



ARTICHOKE FOR SWINE.

Artichokes are excellent food for swine, and especially for pigs and shoats that are growing rapidly. If the pigs are to be allowed to gather the tubers for themselves, then the artichokes should be planted on rather light soils, because in rooting over the soil to get at the tubers the ground will be made more compact by the constant tramping upon it, with the addition of the manure of the hogs in the gathering of the crop, during the wet weather late in the fall and early in spring. This working over of the soil by swine will greatly improve light soils, but it has been found in practice that it will injure heavy, tenacious clay by making it more compact.—New York Sun.

GROWING PANSIES FOR PROFIT.

The culture of flowers is one of the most profitable of all this kind of industries, and at fifty cents a dozen for pansies, the profit will be very satisfactory. To have them early, the seed should be sown at once in boxes in a warm room, and the small plants moved to pots, but if the seed is sown in the fall, the flowers may be had still earlier. The most desirable way is to sow seed in the summer in the open ground on rich soil, and pot the young plants, picking off all the flower buds as they form, until the middle of the winter and in time to have the flowers when they are wanted. Then by gathering the flowers as soon as they are fully blown the plants will continue to bloom a long time. To force good flowers the plants should be kept watered with weak manure water. The finest varieties are the Imperial German and Scotch.—New York Times.

SPRAYING APPLE ORCHARDS IN WET SEASONS.

The time for destroying the apple worm is immediately after the petals fall, and the spraying should be repeated once or twice after the apples begin to hang down. Experiments by E. G. Lodeman at the New York Cornell Station indicate that the first application of fungicides should be made soon after the buds open and just before the flowers fall. Apple trees should be so pruned that both the sunshine and the spraying reaches every part. The Bordeaux mixture reduces the injury done by the apple scab fungus. The addition of Paris green to this mixture gave better results than when London purple was used. More spraying applications are required during wet seasons than during dry ones. The trees should be sprayed once a week during wet weather. The results show that the application of the combination of the Bordeaux mixture and Paris green or London purple was valuable and practicable for the treatment of the apple scab fungus and the apple worm even when over five inches of rain fell during June.—American Agriculturist.

SELECTING A COW.

The good points of a good cow are not her good looks. She may not be and probably is not very good-looking except to the eye of an experienced dairyman. She certainly is not fat while giving milk, and to be a really good cow she should never be long time enough between the times of milk giving to fatten. She will most likely have a large pannic, giving her a somewhat "pot-bellied" look after she has filled herself. Something cannot come from nothing, and we never knew a cow giving large messes of good milk which was not a ravenous feeder. Hence her digestion must be good. She should have a broad chest, indicating large lungs. There is no good digestion without good lung power. She should be "deep" from the back down to the belly, but with a thin and rather flat neck. The skin of most good cows is of velvety texture, and looks as if it had been groomed for several generations, as in most breeds of the best cows it has. The good cow is, indeed, less an accident than a product. With good material from which to breed, the good farmer can make sure of her nearly every heifer calf he gets.—Boston Cultivator.

LAWN GRASS.

Where the locality desirable for a lawn is naturally free from weeds the modern suggestion of making it by planting patches of one particular kind, which will run together in a few months, is particularly desirable. Nothing can be more beautiful than a lawn wholly made up of one species. For small gardens, especially where the new plantation can be hand-weeded during summer, it is the best of all methods. No lawn made of grass seeds will be confined strictly to one kind, and on account of the different shades of green in the grass will always have a more or less patchy appearance. Those who supply mixed lawn grass seeds usually keep this in mind, and endeavor to get their kinds so generally alike in that of green as to avoid this objection. One advantage of the mixed system is that one can rarely tell by the description of a customer what particular kind of grass will thrive to best advantage. A mixture is, therefore, likely to best serve the purpose, in this, that the one most suitable will eventually crowd out those not so well adapted to the soil and circumstances. We have seen a lawn made of mixed grasses which had to be secured under the shade of large trees, eventually become wholly occupied by the sheep-fescue. In the course of a few years

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

TOMATO KETCHUP.

Skin one gallon of ripe tomatoes, add one pint of good vinegar, three tablespoonfuls of salt, ten red peppers, green or ripe, broken so as to get the strength from the seed. Cook in a granite or porcelain kettle until quite thick, then skim out the peppers. Bottle while hot. This is very good.—New York Sun.

TO COOK SPINACH.

Put the washed spinach in a saucepan with enough cold water to cover it, and add a little salt and a very small amount of soda; bring the water quickly to boiling point, then strain it from the spinach. The spinach must have as much of the moisture as possible pressed from it, rub it through a fine wire sieve, then put it into a saucepan, add a little flour, butter, pepper and salt, and stir it over the fire until it boils; let it boil for a few minutes, then serve it very hot with small tippets of fried bread round it.—New York World.

SNOW CUSTARD.

Soak one-half box gelatine an hour in one cup cold water. Then add one cup sugar, two cups boiling water and boil three minutes, then pour out. When cool and on the point of congealing stir in gently the well-beaten whites of four eggs. Continue stirring until it begins to stiffen, then pour into a mold. Put in a cold place. Make 'tis in the evening. Next morning make a custard of four yolks, one cup sugar and four cups milk. Boil until rich and thick, and pour into a glass bowl. Flavor with lemon or vanilla. When perfectly cold turn the snow jelly from the mold carefully on top of it.—Detroit Free Press.

STRAWBERRY SPONGE.

Soak one-half box gelatine in a half cup of cold water. Hull and mash one quart of strawberries, and sprinkle over them half a cupful of sugar together twenty minutes, but do not boil hard. Rub the berries through a hair sieve or colander; add the soaked gelatine to the boiling syrup, take from the fire, turn into a bowl and add the berry juice; stir until the gelatine is all dissolved; add the juice of one lemon, place the bowl in a pan of crushed ice and beat with an egg-beater for five minutes. Add the beaten whites of four eggs, and beat the whole until it begins to thicken. Pour into wet molds and set on the ice to harden. Serve very cold with cream.—New York Recorder.

MAYONNAISE OF SWEETBREADS.

Clean and parboil one pair of sweetbreads, and then throw them into cold water for a half hour. Remove the fat and skin and cover them with fresh boiling water; add a teaspoonful of salt and simmer gently for twenty minutes. When done stand away to cool. Wash and dry the tender leaves from one head of lettuce. Rub the bottom of a soup dish with an onion, and make in it nearly a half-pint of mayonnaise. Place a thin slice of onion in the center of your salad dish, arrange the lettuce leaves around it; mix the sweetbreads carefully with the mayonnaise and put in the center of the dish. Serve. This is a delicious salad, and if prepared as directed will have only the faintest suspicion of onion. Tarragon vinegar added to the mayonnaise is a great improvement.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Borax water will remove stains from the hands. A small box filled with lime will absorb dampness. Remove egg stains from spoons by rubbing with salt. Cream and acids do not curdle, but milk and acids will. Gum camphor scattered about mice haunts will drive them away. To remove fruit stains dip the spots several times in scalding milk. Emery powder will remove ordinary stains from ivory knife-handles. Leather chairs may be revived by rubbing with the white of an egg. Old brass may be cleaned to look like new by scrubbing with ammonia, and rinsing with cold clean water. To avoid the odor of onions while peeling them, they should be peeled while they are held under water. To keep your tortoise-shell combs and pins always bright rub with soft leather every time they have been worn. When dim rub with rottenstone and oil. One of the first requisites of good carving is to have the meat dish of good size. It is almost impossible to handle a piece of meat acceptably upon a platter that is even a degree too small. Meat can be kept very nicely for a week or two by covering it with sour milk or buttermilk and placing it in a cool cellar. The bone or fat need not be removed. Rinse well before using. A sheet of finely perforated zinc substituted for one of the upper panes of glass in a bedroom window is an excellent form of ventilator, moderating the draughts which enter when the window is raised or lowered. If your sewing machine has become gummed and consequently runs hard, oil every place with the best kerosene oil and run rapidly a few moments. Wipe the bearings carefully, oil with the best machine oil, and you will be surprised at the result. Persons who use kerosene lamps will be glad to know that if the wicks are soaked in strong vinegar twenty-four hours and thoroughly dried before being inserted, all smoke will be avoided, the wicks will last twice as long, and increased brilliant light will be obtained.

JOSES OF ANIMAS.

Among the incidents of jokes played by animals upon one another cited by a writer on "The Animal Sense of Nature," in the London Spectator, is that of a jackdaw which, whenever it found its setterdog companions asleep, would steal up to them and pull at the little fluffy tassels of hair between their toes—where the animal was more sensitive than in other hairy parts of its body—unpleasantly waking them up. At a certain house, a tame magpie was kept in the stable yard with two kestrels. The kestrels were in the habit of sitting on the sides of the water-pails that stood outside of the stable doors. At one time the magpie approached a kestrel from behind, seized its long tail in its beak, jerked it violently, and pushed it over into the pail, but the kestrel afterward caught the magpie and punished it well. A cat expressed its dislike of a peacock by jumping through its spread-out tail when the bird was displaying its beauty and exhibiting its own vanity, to the great discomfiture of the fowl. The writer's dog, which was accustomed to hunting rabbits, showed its displeasure when its master had shot a bullfinch by going into the hedge, finding a rabbit, and bringing it to him. Another dog, which knew tame ducks and that they were not hunted, but had no acquaintance with wild ones, was much disgusted when its master shot a teal, believing he had made a mistake, and would have nothing to do with the game. He behaved in exactly the same way when we shot a black rabbit; nothing would persuade him that it was not a cat, and he would do no serious work for the rest of the day. The writer tells also of dogs that thought it beneath their dignity to chase rats, except when their masters were engaged in the sport; and he speaks of the very obvious dislike of dogs to be laughed at.—Popular Science Monthly.

Chinese Experts in Irrigation.

The Chinaman is a wonderful irrigator, and his presence on the big irrigated ranches of California is a great boon to the proprietors. He is the most perfect type of the servile laborer, and is, therefore, very satisfactory to those who have no objection to servile labor. Where there is a good system of irrigation eight Chinamen will irrigate 1000 acres a day at a cost of five cents per acre. They work with remarkable speed and accuracy, and often locate checks by the eye that would ordinarily require the services of a surveyor. The Chinaman works so well and so cheap that he would soon drive out all white labor if no restrictions were imposed on immigration. It would require much space to set forth a complete list of his points of superiority over the usual hired help of the farm.—Irrigation Age.

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The Canary Industry.

For more than a century the breeding of canaries has been a thriving industry in parts of Germany. In 1850 the German dealers began to ship the birds to New York, and then to South America and Australia. The profits are small, but the industry is a godsend to the poor, who make the small wooden cages. It is estimated that about 250,000 canary birds are raised every year in Germany. The most important market is the United States, which takes about 100,000 birds per annum. When the birds are shipped to this country they are always accompanied

by an attendant. On the return voyage these attendants take American birds and animals to Europe.—New York Sun.

A Magnificent Opal.

A New York jeweler has an opal that is probably the most magnificent ever seen in this country. The stone is from the mines in southern Australia and has been carved to represent, in relief, a flying female figure. The color shoots off in clouds and rays from the figure, making it seem as if it were flying through a blaze sunset. The stone is as large as the palm of a woman's hand.—New York Sun.

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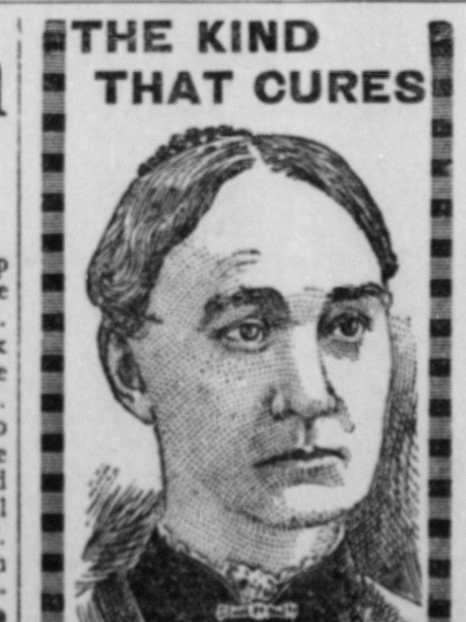
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