THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the Democrat, Bellefonte, Penn'u," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

WE are indebted to Dr. Calder, President of the State College, for half a dozen nicely-rooted cuttings of the Concord grape. The vines have been carefully planted and we can hope for no better things from them than that their fruit shall be as abundant and large as are our wishes for the success of the institution over which the good Dr. presides, and for which he so earnestly labors.

WE direct attention to Mr. Brown's advertisement of poultry in another column of this page. Mr. Brown's method of packing eggs is original with himself, and insures the hatching of a larger than usual percentage of the eggs shipped. Of the several varieties which he advertises, we pin our faith to the good old Dominiques, and are introducing into our own flock fresh blood from his carefully bred birds.

BLACKBERRIES, grapes, gooseberries, currants, &c., should all have been pruned last fall or during the winter, but if neglected then do it at once, cutting out where too much crowded, and shortening the new wood. Don't try to do it with a knife, it is slow, inconvenient and unsatisfactory. Go to Hicks' and get a pair of his pruning sheers. It will prove the best investment of that amount of money you ever made for the fruit garden.

WE have received from Secretary Edge a copy of the Report of the Pennsylvania Guenon Commission. The commissioners seem to have performed the duties assigned them with great care and fidelity, and report strongly in favor of the system-"As an adjunct to previous knowledge to assist purchasers or breeders of cattle in getting or raising the best, and weeding out the poorest, they think it is worthy of being acquired by every farmer. And they would recommend their fellow farmers not to be dismayed at the apparent difficulties to be surmounted in obtaining a knowledge of the system, as it is only absolutely necessary to acquire

The eruption never extends after the first thorough application, and it promptly disappears within twenty-four hours if the application is persisted in, and the patient is entirely cured." a knowledge of the first four orders of each class, and few other points, to practically apply it, as all animals below those grades are not worthy of being kept. Any intelligent man can This knowledge, applied with the tests heretofore usually used, will enable any one to become a good judge of cattle."

make up the lost time by rapidity of this we endorse the correspondent heartily, knowing from experience that he is correct. Our first planting for the season was a "row" the full length of our garden—three hundred feet-and was made by simply opening a furrow with a common twohorse plow (the ground having been already well ploughed and harrowed), sowing the peas thickly in the bottom of the furrow, as we would corn for fodder, and covered the full depth of the furrow by pulling the loose soil over them with the head of an

We cannot however, follow the lead of the correspondent when he advises leaving the vines without any support, unless only the dwarf sorts are sown. Our first sowing was of the dainty Little Gem, which only grows fifteen or sixteen inches high, and needs no support, but when we sow for a succession we shall use the magnificent Champion of England and take care to provide ourselves with good tall "brush."

### Notes of our Contemporaries.

THE Poultry World has already mailed its chromos for the half year ending with June, and we think they are superior, if anything, to the earlier issues. The World is doing good work in bringing the importance, pleasure and profit of poultry keeping to the attention of American farmers.

To those who know the Scientific Farmer it need not be commended. Any farmer who does not know it should seek an early acquaintance. It has more real agricultural science scattered through its pages than one would imagine.

In a circular issued by Orange Judd, the veteran chief of the American Agriculturist, offering specimen numbers for six months, for fifty cents, we find the following, every word of which we heartily endorse:

I fully believe in the motto, which for thirty-seven years has stood at the head of the American Agriculturist — Washington's words: "AGRICULTURE is the most

ton's words: "AGRICULTURE is the most HEALTHFUL, most USEFUL, and most NOBLE employment of MAN."

I believe, also, that it is the safest, the most certain pursuit.

I believe that intelligence, reading, thinking and science also, are as useful, as profitable, even more so, in soil culture, than in any other occupation.

any other occupation.

I believe that every reader of such a journal as the American Agriculturist aims to be, will be greatly benefitted, in mind and in pocket. Indeed, it cannot be otherwise. and in pocket. Indeed, it cannot men wise. Earnest, intelligent, practical men are constantly collecting, sifting, and con-densing into its pages the best and most useful information they can gather from

It is often true that the reader does not. and cannot, perceive at first just how he is profited, but these thoughts and sugges-tions awaken new thoughts, new plans, im-proveshis judgment, and must tell for good. The many engravings speak to the mind through the eye, far more forcibly than

#### Antidote for Poison 'Oak.

We find the following in the American Cultivator, and knowing from repeated personal experience the decid- The ed discomfort resulting from oak poisoning, and the difficulty with which it farmer readers who are subject to the serious annoyance:

"An important specific is announced to the troublesome eruption produced by the poison oak or poison ivy, so common in our woods and so often mistak en for the Virginia creeper, which the plant somewhat resembles. Dr. S. A. Brown, United States navy, states that this specific he finds in bromine, which he has used with unvarying success in at least forty cases. He uses the drug dissolved in olive oil, cosmoline or gly-cerine, in the strength of from ten to twenty drops of bromine to the ounce of oil, and rubs the mixture gently on of oil, and rubs the mixture gently on the affected part three or four times a day. The bromine is so volatile that the solution should be renewed within twenty-four hours from its preparation. The eruption never extends after the

# The Garden.

This part of the farm is quite dear to our household. We aim at a farmer's garden only, and we are satreadily master the system, and soon isfied that this half-acre is the most become proficient in it by practice. profitable on the farm. We do not eek a great variety of vegetables. We select but few kinds, and plant in such a way that a horse can do much of the culture. The stringbeans will occupy one long row, and when the three successive plantings A correspondent of the Husband- are made, three long rows between man urges the deep planting of peas, which the horse can walk and the cultivator work in the soil. So also saying that while they will be with our peas. Our vines will occu- the somewhat longer "coming up" than py the prolongation of these or supposed to be having it all their own shallow planted, they will more than other rows. In a word, we seek acgrowth after they are up, and will plant, and thus economize our labor. yield much more abundantly, and beds, and hand-weeding of the incontinue in bearing much longer. In terspaces, but we try and have as few of such instances as we can. Another thing we have found : grudging manure for for the garden don't pay,-no, it don't pay. Here we want quick, active growth, and large yield from small areas, and we must have manure for this. wholesale operations in the garden to a certain extent, but it will not answer not to do things well. When deep culture is required, the land must have it; when dung is needed, it must be applied; when trans-planting is beneficial, then transplant we must, and not depend on seeding heavily and pulling up the plants that are crowded. Of one thing we are sure, fertilizers pay anywhere, it is in the garden, and we would not seek to economize with them. It is well to calculate on a few cabbage plants to fill up vacant spaces where other crops have failed; growing cabbage in this way, we often get a most satisfactory crop,

> A correspondent of the National Farmer having tried many plans for keeping smoked meat through flytime, finds this best of all: Put each piece in a muslin sack with sweet hay stuffed closely around it, inside, and hang in a clean dry place.

without much labor or expense.

### Beets and Beet Seeds.

Every progressive farmer should make it a point to start in the right direction, by raising one, one-half, or one-quarter acre of sugar beets, so as to be ready to produce large quantities whenever beet sugar works or drying establishments are started in his vicinity. But to do this let him exercise due caution to procure genuine sugar beet seed.

Seed growers and seed dealers in Europe, sew the seed broadcast, and such a quantity as to have from 125, 000 to 150,000 plants to the acre, weighing, on an average, from three to five ounces apiece. They require but little cultivation, and when harvested little store room. In spring these stunted beets are planted, and while the roots now begin to develop, they also begin to develop the seed which in turn is less developed than it should be. But these seedmen are very careful never to use seed of their own growth, otherwise a dwarf race of beets would soon be the result. Many sugar beet manufacturers

grow their own beet seed, and a surplus which they sell. The process followed by them is the following: In the fall, when the beets are nearly ripe, experienced men walk over their extensive beet fields, selecting the most vigorous appearing specimens, showing certain qualities in the formation of their leaves, by placing a small stick along side. These men are followed in a few days by a gang of farm hands, who gather these beets carefully, and after they are trimmed, deliver them to the seed house. Here they are scrutized by the men who selected them, as to shape and size, no inferior shaped or defective root, nor any which weighs below 41 or above 2 pounds can pass; the rest go to the factory for sugar. The beets selected for their superior leaf formation, symmetry and size of root, are immersed in a solution of common salt in water, having a specific gravity of 7½ Beaume. Those swimming on this brine speedily find their way to the factory to be sliced or grated, as the case may be, while those which sink in the brine are now immersed in a still stronger brine of 81 Beaume. ose floating on the same, in turn are sent to the factory, while the select ones are carefully preserved during winter to be planted in spring. yields to treatment in many patients, The man who has followed this prowe republish it for the benefit of our cess with the greatest care, thereby produced a race of beets which com bine with the largest per centage of sugar they contain, also the largest yield of beets per acre, and who gave the beets in which these two combined characteristics have become permanent, the name Imperial Sugar Beet, more than twenty-five years ago; and who has ever since applied all his beets and seed, is the justly celebrated sugar manufacturer and seed grower, Fred Knauber, in Groebors, whose beets so far have carried off the palm wherever they have been grown in competition with any other. "The Vilmorin," a French beet, is every year grown on experimental fields alongside of the "Imperial," and, though showing as high per centage of sugar, has invariably a less yield in tons, and the root being prongy, having instead of one central root three or four lateral ones, feeds largely on the surface soil. ERNEST TH. GENNERT.

Talley Several for the Toad.

Many gardeners already appreciate the valuable services of the common toad, and afford them protection for their insect-destroying propensities, while as many more perhaps are ignorant of their usefulness. To the latter class it may be interesting to know that toads live almost wholly upon slugs, caterpillars, beetles and other insects, making their rounds at night when the farmer is asleep—and way. English gardeners understand these facts so well that toads are purehased at so much a dozen and turn-cd loose, and the best of it is the toads generally stay at home, so the gardener is not troubled with buying his own toads over again every few

Notes on Pear Culture.

ence of Farm Journal.

1. Sandy soil, with a yellow clay subsoil, well drained and manured. produces pears of the best flavor and

richest color. 2. The plan of growing pears in sod was played out with the Newark College experiment, that was so puffed by Orange Judd and others six or seven years ago. Clean culture, until the trees are ten or twelve years old, is a necessity.

years old, is a necessity.

3. For standards plant the trees 20x20 feet, dwarfs, 10x10. If you want disease of all kinds, mildew, blight. &c., plant closer. I have blight, &c., plant closer. I have seen dwarf Duchesse with limbs extending eight feet from the body of

4. Flemish Beauty rots at the core Giffard sheds its leaves before maturing; Manning's Elizabeth is an entire failure.

5. I ripen all my fruit in the dark.

Eggs are good for hatching until they are two weeks old, after which they begin to lose their life-giving they begin to lose their life-giving

### Owed to Spring.

Well, as I was sagin', Youv cum at last with your "bamy Breth" a-blowin' from the Northwes— Wesconstant or Nebrasky, I s'yose, Great countries for bam I reckin'.

Now your cum when Evrybodi's feed and Korn and things live all being fed out. See our Katl! On the left, a-hevin' to be steadied by Thur tales when they gits up a mornin Luk at our hossis wat's all rejuced. Luk at our hossis wat's all rejuced To skeletons a-weepin' over a troft; A hull troft full of kobs! A hull troft full of bitter regkleckshuns!

Look at them shepe a-lien' in as corners a-waitin' for grass!

See the shotes
|lenin' on the fens to squele!
| uk at them mity eres "a-hangin' pendint"
| uto such lilife hoge! See a hundrid
| ud shotes rejuced down to a even
| orn basket fail yer doin's, U
| ard, loiten's Spring!—a-hangin' back
| s your bin a-doin'!

But now your cum!
We feel your cheerin' presenz wen we
Git round onto the south side ov the barn!
We heer the hens a-kakin when they've
Laid an eg! We see the horse-radieh
A starting up alongseite the garding
Feus! The wimmin is a lukin' into
The old tea-pot after garding seeds,
And all these things make me think your cum!

Ef so be I've riled Ye, Spring, asshowing up ov yer shortcummings, Jest set it down to havin' pout's lisens, (Tho' I hain't taken wun out, yet I 'low to.)

#### Seasonable Chicken Briefs.

F. H. Corbin's new book on the Plymouth Bock.

WHILE for marketing purposes chickens are hatched as early as February, with paying results, provided suitable quarters are prepared for them, those intended for future breeding stock should not be hatched earlier than April or May.

Never set a hen or pullet that will leave the nest at one's approach, as such hens are invariably unsteady setters.

CHICKENS helped from the shell seldom pay for the trouble.

CHICKENS just previous to leaving the shell absorb the yolk of the egg, which furnishes ample food for the next twenty-four hours. When this time has passed, the best food for some days is hard-boiled eggs, for which corn-meal and ground oats mixed with stale bread soaked in

milk may be gradually substituted. Norming contributes more to the thrift of chickens than milk.

THE germs of disease and Ivermin cling to unclean coops, and they are a frightful source of sickness among otherwise healthy fowls.

PROTECT all young fowls against sudden changes in temperature and exposure to wet if they would prea large percentage of the loss usually sustained.

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