

LONG AGO.

When opal tints and gray invade
The crimson of the west—
When daylight's lingering traces fade,
And song birds seek the nest—

DOWN THE CHIMNEY.

BY JAMES C. PURDY.



MAGGIE MILLS came out of the woods with her hands full of the pretty things she had gathered there, and ran singing across the field. Sue Murry saw her coming and ran to meet her, with her apron full of daisies. Then for a few minutes they were very busy comparing and dividing their treasures.

meadow lark answered her; she searched among the high grass, hoping to find the tired child asleep on the ground; she went close and peered in among the thickly growing weeds and bushes of the clump. It was a forbidden place in there; Polly was enterprising but she would hardly choose such a place as that to explore. More likely she had followed on after Sue. Maggie went in the direction Sue had come from, calling as she went.

It was a timely warning for Sue. Without it, in the darkness of the dismal place she had entered, she might have plunged headlong into the pit that yawned almost under her feet. As it was she checked herself just in time to keep from falling. She held on by one of the bushes and leaned over the opening. She could see nothing but darkness.



RICE AS A POULTRY AND STOCK FOOD.

Rice is attracting attention as a food for stock and poultry. There is a large amount of badly cleaned and broken rice which might be very profitably thus employed.—New York World.

AMERICAN IRISES.

American irises do not seem to have received the attention from cultivators that they deserve. It is doubtful if there be at this time a complete collection even of the different species in any one garden, while there are, no doubt, good varieties which have never been cultivated, and probably not even collected for herbariums. Again, there are varieties which have only a local reputation, and which have not been generally distributed.

POISONING THE OUTWORMS.

We notice in one of our agricultural contemporaries a statement to the effect that "a prominent entomologist (fortunately name not given) proposes placing a tablespoonful of sweetened bran mash containing poison by the side of each hill of corn for the purpose of poisoning outworms. We doubt very much if any prominent or other entomologist has or could be induced to recommend such an absurd thing, because all of the dozen or more species of the outworm feed entirely on green and succulent plants, and would be no more inclined to eat bran mash than smoke a cigarette. A man who should set out such tempting poisoned bait for wild birds and domestic fowls might find himself amenable to laws enacted for the express purpose of preventing stupid and vicious persons from placing poisons in exposed positions on their grounds or elsewhere.—New York Sun.

OLD STONE WALLS.

When the country was new many farmers put as much stone as they could into walls for their fences. These were deemed much more important than they are now. However great the satisfaction when the wall was built in thinking that it was a fence forever, the time has come in many places where the stone wall is a nuisance. Its material is all there, but the work of relaying it and of keeping it in repair is greater than the interest on cost of most fences. Besides, the stone wall is a harbor for weeds, and it often is a refuge for skunks, weasels and other farm vermin. On most farms the best use of the old stone walls is to build basements for barns or cellar walls, or in the underdrains. Good drains can be made from stone alone, or after laying the tile a layer of stone may be placed above them, coming to within a foot or so from the surface, so the stone will not be ever in the way of the plow.—Boston Cultivator.

HARVESTING AND MARKETING GRAPE.

Picking, packing and marketing should be done systematically; careless pickers or packers cannot be tolerated. In Western New York a bushel tray or box is used almost exclusively for picking. This is too cumbersome and requires both hands in moving it. We use a shallow half bushel box, or basket, which is readily handled with one hand. A good picker will gather from 1200 to 1500 pounds per day without dropping or crushing any, and a good packer will pack 100 to 125 baskets and get them full enough so they will open up smooth and level on top with no stems in sight, but not so full as to crush the fruit in putting on the cover. Pick grapes at least twenty-four hours before they are packed. If picked and packed at once, they settle so the basket is only two-thirds full when it reaches the consumer.

Plan the harvest work so that full loads can be hauled to the depot each day. If the roads are good, as they should be, 400 or 500 baskets can be as readily drawn as half that number. Have the packing house cool and airy, with room and conveniences for the packers to work to the best advantage. If you ship to a commission house, don't listen to every drummer that comes along, but select two or three reliable firms and give them your fruit exclusively. The plan of forming all growers into a co-operative union has not proved a success here. A better plan is for several growers who can work harmoniously to load their own cars and ship or sell in carlots.—American Agriculturist.

TREATMENT OF SHEEP SCAB.

The Australian sulphur and lime dip is made as follows: Take of flowers of sulphur 100 pounds, quicklime 150 pounds, water 100 gallons. Mix and stir, while boiling, for ten minutes, until the mixture assumes a bright red color, then add three gallons of water. Hold the sheep in the mixture until the scabs are thoroughly soaked. Immerse the head at least once. Use the dip at 100 to 110 degrees. In various sections of the United

States the following proportions are used:

Texas and New Mexico—Thirty pounds of tobacco, seven pounds of sulphur, three pounds concentrated lye, 100 gallons of water.

Nevada—Sulphur ten pounds, lime twenty pounds, water sixty gallons.

California—Sulphur four pounds, lime one pound, water enough to make four gallons.

Kansas—Sulphur twenty-two pounds, lime seven pounds, water 100 gallons.

Sulphur and lime are probably the cheapest recipe, but the lime is apt to injure the stable. Tobacco and sulphur form the best combination known for the treatment of scab. To every 100 gallons of water there should be used thirty-five pounds of good strong tobacco (if stems or other inferior parts are used there should be more), and ten pounds of flower of sulphur. This should be used at a temperature of 120 degrees, and will leave the wool in a healthy condition, while killing every sort of parasite. Where tobacco is used, care should be taken to keep the wash out of the eyes, nostrils and mouth of the sheep. To insure success, dip again within ten days or two weeks, so as to catch the larvae which may have hatched out.—American Farmer.

FERNS IN THE GARDEN.

If one has a shady place, with good soil, ferns may be successfully raised in the garden, but it is the extreme of folly to attempt to grow them in the glare of sunlight or in dry or hard earth. Neither should they be grown under large trees, unless they can be placed some distance from the roots, as the trees absorb most of the good from the soil, and the ferns would starve to death or grow thin and ragged. Deep, rich and loamy soil is best for ferns, and even this should be removed in part, and its place supplied by the black earth from the bottom land where ferns flourish most luxuriantly. One can go to any swamp and take up and bring home ferns enough to make a beautiful bed, with very little trouble. Always select small plants, and lift them with plenty of earth attached to them, water them thoroughly for a number of days, and never allow them to become parched. If the ground gets dry, they can be kept in good condition by covering the roots with rotted wood or the sweepings from the lawn, taken up after the lawn mower is used; but the best of all is decayed wood from the forests. Some day when you go out to drive, put a couple of bags in the carriage, and when you pass through some piece of thick woodland stop and gather your bags full of scraps from the trunk of some decayed tree. In the absence of these, pieces of board or sticks of any kind are a tolerable substitute, or bricks or stones may be laid around among the plants. This will keep the earth moist and do much to promote the health and vigor of the ferns.

One may buy green-house ferns in the spring and put them out, and derive great pleasure from them all summer. Many of them will not live out through the winter; some of them may, but they can be removed at small cost, and the little expense is well worth while.—New York Ledger.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Hold fast to your mutton sheep. Lined seed is excellent food for the colt.

Solitary confinement in a dark stable will make a horse vicious. See that the collars fit the shoulders and that the hames fit the collars.

Usually the swine pasture should be larger than is the case on many farms.

Pawing is often caused by indigestion, worms, constipation or disordered kidneys.

You are feeding your hens too much. They are too fat. That's why they don't lay any more.

A good sheep is a good friend to the farmer. Do not abuse him even though he is not on top just now.

A lean hen seldom wants to sit, while a fat one generally does. Moral: Don't feed your hens too much in warm weather.

It is an excellent plan to treat hydrangeas with liquid manure till the blossoms appear. It should then be discontinued, abundance of water being given.

If the dry weather affects the lawn, leave the grass a little longer; its shade will do something for the protection of the roots, that otherwise might parch and dry.

A hog should be kept for every cow on the average farm, provided there are at least two acres in the farm for each hog kept. Piggy needs room, so do cows, horses, sheep and poultry.

One point in favor of sheep is that a moderate-sized flock can be kept on very many farms with but little cost; sometimes with actual direct advantage to the farm aside from the money return for wool or mutton.

If your pasturage is short, feed corn-fodder and help out the corn with some fall pasturage, barley, for instance, or winter rye. Sow these now where the earlier grains have been taken off and you will get well paid.

Started a Turtle San Joaquin County, California, a new and unique industry, and the man that has started it is in hope that a fortune will reward his ingenuity. J. W. Dougherty was for years a well-known resident of Lodi, but he has recently moved to a place locally known as Grand Junction, on the lower end of the Sargent tract, near Bonidin Island. There he has started a turtle farm, and intends to push the business.

Catching turtles for the San Francisco market has been a profitable business for some men, and when Mr. Dougherty moved down to his lowland corner he conceived the idea of engaging in turtle farming on a large scale. He has purchased incubators to hatch out the turtle-eggs that are to be found in that section in large numbers. The first incubator was loaded a short time ago, and the pioneer brood of young turtles hatched by artificial heat instead of the heat of the sun will soon be ready for further experimenting in the way of feeding.

Mr. Dougherty thinks his prospects for making a fortune within a few years are bright, and he is confident of making a success of the new venture, which a number of his friends are watching with much interest. There is little likelihood of an over-production, for the demand for turtles is large and the price is always good.—San Francisco Examiner.

To Use the Earth's Heat.

One of the schemes for future engineers to work at, says an article in Current Literature, will be the sinking of a shaft 12,000 to 15,000 feet into the earth for the purpose of utilizing the central heat of the globe. It is said that such a depth is by no means impossible, with the improved machinery and advanced methods of the coming engineer. Water at a temperature of 200 degrees centigrade, which can, it is said, be obtained from these deep berings, would not only heat houses and public buildings, but would furnish power that could be utilized for many purposes. Hot water already at hand is necessarily much cheaper than that which must be taken when cold and brought up to the required temperature. Once the shaft is sunk, all cost in the item of the hot water supply ceases. The pipes, if good, will last indefinitely, and, as nature's stokers never allow the fire to go out, there would come in the train of this arrangement many advantages. When, by sinking a shaft in the earth, we can secure a perpetual heating apparatus which we can regulate by the turning of a key, one trial of life will lead to nothing less.

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