

Agricultural Value of Ashes. A reader who can pay dry wood ashes for twenty-five cents per bushel, wishes us to tell him whether, if he applies fifty bushels of such ashes to the acre, on common mowing land, he would have twelve and a half dollars' worth of grass, or first year's mow than if he did not apply the ashes. Now, to the writer, this probably seemed like a very plain question, and one which we ought to be able to answer at once, but we cannot do it. Ashes are especially adapted to clover, and "common" mow is not usually very thickly set with clover. Ashes are chiefly valuable for the potash and phosphoric acid they contain. Grass needs these elements, but also needs nitrogen, and cannot grow without it. Which of these three principal elements is most lacking in the soil of the mowing land referred to, we cannot possibly know. If potash only were needed, the ashes would be worth more the first year than if the soil were lacking in the other two elements. It is claimed that potash is generally most beneficial to light, sandy soils, and that they are less valuable on clay and loam soils, but as so much depends upon the kind of rock such soils are formed from, it is impossible to lay down any set rules for the application of ashes, which will be subject to a good deal of modification. Our judgment is that, for the kind of mowing you describe, it would be very doubtful whether the increase of the first year would pay the whole cost of the ashes. It is, however, worth while in the case of dry up vegetation their elements little by little, from year to year. They are not especially quick in their action, like nitrogen in some of its forms, but the hardest problem to solve in this case is how much grass does it take to be worth \$12.50? The letter referred to has neither post office address nor date, and we are left entirely in the dark as to the location of this land, whether it is near Boston, where a ton of hay is worth \$25, or whether it is in Canada, or in some of the other New West territories, where hay is worth little more than the cutting.—N. E. Farmer.

COMMON SENSE IN TREE PRUNING.—There appears to be, here and there, a return to common sense ideas about pruning fruit trees. We have had all sorts of theories, and much time has been spent in arguing the question of summer or winter pruning. Now, broadly speaking, a tree should not be pruned at all. That is to say, it should be allowed to grow naturally. The careful pomologist will see when a tree is suffering from young branches which, in previous years, were likely to interfere with each other; these are to be taken out so early that the term pruning, in its ordinary sense, does not apply to the operation. Some folks tear out the immediate limbs to let the sun in, or cut the roots to improve the tree, but these are the worst of all. The correct method is to trim the tree in such a way that it will bear its fruit with the least possible loss of strength. This is in fact, about all there is in horticulture or medicine: but giving good conditions does not by any means imply amputation of the tree, or cutting off its roots. It is to be found in the long run, that extra forcing and heroic cutting are alike objectionable. Had we time and taste, the rubbing off of the bud of the likely to be uncouth limb would suffice for all trimming. Old trees, like old folks, do not readily forsake new grasses, and are sure to be hurt, when even bud and accustomed habits are rudely broken away.—Providence Journal.

DARK BRAHMAS.—Dark Brahmas have never been quite as popular in the West as the light variety, from the fact that they are more difficult to breed to feather than the light; and also because so many of their near relatives have been sold to Western men, that when bred, and their progeny exhibited in competition with birds from noted breeders of dark Brahmas, they were so inferior that some, upon hearing them in dispute, were misled by the fact that the bird had been again growing into favor, as the knowledge of how to properly mate breeding stock has been acquired, and better birds secured for breeding; until now, many of the Western fanciers contain as the specimens as can be found anywhere, and the darks are becoming almost as popular as the light Brahmas. So far as the economic value or merits of the two varieties of Brahmas is concerned, there is no difference. The light and dark Brahmas are equally good in standard, both in style and shape of the two varieties which, in our opinion, is a mistake. We have conversed with many breeders of dark and light Brahmas on this subject, and nearly all are in the opinion that the two varieties should be identical in shape, style and characteristics (except color). The leg and toe feathering should be the same, and the Brahmas shape should be preserved in both varieties.—Journal and Record.

HONEY CROQUETTES.—Boil honey till well done, let it getstone cold, then mix it with salt to taste, 2 w. salt, or beaten eggs, 1 teaspoonful of milk, 2 tablespoonfuls sifted flour with 1 teaspoonful baking-powder mixed through it. Mix all very thoroughly. The milk may be omitted, when less four would be needed. Have ready a frying-pan of boiling-hot fat, let the pan be nearly full; take the mixture up in a spoon in shape of a doughnut, and fry till of a rich light brown color. Let the fat boil over them and serve very hot.

TOMATO SALAD.—One can of tomatoes, same quantity of chopped celery, three eggs beaten light, season with salt and pepper; boil tomatoes and celery together until they are thick, take off fire and stir in the eggs, and when nearly cold add one tablespoonful of mixed mustard.

SODA GRAHAM BREAD.—One pint sweet milk; two teaspoonfuls cream tartar; one teaspoonful soda, two tablespoonfuls molasses, one quart flour, half teaspoonful salt.

EDITOR EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.—Dear Sir: I send the following solutions to the problems in the PROVERB of March 3.

A CHANGE IN THE BRIDGE STREET FURNITURE STORE. The undersigned has purchased the establishment of J. S. ALLEN & CO., and will keep a FULL STOCK OF GOOD FURNITURE.

REPAIRING AND FRAME MAKING. N. P. HICKS, Successor to J. S. Allen & Co., Bridge St., Towanda, Pa.

GROCERIES & PROVISIONS. McCABE & EDWARDS, Cash dealers in all kinds of Groceries.

GROCERIES & PROVISIONS. MASON & HAMILIN ORGANS, First Rank at the Centennial Exhibition.

Watches, Jewelry, &c. W. A. ROCKWELL, Jeweler, Silver Ware, &c.

Drugs and Medicines. DR. H. C. PORTER, Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Drugs, Chemicals, &c.

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FOR SALE.—A farm of 100 acres, with improved soil, best part of Southfield township, Bradford Co., Pa.

FOR RENT OR SALE.—The office building on the corner of Main and Walnut streets, Towanda, Pa.

HAIGH & BROADLEY, Manufacturers of Woolen Goods, Yarn, &c.

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