

INCREASING INTEREST TAKEN IN THEIR CULTIVATION.

State for Flowers in the City—Window Plant Business—Horticultural Auction Rooms—Plants by Mail—Question of Healthfulness.

[New York Tribune Interview.]

"Any one who has been in London in the summer months can not but contrast the difference in the appearance of the flower decorations in the windows and balconies in the streets of London with those of New York. Almost every dwelling in London has its window box, from which flowers of every imaginable shade and color drop in profusion, rendering the view down the street a visit of glorious coloring. New York is rapidly imitating London in this particular, although flowers will probably never be so extensively grown in dwellings here as there, for the reason that our climate is not so well adapted to their growth. Our hot, scorching, dry air during the months of June, July and August renders the cultivation of window plants much more difficult here than in England. On the other hand, we have advantages in the culture of many tropical plants for our gardens, which do much better in our hot climate than in England. For example, the coleus, which we have now in almost every imaginable shade of leaf-marking, has here an increased brilliancy under our tropical summer sun which in Europe it never assumes.

"The plants sold in our markets now are principally roses, geraniums, verbenas, carnations, mignonette, daisies, pansies, heliotropes, palms and other ornamental leafy plants, together with coleus and similar foliage plants in great variety. All the plants at the market are sold in pots, principally to grocers, butchers and others who retail them. These buy them direct from the wagons of the florists who are the growers and then retail them at usually about double the wholesale price. This is necessary, because they are difficult things to handle in pots, and also because being perishable, there is some loss, for if a plant bought at the market goes out of bloom it is of little use to retail, although in reality it is often just as good as when in bloom, if not better.

"Another great market for the sale of flowers is now the horticultural auction rooms, situated in this neighborhood and other down-town streets. These are supplied mainly by the large wholesale growers in New Jersey and Long Island. They are put up in lots packed to ship, and large buyers find that they not only buy cheaper but get plants in better shape at the auction rooms than in the markets, from the fact of their being all packed to ship. The purchasers are largely the wholesale florists who buy to supply their stock for retailing, although a number of private gentlemen buy largely for the decoration of their grounds in the suburbs. Some gentlemen buy not less than 5,000 plants for that purpose, as they find that they can often buy cheaper from those who make a special business of growing them than they can grow themselves, even when having regular gardeners and greenhouses for the purpose. Besides the sales of plants in this way in our large cities, immense quantities are shipped every day by the different express companies to all parts of the country, and also by mail.

"This sending plants by mail has probably done more to engender and diffuse the taste in plant culture than anything else, as it places plants in the hands of those who have a love for flowers in every town and hamlet on the continent. The postoffice department claims that this far it has been unprofitable, but it has undoubtedly been a benefit to the community in diffusing a taste for the beautiful in flowers. The dirt is all removed from the roots of the plant, which are then wrapped up in paper and forwarded for 1 cent an ounce. They will live for a week in this condition, thus giving sufficient time to send them to California if necessary.

"Although New York in many of its public institutions leads all other cities, yet in the decoration of its parks with flowers it is sadly behind. Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Albany, Allegheny City and many others of lesser size are far ahead in the decoration of public flower beds of both New York and Brooklyn. In the Lincoln and South parks of Chicago at least 200,000 plants are used for the decoration of their flower beds each season, and it is one of the principal attractions of the parks, while it is doubtful if Central park, New York, and Prospect park, Brooklyn, together, one-tenth of this number are used.

The vexed question 'Are plants injurious in living and sleeping rooms?' is now settled. Plants undoubtedly give off injurious gases, especially in the night, but the quantity is so minute that we have the word of our friends the scientists that there can be no possible harm resulting. This is further proven by the robust health of hot-house employes. The influence of plants as health barometers is also beginning to be appreciated. A plant will drop in any atmosphere which is unhealthful for a human being, and hence a thrifty lot of plants in the room is proof positive that the ventilation is good, the furnace working right, and the sewer gas kept in the obscurity for which it was designed."

Authority in Pronunciation.
[Water Ocean, "Bostonian Crayon."] "Speaking of the question of authority," said a theatrical manager, "Matthew Arnold, when he was here, was asked one evening, 'What is your authority for pronouncing in England?' and he answered, 'London.' The questioner repeated that he meant what dictionary, what work on pronunciation was authority." To this Arnold answered, "None." "What is your authority then on pronunciation?" the questioner persisted. "London," said Arnold, and he then explained that the best usage in England was law, and that London made the law for pronunciation of all words because it was the literary, political, and the business center of England."

Georgia's "Talking Rock."
[Chicago Journal.] Pickens county, Georgia, has a post-office named "Talking Rock." The origin of the name is thus stated: "Some one discovered in the vicinity a large stone upon which had been painted the words 'Turn me over.' It required considerable strength to accomplish this, and when it was done, the command, 'Now turn me back, and let me fool some one else,' was found painted on the under side of the stone."

"Hold the Fort."
[Chicago Tribune.] Gen. John Corne, to whom, at Altoona, Pa., Gen. Sherman sent the famous dispatch: "Hold the fort for I am coming," may be met any day in New York, round and round.

Agricultural Products—Irrigation and Cultivation—Various Pursuits—Metallurgy.

The commissioners of Japan to the New Orleans exposition have, with their catalogue, given some interesting descriptive notes on the agriculture, arts and industry of that country. Perhaps the most striking statement in this monograph is that which introduces the mention of agriculture in Japan. We all know Japan is made up of a chain of volcanic mountains, which cover a large portion of the surface, but the entire arable land of the empire is officially put at only 11,215,000 acres—less than one-half the area of the state of New York—and this is so fertile and thoroughly cultivated that it feeds a population of 37,000,000—about that of France.

Rice is one of the principal crops, and of this some 200,000,000 bushels are raised annually, but among other leading products are wheat, barley, beans, potatoes, sugar cane, and cotton; and nearly all agricultural work is denominated "grain husbandry," from the fact that hand labor is generally used, to raise large crops and keep the land in the finest condition. Two or three crops a year being raised on the same land. Artificial irrigation is general, being necessary over more than one-half of the cultivable area, and it is frequently the case that the water is taken from streams from twenty to thirty miles distant. Steam plows and reaping machines naturally find little room for employment here, and all agricultural implements are of the most primitive forms. The total number of horned cattle is 1,115,000, and of horses 1,605,000. Wood of all kinds is cheap and abundant, nearly all the buildings being of timber, and wood constituting the principal fuel. The area of forest land is nearly three times as great as that under cultivation.

Japanese industries, although in many cases their origin may be traced back to China and Corea, have changed somewhat in recent years, but they have not yet been sufficiently developed to be carried on as a rule in what we call manufacturing establishments. They are mostly conducted in small workshops, with possibly the aid of a primitive water wheel, fan making, and the manufacture of porcelain, paper, pigments and lacquers, constituting a large portion of the whole.

Nearly all kinds of ores and minerals are abundant in Japan, but mining and metallurgy, although practiced to some extent for centuries, do not take the prominence that would be expected, when we remember that some of the most exquisite specimens of hammered iron and bronze work to be found in important collections today are the productions of Japanese artisans of 1,000 years ago. The government, however, is extending aid to these and to many other industries, in a spirit as intelligent as it is liberal, good evidences of which are to be seen in the extensive display made by Japan at New Orleans.

A Cottage at Long Branch.

[Chicago Times.] A new summer "cottage" at Long Branch shows to what extent of comfort the modern resort has attained. The interior of the cottage is finished in natural woods, olive, bamboo, chestnut, cherry, ash, English oak, and other woods richly carved by hand. There are no inside doors on the lower floor, with the exception of those which cut off the butler's pantry from the hall and dining-room. Some of the elegancies are large panels containing historical scenes in colored silk tapestry, a huge Moorish fireplace mounted with quaintly designed iron-work, stained-glass windows, inlaid flooring, and a central bell system through the house, and modern plumbing. The library is fitted up in the Japanese style, and has a heavy blue silk canopy ceiling, on which dragons and other fabulous reptiles disport themselves.

John Brown in Maryland.

[Cath's Letter.] The country is full of legends of old Brown going to and fro; how once at Boonsboro he bought some watermelons and made all the citizens come up and eat; how he had his horses watered at Funks-town in the Antietam creek, and when the tavern-keeper asked him a question old Brown simply looked at him with his penetrating gray eyes, and the tavern-keeper asked nothing further; how, when he killed hogs at his farm, he made his poor mountain neighbors come in and have some pork, or rib, or pig tail. That strange, probably ill-balanced old man has wrought himself into the history, especially the local history here, as not even Shakespeare himself could have done if he had written his plays under these mountains.

Making Natural Gas Odorous.

[Chicago Times.] A Pittsburg mechanic is reported to have invented a process for making natural gas odorous, thus removing one great danger in its use. The process consists in passing the gas as it comes from the wells through a receptacle in which are chemicals that give it quite as strong an odor as that of artificial gas, and which will last for twelve hours. The great objection to the use of natural gas lies in the fact that there is no means of detecting a leak in the pipes until an explosion takes place.

The Sea Cow.

[Scientific Journal.] Among other forms of animal life which have disappeared from the earth is the sea cow. This great animal, which has been variously classed with the whales, with walrus and seals, and with elephants, was a toothless vegetable feeder, living along the shore in shallow water, and often weighing three or four tons. It was seen alive and described in 1741, but in 1780 it appeared to have become entirely extinct.

A Seventeen-Tongued Echo.

[Chicago Times.] The celebrated Alderbach echo is at length surpassed by a seventeen-tongued one discovered in Silesia. It is a horn sounded at a point called Garves Rub, near Charlottenbrun, there will be heard, after the lapse of a few seconds, a succession of sweet, clear notes coming back at brief intervals, until seventeen in all have answered.

Hint to Nervous Women.

[Phenol and J. or al.] Late hours, also, are destructive to nerve-health. This is particularly true of our delicate females, who, as a rule, spend too great a part of the early night in reading, amusements, and recreations at home and abroad. Such cannot sleep too much, particularly in the early part of the night, as much as possible before mid night.

A Strange Fancy.

"In Coyle, at least," says Sir James Tennant, "leopards have a strange fancy for the flesh of small-pox victims, the specific odor of the disease seeming to strongly attract them."

Only Temperance Bitters Known.

[Louisa M. Alcott.] Then of my tub I merrily sing, While the white foam rises high; I sturdily wash and rinse and wring, And fasten the clothes to dry, Then out in the free, fresh air they swing, Under the summer sky. I wish I could wash from our hearts and souls The stains of the week away; And let water and air, by their magic, make Ourselves as pure as they; Then on the earth we would be joy indeed, A glorious washing day. Along the path of a useful life Will the heart's case ever bloom; The busy mind has no time to think Of sorrow, or care, or gloom; And anxious thoughts may be swept away, As we busily wield the broom.

I am glad a task to me is given To labor at day by day; For it brings me health and strength and hope, And I cheerfully learn to say, "Head you may think, heart you may feel, But hand, you shall work away."

Inadequate Nourishment.

[New York Commercial Advertiser.] It is surprising that so many good people who live in the midst of abundance pass through life with inadequately nourished bodies. They do not eat sufficient food and their energies are exhausted in consequence. The mind is inert and the body is languid. The reason of this lack of appetite is not far to seek. The palate has become weary of the eternal monotony of the average dinner. The varied occasional beef or mutton, almost revolting, and is only eaten to keep body and soul together.

It is not right, of course, to live to eat, but neither can the best be gotten out of life where one only eats to live. The golden mean in this respect is what should be sought. This may best be found by adding variety to the bill of fare. There are an endless number of so-called "made dishes" that are wholesome and appetizing. Against them an ignorant prejudice is widely cherished, but they are admirably adapted nevertheless to stimulate and refresh the palate which has lost its zest for the more substantial food upon which the changes have been rung in a miserable monotone for ages.

Some Fallacies Corrected.

[Leont. Schwatka in New York Times.] These frozings of the nose and cheeks are very common affairs, occurring over a dozen times a day in very low temperatures, and especially if there be any wind blowing in the face. The Esquimaux cure these slight frost bites by applying the hand, warm from the reindeer mitten, directly to the spot. They know nothing of rubbing frost bites with snow so extolled in our own cold climates, and I doubt its efficacy myself in those extremely low Arctic temperatures, when the snow is like sand if loose, and like granite rock if in mass.

Another fallacious idea exploded by my Esquimaux, at least to a great extent, was the use of snow to quench thirst, which every Arctic writer has been so unanimous in condemning as hurtful. My Esquimaux used it at all temperatures to alleviate their thirst first breathing on the piece of snow a few times before putting it in the mouth. I have often seen Esquimaux boys place a steel snow knife to their tongue and let it freeze fast, and then swing it backward and forward until it fell, and try and make it stick upright in the snow.

Brain-Work on the Stage.

[Chicago News.] A friend said to Miss Minnie Maddern: "You are pale and thin; your work is killing you." Miss Maddern laughed heartily. "It is my honest opinion," said she, "that the profession of the stage is ordinarily easy and pleasant. We have to study, and oftentimes we have to study very hard, but invariably the ill effects of the brain-work we have to do are offset by the physical exercise we are compelled to take every night on the stage. We have long hours for sleep, and, as a class, we fare better than the average people in every profession. There are growers in every profession, and it is natural for human beings to consider themselves overworked and ailed. People are prone to complain, and the actor grows against his life on about the same principle that the average farmer grows because it rains to-day and shines to-morrow."

Plants Used by Man.

[Chicago Times.] It is stated that the number of plants used by man at the present time does not exceed 3,000. Of these about 2,500 are cultivated in America. The varieties used for food do not exceed 600. Of edible fruits and seeds there are 100 classed as vegetables, 100 as roots and bulbs, 50 varieties of grain, about 30 of which produce sugar and syrup. In addition to this perhaps 30 kinds will yield oil, and 6 kinds wine. The number of medicinal supply plants is nearly double that of the fruit yielding, amounting to 1,100, about 3-0 of which are employed in the various branches of industry. Of the latter, 76 furnish dye stuffs, 8 wax, 16 salt, and more than 40 supply food for cattle. There are not fewer than 250 kinds of poisonous plants cultivated, among which are only 66 of a narcotic sort, the remainder being classed as deadly poisons.

Nailing a Sunbeam.

[Philadelphia Cal.] I once heard of a bright-eyed, merry little boy who lived in an old house in a dark, narrow street. One day, after many months of darkness, the sun shone into his room—not a full, radiant flood of sunshine, such as comes into our windows day by day, but a little narrow beam of light, quivering and dancing on the bare wall. The child was filled with delight, and, putting his little hand on the sunbeam, he cried, "Run quick, mamma! bring a hammer and a nail. I'll hold it while you nail it, so we can keep it all ways."

An Astonished Peasant.

[Mitzelheim.] In the Bernese Oberland a parrot one day made its escape and perched on the rain trough of a farm house in the neighborhood. The farmer, who had probably never been out of his native village, brought a ladder to capture the strange animal. When he had reached the top and was reaching out his hand, the parrot called out: "What do you want? What do you want?" The astonished peasant at once took off his cap and said: "O, I beg your pardon, I thought you were a bird!"

Cement from Rice.

A cement which is in very general use in China and Japan is made from rice. The flour of rice, mixed with water and simmered over a fire, produces a delicate and durable cement which answers all the purposes of common paste. It is said that 55 per cent. of all persons dying in Paris are buried at public expense.



No other medicine known so effectually purges the blood of deep-seated diseases. Millions bear testimony to its wonderful medicinal effects. It is a purely Vegetable Preparation, made from the native herbs and roots of California, the most delicate and purest of all extracts, and free from alcohol. It removes the cause of disease, and the blood is renewed. It is the great Blood Purifier and Lymphatic Principle; a Gentle Purgative, and a perfect Renovator and Invigorator of the system. Never before in the history of the world has a medicine been composed possessing the power of Vinegar Bitters in leading the sick of every disease man is heir to. The Affections of the Liver, Biliousness, Nausea, Laxative, Diaphoretic, Crisp, Irritant, Sudorific, Anti-Bilious, Solvent, Diuretic and Tonic properties of Vinegar Bitters exceed those of any other medicine in the world. No person can take the Bitters according to directions and remain long unwell, provided their bones are not destroyed by mineral poison or other means, and the vital organs wasted beyond the point of repair. Biliousness, Headache, Intermittent and Malarial Fevers are prevalent throughout the United States, particularly in the valleys of our great rivers and their vast tributaries during the Summer and Autumn, especially during seasons of unusual heat and drouth. These Fevers are invariably accompanied by extensive derangement of the stomach, liver and bowels. In their treatment, a purgative, exerting a powerful influence upon these organs, is absolutely necessary. There is no cathartic for the purpose equal to Dr. J. Walker's Vinegar Bitters, as matter with which the bowels are loaded, at the same time stimulating the secretions of the liver, and generally restoring the healthy functions of the digestive organs.

Fortify the body against disease by purifying all its fluids with Vinegar Bitters. No other medicine will so effectually accomplish this. It invigorates the stomach, cleanses the blood of all impurities, imparting life and vigor to the frame, and carrying off without the aid of Calomel, or other mineral, all poisonous matter from the system. It is easy of administration, prompt in action, and certain in its results. Dyspepsia or Indigestion, Headache, Pain in the Shoulders, Coughs, Tightness of the Chest, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Bilious Attacks, Spasmodic of the Heart, and a hundred other painful symptoms, are once relieved by Vinegar Bitters. For Inflammatory and Chronic Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, and Chronic Rheumatism of the Liver, Kidneys and Bladder, the Bitters have no equal. In these, as in all constitutional diseases, Walker's Vinegar Bitters has shown its great curative powers in the most obstinate and intractable cases.

Mechanical Diseases.—Persons engaged in Pains and Minerals, such as Ironworkers, Typographers, Gold-beaters, and Miners, as they advance in life, are subject to Paralysis of the Bowels. To guard against this, take occasional doses of Vinegar Bitters. Skin Diseases, Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Ulcers, Swellings, Eruptions, Pustules, Boils, Carbuncles, Ring-worms, Scald-head, Sore Throat, Itch, Scurvy, Discolorations, Humors and diseases of the skin, of whatever name or nature, are literally dug up and carried out of the system in a short time by the use of the Bitters.

Pin, Tape and other Worms, lurking in the system of so many thousands, are effectually destroyed and removed. No system of medicine, no vermifuges, no anthelmintics, will free the system from worms like Vinegar Bitters.

Measles, Scarlet Fever, Mumps, Whooping Cough, and all children's diseases may be made less severe by keeping the bowels open with mild doses of the Bitters.

For Female Complaints, in young or old, married or single, at the dawn of womanhood, or the turn of life, this Bitters has no equal. Cleanse the Vitiated Blood when its impurities burst through the skin in Eruptions or Sores, because it when obstructed and sluggish in the veins, cleanses it when it is foul; your feelings will tell you when, and the health of the system will follow.

In conclusion, I give the Bitters a trial. It will speak for itself. One bottle is a better guarantee of its merits than a lengthy advertisement.

Around each bottle are full directions printed in different languages. R. H. McDonald Drug Co., Proprietors, San Francisco, Cal., and 59, 61, 63, Washington St., New York, N. Y.

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—JAMES VICK STRAWBERRIES.—This new and valuable berry originated with Samuel Miller of Bluffton, Montgomery county, Missouri. As a seedling it attracted attention by the unusual glossiness and vigor of its foliage, before it fruited, and this vigor and strength of growth has to a still greater degree appeared in its enormous bearing qualities.

The berries are nearly round, of uniformly large size, deep scarlet and of excellent flavor. In respect to its keeping qualities, it is among strawberries what the Hansell and Souhegan are among raspberries. Its fruits has been known to stand on the vines a week after becoming ripe, without softening or rotting. It is not only a stand-by for family use but for a market berry it stands pre-eminently at the head. The originator of this berry is well known as a horticulturist, having originated the Martha Grape and other fruits of great value. He has never sent out a new variety which has not taken its place in the front rank and held it, and the fact that he has allowed the James Vick to come before the public as one of his seedlings is of itself evidence of its excellence.

The valuable qualities of this new strawberry may be summed up as follows: 1st Fine quality of fruit, great vigor and hermaphrodite (or perfect) blossoms; 2d, Color, form and firmness of berry; 3rd, Ability to remain on the vines a long time without injury; 4th, Ability to stand drouth; 5th, Uniformity of size of fruit, which averages large; 6th The rapidity with which it forms new sets; 7th. The glossy and beautiful appearance of the foliage, retaining its verdure until very late in the fall, making it one of the finest border plants for flower beds that can be obtained; 8th, enormous productiveness; all these qualities uniting to make it the most valuable market berry which has ever been produced.

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