

Poultry Notes.

One of the wonderful provisions of nature is the existence of certain beetles with the function of digging graves for dead rats, moles, birds, and other small creatures left upon the surface of the earth, and the effluvia from which might be offensive and baleful.

Care in feeding and housing, especially in protecting from dampness, is very important in the case of young turkeys, till they get a full dress suit of feathers.

A poultry house overrun with "red mites" was speedily cleared by burning in it two pounds of sulphur on a coal fire in a hand furnace, the doors and windows being tightly closed.

To rid young chicks of vermin The American Poultry Yard recommends mopping the feathers and fluff of the mother hen in the evening with a sponge dipped in kerosene and squeezed dry.

According to The Farmer's Friend, a hen of any breed will yield only half as many eggs the second as the first year after she begins laying, and, therefore, "all fowls kept after they are two years old are kept at a loss."

There is nothing better, probably nothing so good, for mixing with poultry droppings, as road dust gathered in season and stored in a dry place for time of need. Put it in a barrel or box in alternate layers, using about twice as much dust as droppings, and mix before using by pounding the mass together in a kettle or on a tight floor.

A successful English practice is to keep fowls in portable houses, which are moved from field to field on the farm, whenever insect food or the waste of gathered crops is plenty. Mention is made of a gardener who has long, narrow, bottomless coops in each of which he places a hen or two, or a mother and chickens, and sets them down between his rows of growing plants, and moves them from time to time. Insects are thus captured, and there is a good deal of helpful scratching.

Household Hints. A fresh cut watermelon is good for fever. Ginger ale will relieve stomach cramps and cholera. Carbolic acid or ammonia, in the foot bath, will cure perspiration of the feet.

Furniture polish can now be had by the pint; applied with a cloth it makes the furniture look like new. Powdered borax sprinkled around the base-boards and on the shelves will drive cockroaches and ants away.

A bottle of cement, a bucket of paint, with hammer and nails, will save to any household ten times their cost every year. Branches of the elderbush, hung in the dining-room of a house, will clear the room of flies. There is an odor which the insects detest.

Kerosene lamps which are trimmed daily rarely explode. The carelessness of the housewife can be blamed for most of the lamp explosions. Save your washing suds for the garden; if they are poured over the roots of the plum trees they will kill the curculio; if turned at the roots of geraniums, roses, etc., they will enhance their beauty tenfold.

To cure weak eyes, take rose leaves, the more the better, and put them into a little water; then boil; after that strain into a bottle and cork it tight. You will find this liquid very beneficial in removing redness and weakness from the eyes.

Coring Hay. A writer in the Utica Herald says: "If rain falls immediately after cutting hay, no harm results, as the water cannot be absorbed by the grass which already has its fill of the juices. In this condition it may lie for days on the spread and be safe. Had it been dried, the case would have been entirely different. With fair weather and the tedder, a few hours will draw off the outside water, and relieve the hay of much of its inside moisture, so that the juices are concentrated, and may thus, with the hay, be put into a cock. This is best done soon after the middle of the day, when the mass is hot, the heat expelling the moisture, and the hay curing more effectively in its own shades. Hay stacked somewhat late in the afternoon is liable to imbibe moisture from the dew, which begins to fall early, though in autumn, and has been one of the lurking mischiefs to hay. Instead of gathering the hay then, the mower should be busy. Cut any time from the middle afternoon till dark. The cut grass being green, the dew will not hurt it, and if a late day follows will soon be taken up by the sun, the tedder set to work, and by three or four o'clock be in cock. A few days will cure it for the barn. Where the hay is thin and there is no clover, with good drying weather it may be taken in the same day without first going into the cock. I have known the whole hay crop to go in this way in a drought. Clover requires putting up and curing in the field; this on account of its coarseness.

Keeping Roses in Bloom. Mrs. G. M. of Cooperstown, N. Y., gives information on keeping roses in bloom. Our best horticulturists recommend, as soon as roses have formed their first flowers in the open ground, to pinch off the end of the first shoot, and as soon as the rose is fully opened to pinch it off. No rose should be left to bloom on the bush, as when so left it prevents the plant in the formation of buds. As the plants grow pinch back the ends of the shoots when they have reached six inches, rubbing out all puny buds, thus keeping the plants in a bushy, open bush form. If strong shoots alone are left to grow they will control the strength of the plant, and the flowers will be few and often imperfect. Should the season be hot and dry a mulch of fine, fresh grass, or seaweed, or moss from the woods, should be placed all over the soil, and at night watered thoroughly. —American Cultivator.

GRAVE-DIGGING BEETLES.

One of the wonderful provisions of nature is the existence of certain beetles with the function of digging graves for dead rats, moles, birds, and other small creatures left upon the surface of the earth, and the effluvia from which might be offensive and baleful. Beetles of this kind are known as the Necrophorus germanicus. About these remarkable animals, Mr. Gleditch, an entomologist, has given us several interesting and curious particulars. Being desirous to test the strength of the grave-diggers, he provided a glass vessel half filled with moist earth, into which he put four beetles with a dead linnet. No alarm was shown by the captives. Apparently intent on the one sole object of their existence, they began to inspect the bird, and then commenced the digging of a hollow underneath it, removing the earth and shovelling it away on each side. This was accomplished by leaning strongly upon their collars, bending down their heads, and working with singleness of purpose. After laboring for nearly two hours, one of the beetles was driven away and not allowed to work again. This, Mr. Gleditch concluded, was a female as it was smaller than the others, which continued their labor, until one by one they ceased, leaving only one beetle at his work. Five hours' more hard work were given by the remaining beetle, which at last sank exhausted on the earth and rested from his task, and finally, suddenly rousing himself, stiffened his collar, and by an extraordinary effort of strength, lifted up the bird and arranged it within the spacious grave. In three days the grave was finished, and the bird safely deposited within its narrow limits.

During a space of fifty days these busy workers interred the bodies of four frogs, three small birds, two grasshoppers, and one mole. This singular occupation, which continues from the middle of April until the end of October, proceeds from an instinctive desire for the preservation of their offspring. Eggs deposited by the parent in the substances which they enter, when hatched, produce larvae, which, feeding on the carrion which surrounds them, grow to an inch in length. These in their turn change into yellow chrysalids, and lastly into beetles; and the latter, when emerged from the earth, begin to dig graves and inter dead animals for the benefit of another generation.

In September, 1877, the writer had unexpectedly an opportunity of making the acquaintance of these curious insects. Two of the grave-digging beetles made their appearance in one of two underground kitchens, in the window of which stood a very large pot filled with mould prepared for the reception of plant-cuttings. To this pot the insects made their way, and at once began casting up the earth. On being observed, they were provided with a dead mouse, and set to work exactly in the manner described by Mr. Gleditch; but as soon as they became tired and rested from their labor, they were carried into the adjoining kitchen and placed close to the fire-place. The following morning discovered them again at work, having traveled to their former quarters during the night; and again they labored perseveringly till the body of the mouse gradually disappeared. At the end of the second day it was nearly covered in, and the insects were again turned out of their home and again placed in the back kitchen. Meanwhile the body of the mouse was removed; but on the following morning the beetles had returned to their flower-pot, and were again burrowing in search of the dead mouse, throwing out nearly the whole of the mould in their untiring efforts. Finally, as a reward for their industry and perseverance, they were transferred to the garden and placed close to the dead mouse, which they at once began to bury afresh.

WONDERS OF MODERN SURGERY.

How a Lady Who Lost Her Scalp was Treated.

A correspondent of the Utica Observer describes very intelligently a remarkable case in surgery, as follows: "About the 1st of August, 1877, Mrs. Hays, wife and daughter of the proprietors of the Alpaca Mill at Jamestown, Chautauque county, N. Y., while passing under a rapidly revolving shaft connected with the mill, was caught by her long hair, and instantly her entire scalp was torn from her head—no completely was she scalped that the back of her ears were partly laid bare, as was also the back of her neck below the hair, and on one side the skin was torn off nearly to the eyelid. Dr. George W. Whitney, of Jamestown, the family physician, was instantly called. He found his patient a head object, lying in an unconscious state. The writer is responsible for the assertion that he believes the doctor at first was undecided what to do, but to do something, he inquired for the scalp. An employee had unwound it from the shaft, and finding it torn to pieces, had thrown it upon a wood pile. The doctor sneered off the hair, and deliberately with needles and thread sewed the scalp in its original position. I suggested to him that probably he could think of nothing else to do. He had very little faith that any real good could be accomplished, but her appearance would be improved for an event in the near future. After four days, little being done but to make the unconscious woman as comfortable as possible, with the fact that the doctor did very little, as was very natural, the anxious family suggested a council of physicians. Slight supposition had commenced under the scalp, and as the only possible thing which could be done to change Dr. Whitney's modus operandi, the majority of the council decided that the scalp must be removed. Unwilling to assume the responsibility of overruling the decision of the council, yet contrary to his better judgment, he removed the scalp. Upon top of the head the scalp slightly adhered and some healthy granulations were observed. In about eleven days a thick scalp came off the skull on top of the head, and in a short time Mrs. Hays became conscious and began to realize her condition. She is about 35 years of age, of medium size, and had previously enjoyed good health. It now occurred to Dr. Whitney that he could supply a substitute for the lost scalp by engrafting. Two or three medical students, and then others, young men and young women, volunteered to lend small pieces of skin from their arms, and these were successfully placed upon different parts of her head. When I visited the lady professionally with Dr. W., about thirty-five pieces of skin of the size of a silver five-cent piece were firmly growing upon her head. She was a sorry-looking sight—her head being in color and appearance like a piece of fresh beef. The poor woman had any amount of fortitude and courage. She asked Dr. W. if he would advise her to take a ride of a mile or two. He replied that he should not take the responsibility just then. She asked him what he would do about it if he were in her position. He replied that if he felt like taking a ride in an easy carriage for a couple of miles, he should do so. The result was that in a day or two Mrs. Hays commenced taking early morning rides, without any bad results. The last I heard from her, a few weeks since, she had had 1,380 pieces engrafted upon her head, and she was doing well.

A Mule's Performance.

At one of the theaters in a town of Nevada, the play of the "Forty Thieves" was lately presented, but in rather a meager manner, as may be inferred from the lack of abundant scenery and properties in the far West. When Ali Baba had seen the thieves enter and quit the cave, he went to the wings and brought in a mule, which, having taken grave offense at something, awaited his opportunity for revenge. No sooner had Ali come out of the cave with his bags of wealth, and attempted to put them on the back of the beast than he began his part of the performance. He let fly with his heels; kicked the shavings (the supposed riches) out of the bags; kicked down the cavern; kicked down a whole forest; kicked down the wings; kicked the end of the base viol, leaning against the stage, to pieces; smashed the footlights; and finally doubled up Ali by planting both feet in the pit of his stomach. The mule fairly cleared the stage and set the audience into a great roar, the miners laying wagers that he could out-kick any mule in the State. The quadruped continued kicking as if he were hung on a pivot, until a rope was fastened around him and he was dragged off by the united strength of the company. The Nevadans want to give the mule a benefit.

When any of our readers go in bathing we advise them when they are ready to enter the water to plunge in as quickly as possible. Many people make themselves sick by creeping in an inch at a time thereby chilling the feet and extremities and causing a derangement of the circulation. When in the water, too, a person should be active so as to avoid any tendency to chill. Swimmers are most benefited because of the activity of their limbs while enjoying the luxury of their bath. —Dr. E. E. Root's Health Monthly.

The Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York.

Hon. Hiram Hitchcock has been induced to take an interest in the Fifth Avenue Hotel on account of the impaired health of Mr. A. B. Darling, who is now in Europe. Mr. C. W. Griswold retains his active interest in the firm. On the 1st inst. the hotel commenced its twentieth year with a reduction of price from five to four dollars per day, and all extra accommodations in the same ratio. The incomparable situation of the Fifth Avenue Hotel and its superior accommodations throughout will continue to make it more than ever the favorite resort of travelers.

Egypt at the Paris Exposition.

Egypt has a large place in the beautiful gardens of the Trocadero. I think her exhibit here is much superior to that which she had at Philadelphia. This is not remarkable, inasmuch as both France and England are greatly interested to have Egypt take high rank, commercially and otherwise, as they propose to seize her at no distant day, perhaps. French interests in Egypt have led to French collections of curiosities and almost priceless articles from the strange land of the Pharaohs, and any one who is at all pleased with Egyptian art may here feast the vision upon it. In the long semi-circular galleries in the Trocadero Palace a vast space is given to the ethnography of Egypt, and to pictures illustrative of the life of its varied and singular peoples; and not far from the Seine's bank is a palace, built in the style with which every one has become so familiar, either from having seen it on the stage, in imitation, or on the Nile in reality. Within this palace are numerous chambers, where very practical subjects are treated, such as the growth and culture of Egyptian cotton; the construction and management of the Suez canal; the improvements made under the rule of the present khedive, who, although a thorough racial in finance, is a benefactor to his own land; and a room specially adapted to the uses of the "International African Exploration Society." This section has almost a pathetic interest. Here the whole grand story is told; here hang the maps and charts which represent the labors of successive explorers in the beginning of the century to the present; the portraits of Cameron, Livingstone and Stanley hang side by side, and beneath them are the maps which tell the story of the great work which Stanley finished for Livingstone and for the world. Nearly opposite these now universally famous faces hang two well executed pictures representing the horrors of the slave trade.

The exhibition of Egyptian antiquities and of the works executed in that country, which the imperial government gathered on the Camp-de-Mars in 1867, was remarkable, but in no respect as fine as this one. Here we have a house contemporary with Abraham's grandfather, if we may take the commissioner's word for it, and Mariette-Bey, poet, philosopher, Parisian viveur and a kind of Layard also, has assembled the results of his researches for many years around the ruins of old Egypt. Mariette-Bey has divided his portion of the exhibition into three parts, illustrative of the Egypt of the Pharaohs; the Egypt of the Caliphs and modern Egypt—the country such as the dynasty of Mehemet Ali has left it. For Pharaoh's Egypt you must look in the galleries of the retrospective arts. I have not yet been able to take a single note here, as the guardians object. They fancy every one who has a note book and pencil some agent of a prying publisher who wishes to make copies of the priceless antiquities, and they motion to him to "move on."

The most remarkable series of works presented to the public by Mariette-Bey are tables representing the civilization of Egypt forty centuries before the Christian era. Everything is here—navigation, construction of ships, agriculture, workers in ivory and marble, hunters, fishermen, and toilers at pyramids and temples of those times. In the gallery of retrospective arts the walls are, for long distances, covered with these curious tables, which hold popular attention much more readily than do the beautiful majolica of Italy or the tapestries of Spain. At intervals are placed the sombre Egyptian deities, with hands crossed upon their knees and their eyes looking straight on into the centuries through which they seem to last, as if they really were endowed with immortal life. Arab art is here represented in a very large degree by richly illuminated manuscripts, wonderfully ornamented lamps for mosques and delicately cut ivory work. The Egyptian government does not seem to have made a school exhibit in Paris this year, at least I have thus far been unable to find it. The French journals are filled with complaints against the English just now, because the latter have seated themselves at the very door of Egypt and are now only waiting a good occasion to enter. Everything indicates that the movement for seizure may come much sooner than has been generally expected. The Egyptians seem to care but little who is master, so long as they are not disturbed more than usual. —Edward King's Paris Letter.

Fashion Notes.

The small round turbans is again worn by young ladies. Lace bonnets for young ladies are made of silk covered with lace, almost like babies' caps.

New bonnets are seen in lilac-colored straw, and are trimmed with bunches of white and purple lilacs.

Large buckles of pearl, like those worn generations ago, are fashionable for the wide belts so popular.

Pins for the hair are ornamental balls. Some are of red gold and others are of the palest yellow Roman gold.

New silver ear-rings are in the shape of a sailor's hat, with a pair of ears connected by a slender silver cable.

Collars and cuffs on thin dresses are made of shirring, and yokes and vests are sometimes similarly composed.

Small white handkerchiefs, with the edges scalloped and wrought with a color, are formed into pretty pleated bows for the throat, to wear with morning dresses.

The Breton dress was so becoming and pretty that the ladies are loth to give it up, and since fashion has decreed it may no longer be worn, the style is used in underwear.

New linen-lawns and muslin dresses are made with yoke waist, the yoke entirely covered with rows of narrow lace laid on flat. The ruffles that trim the skirt are edged with the same lace.

An American merchant in Japan says an evening stroll through some of the towns in that country reveals a petroleum lamp in nearly every store, burning American oil.

A Horrible Tragedy.

A horrible tragedy, by which six persons lost their lives and suffered the most excruciating torture, recently occurred at Scharbeck, near Brussels. It happened at the top of Josephat street were awakened by a tremendous noise like the firing of cannon. Immediately flames were seen issuing from a home inhabited by a druggist and his wife named Molke-Denis. While the police and the excited populace were endeavoring to put out the flames and to remove the inflammable materials, another report, louder than the first, was heard, and six persons who lived in the interior of the house rushed into the street uttering fearful cries. They were enveloped in flames, and resembled living torches more than human beings. They were immediately attended to by those on the spot, who rolled them in blankets and managed at last to put out the fire. One man, named Moreau, of herculean strength, who like the rest rushed out of the house one mass of fire, suddenly seized hold of his left hand, which was causing him intense agony, and pulled it right off. This man was a stone-cutter, and previous to losing his hand he had thrown himself against the front of the house with such violence that he was thrown backward and his head almost smashed. The wife of Molke was being assisted out of the window when she lost her presence of mind, and fell to the ground, breaking her leg in the fall. That catastrophe was made still more serious by the efforts of a party of relief, who rushed into the house at the risk of their own lives to save an old woman who was uttering the most frantic cries. They unlikely happened to upset on enormous jar of petroleum, and were instantly enveloped in flames. The names of those who succumbed are Emil Molke, seventy-five years of age, druggist, and master of the house; Govaats, aged thirty-five years, father of four children; Moreau, forty, father of two children; Auguste Verhoeven, seventeen years old, druggist's apprentice. Two others were fatally burned. All suffered the most excruciating tortures, as when the flames were put out they were only one living sore.

A Probable Result.

A citizen who was doing some marketing yesterday had his attention attracted to a boy about twelve years of age who seemed anxious to get hold of one of the many big watermelons piled up in the Central Market. It seemed like a good chance to sow a seed in the lad's mind, and the citizen beckoned to the boy and queried: "My son, would you like to steal one of those melons?" "Yes, sir," was the prompt reply. "You would, eh? I am sorry to hear that. If you should steal one of those melons, my boy, do you know what the result might be?" "The lad scratched his head, surveyed the pile again and answered: "I 'spect the plaguey thing would be green all the way through!"

It is proposed in Chicago that colleges and normal schools shall have a Professor of Current History and Business News, whose duty it shall be to teach students to understand all the news of the day as given in the daily papers. Each day's news, it is proposed, shall be read and discussed, any points in which are not thoroughly understood being explained by the professor.

Nerve Insanction on Disease. By invigorating feeble constitution, renovating a debilitated physique, and enriching a thin and unwholesome circulation with Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the finest, the most highly sanctioned, and the most popular tonic and preventive in existence. It strengthens the stomach, remedies torpor of the liver and bowels, and gives a healthful impulse to the secretive and discharging functions of the kidneys and bladder. Not only does it arrest and prevent the recurrence of malarial fevers, but it furnishes the only adequate safeguard against them to persons who have never been afflicted with those maladies, but would be liable to incur them if medicinally unprotected. It eliminates from the blood certain impurities which the most skillful pathologists assign as the exciting causes of those agonizing complaints, rheumatism and gout, and it is, moreover, an excellent remedy for an enfeebled or overwrought state of the nerves, and for mental despondency.

Terrificly exhaustive are the night sweats which accompany Consumption. But they, as well as the paroxysms of coughing, are invariably broken up by Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs, which conquers the deadly malarial, as well as bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy, asthma, diphtheria and all other affections of the throat, lungs and chest. It saves thousands from untimely graves, and is invaluable in rescuing children from the croup, whooping cough and quincy. It is sold by all Druggists.

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