

The Bloomfield Times.

Tuesday, June 3, 1873.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Growing Asparagus.

One of the vegetables which every farm might have at very small trouble and cost, and yet which is one not often found in the farmer's garden is asparagus. It is at the same time the most desirable. It is very rare to find a person who does not like it. It is probable that the reason it is not grown is an idea that it is a costly thing to start. There is some reason for the prevalence of this idea. Almost all the works on gardening would indicate that a great deal of labor and trouble was necessary in order to start an asparagus bed properly. They say the earth must be dug two feet deep, that load on load of manure must be incorporated with the earth; and possibly they will urge the importance of some rare and costly fertilizer as an essential ingredient in a proper asparagus bed.

But all these things are unnecessary. Any rich garden soil is good for asparagus. It need be planted only as other things are planted. Some say set the roots a foot deep, but four inches below the surface is plenty. It is not well to plant them too thick, or the sprouts will be small. Twenty inches or two feet apart is a good distance. Plants one year old, or two if they can be had, are the best. If one be at a distance from stores to get roots, seeds may be sowed and the beds made the next year. They can be sowed in rows like peas.

An asparagus bed once made will last for years, with no trouble, but an annual manuring and forking over every year and one or two hoeings during summer to keep the bed clear from weeds; but, except on the score of neatness and cleanliness, this is scarcely necessary where an annual spring forking over is given. Almost all other crops have to be reset and otherwise cared for every year, while we are sure there is nothing which will give one so much pleasure and satisfaction as a good asparagus bed.

Everlasting Fence Posts.

"I discovered many years ago that wood could be made to last longer than iron in the ground, but thought the process was so simple and inexpensive that it was not worth while making any stir about it. I would as soon have poplar, basswood or quaking ash as any other kinds of timber for fence posts. I have taken out basswood posts after having been set seven years that were as sound when taken up as when they were first put in the ground. Time and weather seemed to have no effect on them. The posts can be prepared for less than two cents apiece.

"For the benefit of others I will give the recipe: Take boiled linseed oil and stir it in pulverized charcoal to the consistency of a paint. Put a coat of this over the timber and there is not a man that will live to see it rotten."—Cor. Western Rural.

To Make Court-Plaster.

Soak isinglass in a little warm water for twenty-four hours; then evaporate nearly all the water by a gentle heat, dissolve the residue in a little proof spirits of wine, and strain the whole through a piece of open linen. The strained mass should be a stiff jelly when cool. Now, extend a piece of silk on a wooden frame, and fix it tight with tacks and pack-thread. Melt the jelly, and apply it to the silk thinly and evenly with a hair brush. A second coating must be applied when the first has dried. When both are dry, cover the whole surface with two or three coatings of Balsam of Peru, applied in the same way. Plaster thus made is very pliable, and never breaks.

Farming in New-Zealand.

In New-Zealand an important use is found in the Scotch thistle, in farm economy. It spreads over the rough fern hills, takes full possession of the ground, is partly eaten by domestic animals, and in about four years is exhausted and disappears, having in the mean time nursed and protected a growth of clover and grass, which springs up and take its place, the long tap-roots of the thistle having opened and pulverized the soil and flitted it for the growth of the grasses; so says a correspondent of the London Times.

How to Mend China.

Take a very thick solution of gum in water, and stir into it plaster of Paris until the mixture becomes a viscous paste. Apply it with a brush to the fractured edges, and stick them together. The article cannot be broken in the same place. The whiteness of the cement renders it doubly valuable.

Lamb Sauce.

Roll a piece of butter in bread crumbs, shred parely and shalots, and boil it in a stock and white wine, equal quantities; a few minutes are sufficient; squeeze in a little lemon or orange juice.

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It is also a superior Tonic, Restores the Appetite, Strengthens the System, Restores the Weak and Debilitated, Causes the Food to Digest, Removes Dyspepsia and Indigestion, Prevents Malarious Fevers, Gives tone to your System.

KEEP THE BLOOD PURE

And the health of the system will follow. There is a preparation of Iron and Poke Root more effectual than all others, which will remove from your system the impure and vitiated blood which causes disease, and at the same time build up your health and strength. It never fails to cure. It cures Scrofula, Scrofulous Diseases of the Eyes or Ears, or Scrofula in any form, Tetter, White Swelling, Old Sores, Ulcers, or Scrofulous Inflammations, you can rely on being cured with this preparation. Known as Dr. Crook's Compound Syrup of Poke Root, Rheumatism, Pains in Limbs or Bones, Constipation, Hemorrhoids, and all other ailments, are all cured by it. For Syphilis, or Syphilitic taint, there is nothing equal to it. A trial will prove it.

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DIRECTORS: John D. Hadesty, A. P. Helms, Benjamin Teter, A. Sutermeister, James H. Grier, E. F. Jungkurt, Elias Miller.

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