

ORCHARD and GARDEN

HOW IS THE HORSE?

In view of the panic which overcame some people when automobiles got thick on the roads, here is part of a letter about the growing demand for horses, by a writer in a Chicago paper. This doesn't look as though the horse was sick. The writer says:

A doctor in an Illinois town told me recently (and I verified his statement so far as was necessary to convince me of its truth), that he purchased twelve years ago, a colt, paying \$60 for it. He used the colt in the practice till a few weeks ago, and then he sold it for \$175. This may seem incredible to you but if you knew of some of the other horse dickers that occur at the present time you wouldn't be surprised. In the same Illinois town, for instance, a team of stone-blind horses sold for close to \$150. Those blind horses ten or twelve years ago wouldn't have brought \$10 apiece.

I traveled lately from Chicago, as far East as I could stand him, with a horse buyer from a good town in New York state. He showed me a list of the horses he had bought in the Chicago market, with the prices annexed. He had purchased one carload for a town in West Virginia and another carload for his own town. The prices read like fairy tales. But I have been close enough to the horse market during the last six months to know they were the bitter truth. One span of black horses weighing about 1,400 pounds each, he had bought for \$480, and they were not fancy horses either. One of them, on the contrary, was touched in the wind—"not heavy, y' know, but just a little thick, y' understand," as my informant put it.

Teams of draft horses that run in age from 8 to 12 years and in weight from 1,100 pounds to 1,800 pounds a horse sell for \$300 to \$700 a span. These look like fancy prices, and they are. In addition, not half the care is displayed in regard to blemishes that was shown formerly when prices ranged more than 50 per cent. lower.

This and much other evidence that easily might be secured ought to indicate conclusively that the horse has triumphed over handiwork and hunk; that he is here for keeps, and that the demand for him will not soon, if ever, grow seriously less. But, of course, the breeders will go ahead and supply the demand and put the prices back where they belong as measured by the intrinsic value of the animal—Indiana Farmer.

DRAINING MEADOW LANDS.

There is a certain carelessness about the care of meadow and pasture lands which is hard to account for. It may be that we are not yet far enough away from the wild lands of a decade or so ago to forget that they grow luxuriant grasses without care or plow. Any one who will take the pains to examine a dozen meadows cannot fail to be impressed with the lack of attention which these lands receive. If a piece of ground is too poor to grow a grain crop it is turned to grass; if it is too wet it is turned to meadow, with the result that lots of this land is not producing enough to pay taxes on it.

Drainage is the only thing needed to convert these low, unprofitable lands into meadows that will produce two or more tons per acre of commercial hay. The herbage growing now on much of this is of no practical value, but when once the soil is subdued and dried out, other grasses readily take hold and make bountiful crops. We have often wondered why so many continue to sow expensive grass on these lands, without first getting rid of the surplus water and other vegetation that is not congenial to tame grasses. Some of the finest meadow lands we have ever seen were a few years ago marsh lands, where marsh hay grew five or six feet high. These lands were first drained by big open ditches, and then were covered by a system of dikes. Within two years after the opening of the ditches this waterlogged soil became dry enough to work, and then the sun and rains did the rest. Stagnant water kills vegetation. Drains carry off this water and let in air and sunlight and enable the soil to digest the rain water as it falls and sinks into the earth.

GROWING PICKLE CUCUMBERS.

A profitable crop for summer planting is the pickling cucumber. It may be grown to good advantage on a piece of run-out pasture land of medium soil. Such land should be plowed early and thoroughly worked to set loose whatever plant food is available. Fresh land of this kind is likely to be free from the various blights and diseases which so commonly attack cucumbers in old land. A gravelly or clay soil will be satisfactory. The crop should be planted some time in June. It is a quick growing specialty and harvest begins the last of July or the first of August and continues until the vines are killed by frost.

The best fertilizer is barnyard or poultry manure, but good crops may be grown with a small amount of manure and an addition of fertilizer containing considerable nitrogen. The usual plan in this locality is to plant in hills about three feet apart in rows six feet apart. On fairly clean land most of the cultivation may be done with horse implements. After all danger of injury from insects is past the plants are thinned to five or six to the hill. Cultivation is continued

until the vines interfere. The size for pickling is from 2½ to five inches. A great difficulty is to keep the crop closely picked. Cucumbers allowed to ripen will greatly lessen the iron and the work should be done by experienced and careful hands. The crop may be taken to pickling factories or shipped to the nearest large city, or salted in brine and later made up into pickles on the farm. The last-mentioned plan is most profitable where there is a local market for the pickles. The pickling crop is an easy one to grow. The great difficulty is to harvest the crop and find a profitable market. For this reason it is best to begin with only a small area.—The Cultivator.

MAINTAINING FERTILITY.

It is an old rule that proper field culture should be the same as for a garden spot, which is to use plenty of manure on small areas, work the soil to a fine condition for seed, keep down the grass and weeds and make every inch of space produce to its fullest capacity instead of wasting time, labor and manure over large fields that can not be properly cultivated. Every farmer knows that plant food in the form of manure and fertilizer give increased yields, but it may be a waste of labor not to perform the work of applying such to the field at the proper times. Work improperly done is sometimes a waste of labor and on many farms there is often too much work done for the results gained, frequently the mistakes made being premeditated and in defiance of experience and reason. All plants require a sufficient amount of food, heat and moisture to enable them to reach maturity and yield to their fullest capacity and where the ground is annually devoted to crops the great difficulty is to retain its fertility and to secure from it all that should be derived under the best possible conditions. Any diminution or deterioration of the plant food in the soil must be resupplied in some shape and it is important that the farmer attend to keeping the land up to a high standard of fertility at all seasons, for land that has been bountifully fed will be in a better condition for a succeeding crop, while that which has been overtaxed will gradually lose fertility and entail an additional expense every year.—The Epitomist.

WHAT THE TRAP NEST DOES.

It shows which hen lays the egg. It shows just what each hen is doing. It picks out the 300-egg hen, the 200-egg, the 100-egg, the 50-egg and the drone. Feeding the drone is one of the greatest leaks of the poultryman.

It picks out the winter layer. It enables one to get acquainted with each individual hen.

The frequent handling and moving hen from the nest tames her and the tame hen is a paying hen.

It prevents egg eating, as the culprit is easily detected and killed.

It picks out the hen that lays the infertile egg, the brown, the white and the yellow egg.

It picks out the hen that raises the best chicks. Not always the highest scoring hen raises the winning chicks.

It is the only practical way that a breeder can pedigree his stock. Poultry will in time be pedigreed as is other pure-bred stock. Trap nests may be placed in a building or yard away from the laying hens (when used for sitting hens) and they can be removed once a day for feed and water. When they return to the nest they shut themselves in and the other hens out so they cannot crowd on and break the eggs.

The trap nest is a simple contrivance by which the door is set on a trigger which is sprung by the hen when she enters. The door closes and she cannot leave the nest until removed by hand.

A numbered band on each hen's leg enables the owner to tell exactly what each hen is doing by writing her number on the eggs in the trap nest.—American Farm World.

TO PLOW AROUND YOUNG TREES.

First, get or make a short eave and whiffletree. The latter every farmer will have anyway to cultivate in tall corn. Fix the lines so the horses will walk close together, and you can throw the furrow toward the young trees without difficulty with an ordinary plow set to take as little land as possible, and without barking trunks or breaking limbs.

To throw the furrow from the row of trees set the beam over as far as it will go in the opposite direction, plow shallow and use one horse for the last furrow, letting him walk in the furrow. This will leave only a narrow land along the row which the harrow will smooth down, and no trees need be injured.

Do not plow around a young orchard from the outside each year or you will have hollows on one side and hills on the other. It might be plowed from the center every second time, but the best way is to plow in lands corresponding to the tree rows, throwing toward a row one year and from it the next.—Cor. Successful Farming.

Superstition and the Wedding Ring.

When a wedding ring has worn so thin as to break, the superstitious believe that either the husband or the wife will soon die. This may be regarded as an obvious superstition and perhaps accounts for the fact that wedding rings are now made so much thicker and heavier than formerly—

"ANYBODY WANT TO BUY A WHITE ELEPHANT?"



—Week's cleverest cartoon by Rogers, in the New York Herald.

"BLACK HAND" WILL MEET FATE OF MOLLY MAGUIRES

Organized in Italy For Noble Purposes, It Has Been Prostituted in This Country to Ignoble Purposes—Aims of Information Bureau of Immigration.

Washington, D. C.—"The Black Hand Society, now operating in New York and elsewhere, will soon run its course and its leaders will be brought to the bar of justice," said Terence V. Powderly, formerly Grand Master of the Knights of Labor and Commissioner-General of Immigration and now Chief of the Division of Information in the Bureau of Immigration.

"In the meantime," he said, "we should not be harsh in our criticisms of the Italians as a race. Most of them are sober, law abiding, industrious people. There is no more danger to the country in Italian immigration than there was in the immigration of certain others races a comparatively few years ago."

These statements were made by Mr. Powderly in a discussion of the work of the Division of Information, which was established by Congress with a view to diverting to the agricultural sections of the country, notably the South, a part of the constantly growing stream of aliens now pouring into the large cities of the East and Middle West.

"Years ago," continued Mr. Powderly, "a number of counties in Pennsylvania were terrorized by a society known as the Molly Maguires. I was born of Irish parents in the region of that State where the Molly Maguires were active. The members of this society were a bad lot, but it would be unjust to say that they were typical of the average in the Irish race."

"The Molly Maguire Society was imported from the Emerald Isle. On its native soil it worked for freedom and was a decent, patriotic organization. As known in this country it was nothing more or less than an organization of marauding cutthroats. It was crushed to earth in Pennsylvania when its leaders were hanged."

"The Black Hand Society will meet the fate that befell the Molly Maguires. Last summer I spent some time in Italy and took occasion to inquire into the origin of the Black Hand. I found that on its native heath the Black Hand was organized for good—in fact, for the protection of women and young girls. An Italian who wrongs a woman and fails to right the wrong is practically driven from among his fellows. The black hand of ostracism is raised against him. The Black Hand in this country, as in the case of the Molly Maguires, brought into being for noble purposes across the sea, was prostituted and converted to ignoble purposes when transplanted in the United States. But it will soon pass into history as did the Molly Maguires."

If Chief Powderly executes as he has planned Uncle Sam will soon be running the biggest intelligence office on earth. All forms of labor, from household servants to skilled artisans, will be supplied on short notice. Mr. Powderly did not say so directly, but he intimated that the Division of Information will solve the servant girl problem in the United States.

THE TIDE OF IMMIGRATION

1,400,000 Aliens Admitted in the Last Fiscal Year—Frank P. Sargent Says He Doesn't Believe Undesirable Ones Come From Particular Localities.

Washington, D. C.—Commissioner-General of Immigration Frank P. Sargent does not agree with the statement made by Representative John L. Bennett, of Alabama, a member of the Congress Immigration Commission, that undesirable immigrants come from particular localities. Judge Burnett specified Italy, Syria and Asia Minor.

Commissioner-General Sargent's report for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1907, shows that the total number of aliens admitted for that period was something more than 1,400,000, or in the neighborhood of 200,000 more than came during the year preceding. Concerning Judge Burnett's statement Mr. Sargent said:

"I do not believe it true that undesirable immigrants come wholly from any one country. We do not want people from other countries who are to let us much blood as they can, and we do not want people who are shiftless or diseased and who have no ambition to become good citizens. But these classes do not come from any particular society, and it is because we have labor that we are compelled to put up with a certain per cent. of bad timber."

"Industrial prosperity in this country is directly reflected in Europe. An immense amount of labor is needed in the United States. We've got to have labor, and we must take Italian labor. We cannot very well exclude all the Hunchakists and Black Hand people that come in with the labor. Every Italian is not a Black Hand any more than every Armenian is a Hunchakist, but we must have laws that will exclude such persons from the United States. Italians, Sicilians and all others who are honest, who want to own homes of their own and till the soil, give their children that which they had not, an education, and who wish to become good citizens, should be given every opportunity to come into the country, no matter what their race may be."

In reply to a question as to the diversion of the tide of immigration, Mr. Sargent said that it was impossible to divert the growing influx into such a place as New York in a day or a year.

New York and the large cities are better known abroad than any other localities," he said. "When a family from a certain State in Europe settles in North Carolina or Texas and becomes satisfied its members write to the people back home, and eventually that part of the State becomes colonized with people of the same race and from the same common home in Europe. Gradually the tide is turning to the South, the Southwest and the Northwest."

"In the last twelve months, according to the reports we have had, the immigration into New Orleans and Galveston increased greatly. During the year the greatest number of aliens came from Italy, Austria, Hungary and Russia. Those who went to Galveston were mostly Russian Jews, and this is an indication that the agricultural fields are offering more inducements to such people. All through the South the number of foreign settlers is growing. It becomes known in Europe that those parts of this country offer good fields to bona fide settlers."

"It is only a question of time when foreigners find out they can do better in smaller places than in the big cities, but it is going to require a great many years for that fact to become general knowledge throughout Europe."

"If we have continued prosperity in this country immigration will continue to increase, but just the minute there is a letup in the progression of industrial affairs, as is predicted in some quarters, the tide of immigration will shrink. This has been the history of immigration. The fact that the United States pays higher wages than any country on earth brings immigrants here."

ACCUSED OF KILLING BRIDE.

Philadelphia.—A Coroner's jury here decided that Mary E. Eichenlaub, a bride of only a few months, was killed by her husband and his mother.

Swearing to kill a druggist who gave testimony against him and a Coroner's detective who worked up the case, G. Russell Eichenlaub, the husband, was led out of court.

The testimony led the jury to believe that both the mother and son procured cyanide of potassium.

DEFLIANCE TO U. S. COURT.

St. Paul, Minn.—Attorney-General Young appeared before Judge Bunn, in the Ramsey County District Court, and asked for a writ of mandamus against the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to compel that road to put into effect the commodity rate law recently declared illegal by Judge Lochren, of the United States District Court.

Judge Bunn issued the writ, which is made returnable October 5, and the papers were served on the railroad officials.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

A WOMAN RULER OVER 400,000,000.

The abdication of the Dowager Empress of China, which is announced to take place on the Chinese New Year, will bring to an end a half century of imperial rule by a woman for which there is no parallel in history.

Catherine of Russia enjoyed something like her despotic power. But Elizabeth, ruling a nation about as large as New York of the present day, and Maria Theresa, withstanding Frederick the Great, were as petty sovereigns by comparison with this autocrat of the destinies of 433,000,000 people. Napoleon himself never ruled so vast an aggregate of tribes and peoples.

What a tale of Oriental intrigue and barbaric glory the secret chronicle of the court of Tzu-hai or Tsi-an, or by whatever name she should be known, would make! What an opportunity for a Chinese Grammont of Greville or Saint-Simon!

In this court there survived through the nineteenth century many of the features of the Byzantine court of the Greek emperors and of the mysteries of the medieval Italian courts. A Borgia aspect was given to it by the sudden faking off of the Emperor Tung-chi in 1871, presumably by poison. As for the romantic career of the slave-girl who became a royal concubine in the palace of the Manchus, rose to be the power behind the throne because of her pretty face, and on the death of the Emperor assumed full authority, elevating puppet emperors and pulling them down as she liked, all the while advancing China's place among nations, history needs to be searched to match it. If Tzu-hai had any Burleigh or Palmerston to direct her with his counsels his name has been lost in her greater fame. She was her own Machiavelli, and in knowledge of the arts and subtleties of diplomacy she needed to ask no odds of Europe's foreign offices.

Tzu-hai retires from the scene at a favorable time for China's future. Her reactionary policy was opposed to the best interests of a nation awakening from its long lethargy to the possibilities of progress along modern lines. The China which has suppressed the opium traffic and is taking lessons in military armament from the West has outgrown its despotic mistress—Editorial in the New York World.

AN ADVENTRESS IN THE TOILET.

An adventress who has spent most of her life in this country has just begun to serve a sentence of fifteen years in an English prison. Her career here and in Europe has been so full of crime as to make it phenomenal. She was born of respectable farming parents in the west of Ireland, about thirty years ago. At sixteen years of age she was already restless and wayward. She succeeded in getting on board a steamer bound for America. After a brief sojourn in Nebraska, she returned to New York, where her extraordinary beauty secured for her employment in a spectacular play then running at a noted theatre. Her peculiar charm was the sweet innocence of her face, which imposed on all who noticed her; for she proved to be utterly destitute of a moral sense. She won the affection of a millionaire whom she promised to marry, but her passion for jewels and horses and carriages scared him away before the time set for her marriage arrived. A respectable young man fell in love with her and married her, and for a time she appeared to be content and desirous of living a quiet life. But respectability bored her and she returned to New York and became the centre of the most vicious set in the city. Her escapades involved her in difficulty with the police and she fled to London. There she consorted with thieves, blackmailers and crooks of other kinds. With one of them she planned the robbery of an express company and saved herself from arrest by a flight to Paris, taking with her the spoils of the robbery. Her pretensions of innocence and her remarkable beauty won the interest of an English lady famous for her philanthropic efforts in the reformation of the fallen. She behaved herself well for a time, but soon reverted to her former life. She married a man who took her to South America, where he had an appointment in Brazil. She ruined him and he committed suicide. Returning to London, she became acquainted with a wealthy man whom she almost murdered. Another plot to murder in which she was engaged, ended her criminal career for a time, for she was caught, convicted and has been sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. She might have been a happy wife and have made others happy, but she chose the evil and became a curse to the world and is reaping the fruit of her sins.—Christian Herald.

THE VIRTUE OF A WHITE DRESS.

"O, mother, how pretty you look!" "How sweet!" "Where are you going?" "Guess!" I cried, "I'm going—going—going to stay right here with you this afternoon."

I ended enthusiastically and I smiled. My little ruse had succeeded. Just a simple white dress had created the atmosphere that I wanted.

The children were cross; I was tired and irritable; yet I wanted to be patient and agreeable. I remembered, when a teacher, how the school children had taken a dislike to a certain dress I wore; they fancied I was always cross in it. I recollected how pleased they were over a new gown and especially over anything white. They begged me always to wear white. Now I was resolved to test again the power of the white dress and see if it might not react upon my tired nerves.

It was a dull, rainy day, but I had a warm fire. I selected a white waist, not too thin, and alas! a little out of style. Then I found my old pique skirt, a bit mussed, but clean. I wore a faint blue ribbon at my neck and a bow to match in my hair. A string of blue beads completed my costume. Last of all, a lace-trimmed handkerchief with a dash of cologne. The third-reader class used to admire "teacher's handkerchief, so nice an' smelly!"

Now I was ready for the afternoon, and felt quite equal to entertaining these restless children just recovering from the measles. At the chorus of "ohs!" and "ahs!" and the gentle pats on my hair, the loving touches of the string of beads, I felt more than repaid. I was actually rested and in good humor with myself again, while the children were eager to follow every suggestion that I made.

O' the magic of a white gown!—American Motherhood.

THE SPINE THE TEST OF HAPPINESS.

Here is a man who professed to be able to tell the social position and general importance of any woman by looking at the curve of her spine.

"Backbone, he says, is the true test. If a woman's vertebrae are all right she is happy and desirable. The expert is Dr. Emil Reich, who already has started the country with novel ideas. He asserts that "in countries where women are not taken with sufficient seriousness, that is, where they play but a subordinate part, their backs are straight, down to the hip. The American woman, full of the consciousness of her power, and, even much more so, the French woman have backs swing in a proudly undulating line," he continues. "The women of lazy nations, like the Russians, Roumanians, etc., have fine hands, but bad feet. The energetic, hard-working French woman has crisp feet and bony hands. Beauty is one of the greatest assets of a nation. In sinking nations men are more beautiful than women; in rising ones women excel men. Beauty means physical health and moral strength. Beauty means that parents married out of sheer love, which is an ideal to do, if not always a practical one. The undying glory of the Greeks comes from their having beautified whatever they touched.—New York Press.

CHILDREN'S NAMES.

The school catalogues of thirty years ago showed lists of Lotties, Bettys, Maggies and Kitties where to-day the same records ignore pet names and print in full the baptismal cognomens of pupils. A young girl entering a city school was asked by the principal what her name was and replied, "Carrie Lu." "Caroline Louise," corrected the teacher. The present custom tends to dignity, and even though it seems a pity to call little toddlers of two and three Elizabeth, Katharine, Dorothy and Margaret, still as they are fast growing up it is a comfort to remember that they will not after a while be called upon to protest against pet names. There is not a Lizzie of fifty today or a Kitten of the same age who would not infinitely prefer the distinction of her own stately name spoken and written in full.

In choosing a name for a child of either sex it is important to think of euphony and select a Christian name that will harmonize with the surname. The names of popular political and military heroes are naturally bestowed upon boys, as the names of favorite authors, queens, and kings-women are given to little girls.—Christian Herald.

A RAINY-DAY PARTY.

For the rainy day, which all hostesses dread a barn-party is great fun. A clean, roomy carriage-house is easily swept out and made empty, and then the guests can amuse themselves a whole afternoon in decorating it for the evening. Corn stalks may be stacked in the corners, and ears of corn festooned across the ceiling, with bunches of wheat and oats on the walls. For lighting, the choice, jack-o'-lanterns are the proper thing, and these are the funniest things in the world made out of summer squashes, for long, quaint, dismal faces result from their narrow shape. These can be swung from the ceiling by strings so they will hang down over the heads of the dancers below.

For music there should be nothing conventional, of course. The very best thing possible is an accordion, if that is obtainable. If not, there may be a fiddle to be had.

As to refreshments, doughnuts and cider—the latter served with straws—and sandwiches of sliced ham and bread cut thick, and popcorn and molasses candy, and, above all, pie, are in keeping with the spirit of the party.—Harper's Bazar.

The value of settlers' effects taken into Canada by American immigrants in 1906 fiscal year was \$1,158,953 against only \$11,223 by British immigrants and only \$6,244 by all other immigrants.