to them, from the time of Krishna, god of war, of Brahminism, even at the beginning of protestant Buddhism.

This is the curse of the Japanese people, that love of fighting and besides, there is the worship of heroes. And how are heroes to be made in a Japanese point of view save by war? Samuraism before the disestablishment of feudalism, in 1867, was satiated by wars between the Damols. Each province or high class family's servants (Samaurai) would fight with the next ones. But in 1867 Samurai were nationalized into a central army, or fighting force.

This spirit of war, the true soul of Japan, will never be willing to remain in barracks for any length of time. It soon demands a new war. Where will a war be found to appease it by that ring of political tricksters called Sat-Cho except in a foreign war? Thus it will be ever.

After they have fought America they must find some other country to make war upon. That next, in all probability will be Holland. For Japan must have the Dutch East Indies. And so it will go on.

But what I write this letter for especially is to point out that the "spiritual empire" of that pagan "ruler" is what we have most to dread. It is that which threatens us already in our Pacific States. Paganism of the Mikado is already getting a foothold upon our Christian European and American shores. This is what we must guard against most.

The war that is on in the world today is that between two civilizations, paganism and Christianity. Until Japanese have been taught by defeat that their Emperor, as we call him, is not a God or holy avatar, there will be endless wars on the part of Japan. We must put down her unholy paganism and then there will be peace or Christianity. Which will win, paganism or Christianity; the god of war (Krishna) or peace and good will to men (Christ)?—New York Herald.

Greatness *of the* Nation.

By Justice David J. Brewer.

THE United States of America is the marvel of the ages, the giant of the nations. Not three centuries have passed since the first English colony was established with its limits. To day it is the peaceful home of 80,000,000 of freemen dwelling between the two oceans. Not merely in population, but in resources, wealth, intelligence, culture and achievement it challenges the admiration of all. Taken in its entirety, its phenomenal development is unequaled. We have done and are doing great things in a short time. The significant, impressive fact is size, magnitude.

Excluding our island possessions we have 2,300,000,000 acres of land. "Uncle Sam is rich enough to give all a farm," involves no stretch of the imagination. Railroads, the mystic arteries of commerce, abound here as nowhere else. Our railroad mileage is 214,000 miles, nearly as much as that of all the world beside. The capital invested is $13,000,000,000. The service the past year required 46,000 locomotives, 40,000 passenger coaches, 1,700,000 freight cars, and 1,300,000 employes. They succeeded in killing 10,000 people and injuring 85,000 more.

Think a moment of the Nation itself. With an ax mightier than the ax of Richard the Lion Hearted, it is proposing to cleave two continents asunder, and as the waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific kiss each other in the Panama Canal there will be a larger fulfillment of the dream of Columbus of a highway to the Orient. Its Post Office business amounts to $190,000,000 a year. It pays out $140,000,000 a year for pensions.

Do I err when I say that size is one of the obvious facts in our National life? Is it strange that at every county fair we look for the largest steer, the fattest hog, the biggest potatoes, the longest ear of corn? Is it a wonder that we pay prizes for the family with the most children, point with pride to the mother with twins and triplets, and then for fear that we shall not grow fast enough, welcome each year to our shores a million of immigrants? On all sides is a vision of greatness. Magnitude impresses us in every direction.

We have $2,500,000,000 invested in mining, $2,500,000,000 invested in agriculture, 5000,000 manufacturing establishments with $10,000,000,000 capital.

Those responsible for all the greatness of this country must answer further questions before our value to the world and before the world can be determined. The real question is: Which way is the country looking? What are the ideals and the inspirations of this nation? Is this republic seeking only material development, ostentation and parade, or is it striving for the higher life which shall benefit both the nation and the people?

War in Europe Means Utter Ruin

By Foreign Minister Tiltoni, of Italy.

THEREFORE the Italian Government's policy is to maintain and strengthen the Triple Alliance, and also to maintain and strengthen her friendship with France and Great Britain. The success of this policy is only assured on condition that we exercise the greatest sincerity and loyalty in our relations with Germany and France.

The Triple Alliance will continue to be the basis of our policy, and this is sufficient to show that those who, judging by mere appearances, think they see a weakening of the Triple Alliance and predict its approaching end are mistaken.

It has been said that the Triple Alliance has been modified, or transformed, and that it has become essentially a peaceful alliance. The alliance has always been peaceful. Its most precious feature is that it is an efficacious instrument of peace, and the more so since its existence has been generally known. But this does not prevent the most friendly relations with outside powers.

Doubt has been cast on the benefit Italy derives from the Triple Alliance. It was the Triple Alliance that permitted us to preserve an independent policy and thus saved us from the bitter surprises which many nations, including the Italians, have had when isolated. Fidelity to the Triple Allianbe has permitted Italy to maintain friendship with other powers, thus insuring European peace.

Some persons have remarked that the danger of political and economic antagonism between Germany and Great Britain is creating an untenable position for Italy. The powers which form the Triple Alliance take into account in Italy's interests the necessity for constantly maintaining friendly relations with Great Britain.

That the relations between Great Britain and Germany are improving may be perceived in many incidents, including the recent meeting between King Edward and Emperor William.

Our relations with Germany are based on absolute equality and also on the greatest reciprocal regard and our relations with Austria are the same.

Teaches Dancing at Eight-Two.

Simson Green, of Harvard, Mass., has been a teacher of dancing for sixty-two years, and at the age of eighty-two is still giving lessons. In the juvenile classes he has tots from five to ten years old. In some of these cases he also taught the little one's mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Mr. Green has taught about 10,000 nights and days. His class would average easily forty a night, so that during each yearly term of six months he would turn out in the vicinity of 250 graduates. On this basis he has given lessons to more than 15,000 persons. The old gentleman is still graceful and nimble on his feet, and though he declares that this is going to be his last winter as a teacher, his neighbors laugh at the idea, saying they have been hearing that for twenty years.—Kansas City Journal.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN

THE SOCIAL SECRETARY.

No surer sign of betterment in the conditions of work in our age could be found than the adoption, by numerous great industrial and business concerns, of the idea of the social secretary. This is a new profession for both men and women. Social secretaries, says Mary R. Cranston, in the Craftsman, are employed in large establishments to look after the health and general well-being of worker and plant, to be the point of contact between the firm and its force in all questions which arise concerning life in the factory, workshop or store.

The idea was conceived by an industrialist in Holland who felt the need of such a person in his factory, and who had sufficient originality to make the experiment. The American Institute of Social Service immediately saw the good which would accompany the adoption of this profession in the United States and therefore spread abroad the principle, with the prompt result of an American pioneer social secretary, a woman, who filled this position in a Rhode Island department store. Her four years' work greatly improved conditions for the workers. Her employer considered her services worth every cent of the very good salary which he paid her.

There are today twenty-seven social secretaries in the United States, about an even number of men and women.

The social secretary usually begins on a salary of $720 a year, which is increased according to capability for the work. Salaries range from this sum to $2,500 a year. The position is, however, no sinecure. It means responsibility and many annoyances, and is difficult to fill acceptably. The cardinal principles of the social secretary's gospel are sanitation, recreation and equalization. The chief requisites for the work are tact, common sense coupled with a knowledge of life gained through experience, a keen sense of justice, fearlessness of adverse criticism and ability to steer so straight a course between sympathy and fear as to win absolute confidence from those in command as well as from the rank and file.

It is essential to have a discriminating sense of the justice which belongs to each side; to know where the rights and privileges of employer and employee diverge, and to be quick to see, and capable of making the employer see, the advantage in dollars and cents which results from improved conditions, and to be able to make equally clear to the employee the difficulties which beset the management of every large enterprise.

The secretary establishes luncheon rooms, rest rooms, mutual aid associations, thrift funds and penny provident banks; when asked to do so, she (if a woman) is ready to give suggestions about the proper way to dress, the most becoming colors for a girl to wear, whether or not to listen to the wiles of Dan Cupid, and all sorts of other personal matters which perplex the ordinary mortal—in short, the social secretary is to be the employees' guide, philosopher and friend.

Besides the usual betterment features, the secretary also arranges many forms of social amusement, such as dances, lectures and musicales. If this functionary did nothing more than teach working people how to enjoy themselves in a sane, healthy way, the work would be justified.

The social secretary of a Pittsburg factory is a physician and his chief concern is the health of the men and women who work there.

The three thousand employees of an Ohio factory keep the social secretary busy enough to need the help of two assistants. The personnel of this establishment is far above the average; the employees have quite a social position of their own. Their factory clubs have entertained distinguished persons both of this country and from abroad; lectures have been given by well-known speakers, and the social work has been done upon such a large scale that the factory stands today as an object-lesson for the world.

FADS OF THE WOMAN OF LEISURE.

"Strange, is it not, how our fads differ?" remarked Mrs. de V., examining the contents of her jewel casket, in which was nothing but pearls of all sizes, shapes and colors. Fads are like our noses, no two alike, but all have a general, a sort of family, resemblance, for they all serve the same purpose, that of whiling away time and acting as a sort of safety valve for our superfluous energy and interest. I couldn't help noticing this recently when visiting Mrs. D. in the Berkshire Hills. You know she has the name of being a sort of harum-scarum creature, who never takes more than a passing interest in anything; so you can imagine my surprise to find that long after her guests had retired for the night she was poring over volumes of mental science and studying Emerson. It was a perfect revelation to me, and I've not quite made up my mind whether she really enjoyed herself or hypnotized herself into believing that she did.

"Take Mrs. W., for instance," continued Mrs. de V. "She has made a study of microbes, and, honestly, I think she is microbe mad, for she wears long kid gloves in the house, in order that her precious fingers may not be contaminated by contact with some unseen bug, and has a pair of lazy friends to wait upon her.

"Lazy friends?" inquired Mrs. G.

"Oh, you know what I mean! Those long, collapsible tongs that dart after anything when you press a button and bring it back when the pressure is released. I'm told that she doesn't dare to open a letter any more. Even her private correspondence is first handled by her secretary, who breaks the seals of all her letters in her presence, removes the letters from their germ-infected envelopes and hands them to her for perusal. She even bathes in distilled water, so they say, which you know is as near germ proof as water can be."—New York Tribune.

EAT WHAT YOU LIKE.

"If men grimly eat to live, they will not live long," says Dr. Thomas Lathrop Stedman, in a protest against the desperate seriousness with which the present generation regards its food. Dr. Stedman suggests that people should eat what they like. "Appetite," he says, "is as necessary to digestion as is mastication, and what is eaten without relish is with difficulty, if at all, assimilated, for the stomach despises unsavoy stuff and refuses to secrete sufficient fluid for its digestion."

The dietetic crank, he adds, is saved from the otherwise inevitable results of his folly by the fact that his enthusiastic appreciation of the unsavory food which he is persuaded will assure him strength and long life gives him a taste for it, and so the motherly stomach provides an abundance of gastric juice of the proper composition.

THEATRE HEADGEAR

In Paris the leading milliners are said to be exercising their ingenuity in the designing of attractive theatre headgear, which will form a compromise between a toque and coiffure ornament, and the prettiest scheme is that of a knot of roses in tangerine or emerald velvet allied to a long black ostrich plume and caught with a paste of jet dagger.

Greek fillets are more to the fore than ever, and these are composed of thick wire, round which gold or silver ribbon is twisted, the spaces in the centre being filled in with shot tulle.

After all any ornament on the head is a nuisance to the person sitting behind the wearer, and it is a question if one doesn't feel more annoyed at an ornament than a legitimate hat, which is likely to be removed.

PAPER THAT DISAPPEARS.

A paper that might be valuable to people whose correspondents forget to burn their letters has been invented by a French chemist.

Ordinary paper is first dipped into sulphuric acid, which is diluted according to the durability intended. Then it is dried and glazed. The acid is partly neutralized by ammonia vapor, and when the paper is ready for use it looks quite like any other writing paper. Sooner or later, however, it falls to pieces, which at least saves the trouble of tearing it up no matter what its other advantages or faults may be.—New York Mail.

WOMEN IN LIVERY BUSINESS.

A woman who is fond of horses has gone into the livery business and is making money at it. Her patrons prefer her gentle, refined manners to those of the average liveryman, and it is a pleasure to many of them to know that her horses are never overworked or abused in any way. She has no trouble with the labor problem, because the atmosphere of her stables is such that the most careful mother is glad to have her son employed in them; and as all boys love horses there is an unlimited number of them to be had for the asking. The woman began by driving her friends to the trains, and when they began to pay her it occurred to her that the things that was a pleasure to her might also be made a source of profit.—New York Tribune.

WEAR WHITE-FOOTED HOSE.

In a published interview a physician urges that the wearing of stockings with white feet will do more to promote ease in walking and relieve foot ills than anything to be suggested. Socks or stockings of cotton or lisle thread in black bind the feet and make them swell, he says, no matter how fine and open they may be. The black dye with the hard thread of the lisle variety is a combination that is particularly torturing to tender feet. Thin, unbleached Balbriggan he recommends. Preferably whole sock or stocking may be white, but at least the foot should be. A further caution is added that new cotton hose as well as all cotton undergarments should be washed before being worn, to wash out the sizing used by manufacturers.