

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

Selecting and Transplanting Trees.

A Pennsylvania nurseryman tells us that the German element of the population in parts of his State will, as a rule, have nothing in the tree line unless it is large, and this partially for overgrown stock is of great advantage to the dealers, who would be forced to destroy annually many hundreds of just such specimens were it not for this demand.

Believing that they thus get the most for their money, they are really obtaining the least, as young, thrifty trees, with smooth bright bark, and straight leading shoots, will give a bearing orchard in advance of the overgrown ones.

Young trees with forked tops will be the first to split during hard storms, therefore no matter how handsome in other respects, always avoid this defect. Before setting examine well at the base of the trunk where the roots emanate; should any "borers" be found, not with them, so that the tree may start fair.

A health in any case is preferable to show, the young tree with long shoots, indicating conclusively the evil effects of strong stimulants, is much inferior to one with short, well-ripened branches.

Of course it is hardly practicable to attempt to save all the rootlets at digging time, but it is quite possible to follow each large root very near to its end. If planters would only consider the uses of roots there would be much fewer instances of mutilation, and consequent ill-success in orcharding.

Occasionally, however, roots will get bruised in digging, and then the bruised portion must be cut away smoothly. In setting the tree never jam the roots into a little hole insufficient to hold them in a natural position, but insist on having every little rootlet as near as may be just as it grew.

As to depth, better plant too shallow than go to the other extreme, as in the former case there is small danger of injury, especially if protected by mulching.

Few things are so important as firming the soil around newly-planted trees; a neglect here is a principal cause of so many vacant spaces in young orchards. If pressed down as solid as possible, the soil will retain moisture a far greater length of time than if merely thrown loosely into the hole, promote an early start of the rootlets and small fibers, and prevent a loss which would follow a cessation of growth.

Something plausible is said on both sides of the question of pruning trees at the time of transplanting; but the weight of argument seems to favor a reasonable shortening in. As a generally accepted rule, trees seldom make much growth the first season after removal, and if the roots have not worked properly in their new home, the consequence will be small yellow foliage.

Now if a portion of the shoots are cut away in advance, the top will usually present a better appearance at the close of the first year. Pruning will cause accelerated growth, whether the tree has been moved or not, hence its importance when other agents are at work to retard growth.

Some orchardists prune too much; others not at all. The happy medium brings best results. Mulching rarely receives attention except from those whose long experience has clearly indicated the necessity of preserving the roots at a regular medium temperature, avoiding alike excess of drought and moisture.

The necessity for it is equal in winter and summer—in winter to guard against sudden extremes of temperature; in summer, as protection from hot sun. Be careful not to bury the roots in a mulch several inches deep, as this would certainly injure the tree, and instances are known of specimens killed outright—victims of too much kindness. The material (which may be anything light, open and porous) should extend in a newly-planted tree, as far as the roots spread instead of being heaped close around the stem.

TIMELY TOPICS.

A school board in Michigan has ordered 150 copies a month of a popular children's magazine, to be used by the little folks in the primary schools instead of text books.

A correspondent estimates William H. Vanderbilt's income at \$200,000 a week, and prophesies that if this American railroad king lives ten years longer he will have an establishment, including fine pictures, fast horses, and all the appointments of luxury to a degree which will surpass the wildest dreams of modern ambition.

A passenger in an Arkansas stage coach rode throughout a very cold day in thin clothes, and was taken out stiff and unconscious. He was thought to have frozen to death, and a grave was dug for him; but the warmth of the room in which he was laid thawed him out just in time to save him from being buried alive.

A farmer at Arnold, England, being enraged at the presence of skaters on his pond, conceived the brilliant idea of breaking up the ice by harnessing up a horse to a heavy iron roller and driving over it. The experiment was eminently successful, and but for the assistance of the skaters he and the horse would have remained at the bottom along with the roller.

It is most amusing to hear the excuses made by ladies on board a steamer when they begin to feel the roll of the ocean wave. They are as follows: "I'll go down for dinner." "The wind has blown my hair so that I'll have to go below and fix it." "It's very close out here." "How damp the deck is." "The glare on the water almost blinds me." "How cold the sea air is;" it chills me to the marrow of my bones." "How very warm," and so on.

John Olive, a Nebraska herder, had murdered several of his enemies, and it was deemed desirable to arrest him, but it was hard to get anybody to undertake the job. He always had a gang of his ranchmen close at hand, and was free with threats of vengeance on anybody who molested him. At length Billy Nicholls bargained to capture Olive for \$500. It was Olive's custom to go to Plum Creek once a week for letters. Nicholls stationed himself in the post-office, with four companions chosen from the relatives of the men whom Olive had killed. When Olive entered he found himself looking into the muzzles of five revolvers, and was commanded to hold up his hands. He surrendered, and was quickly hustled out of sight. His ranchmen, as they straggled in one by one to see what had become of him, were caught in the same manner.

Boy Wanted. A few mornings since a lady living on Clifford street answered the bell to find a bulky boy with an innocent face and peach-colored ears standing on the steps. He explained he wanted to see her husband, and she answered that her husband had left for his office.

"I am the boy who sweeps out all the offices where he is," said the boy as he backed down the steps, "and this morning I found a letter in the big scrap-sack."

"Well, you can leave it," she replied. "I—I guess I hadn't better," he half-whispered, as he showed the small pink envelope.

"Boy—that is—boy, let me see that letter!" she said as she advanced and extended her hand. "Oh, 'wouldn't be 'actly right, ma'am, 'cause I know he'd gin me fifty cents."

"See here, boy," she said, as she felt for the dollar bill left her to buy coffee and tea, "you take this, give me the letter, and don't say a word to Mr.—about finding it."

"I don't believe it's much of a letter," he remarked. "Never mind—hand it over—here's your money!"

"Mebbe there ain't a word of writing in it, ma'am."

"Here—give me the letter—now go!" She took it and entered the house, and the boy with peach-colored ears flew down the street like a cannon ball going to dinner.

In about forty seconds the woman came out, looked up and down the street, and the expression around her mouth was not happy and peaceful. The boy had seemed to doubt that there was any writing inside the envelope, but she was not quite prepared to tear it open and find a printed document commencing: "Whereas, default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage," etc. She wants to hold another interview with the lad. If this meets his eye he will please call between the hours of eight and ten o'clock A. M., when she feels the strongest.—Detroit Free Press.

Facts About the Human Body.

The skin contains more than two million openings, which are the outlets of an equal number of sweat glands. The human skeleton consists of more than two hundred distinct bones. The amount of blood equal to the whole quantity in the body passes through the heart once every minute.

The full capacity of the lungs is about three hundred and twenty cubic inches. About two-thirds of a pint of air is inhaled and exhaled at each breath in ordinary respiration. The stomach daily produces nine pounds of gastric juice for digestion of food; its capacity is about five pints.

There are more than five hundred separate muscles in the body, with an equal number of nerves and blood vessels. The weight of the heart is from eight to twelve ounces. It beats one hundred thousand times in twenty-four hours.

Each respiratory duct is one-fourth of an inch in length, which will make the aggregate length of the whole about nine miles. The average man takes five and one-half pounds of food and drink each day, which amounts to one ton of solid and liquid nourishment annually.

A man breathes eighteen times a minute, and three thousand cubic feet, or about three hundred and seventy five hogheads of air per hour.

American Girl Diplomats. It is a singular fact that fifteen of the ladies connected with the present diplomatic corps at Washington are American girls whose beauty and diplomacy captured distinguished husbands. Among the number are wives of the French, Italian, Guatemalan and Turkish ministers and many others of lesser rank, including Mrs. Yang Wing, of the Chinese legation, who was a Miss Bartlett, of Connecticut. In the diplomatic corps of Europe there are also several American ladies, such as the wife of the Italian minister to the Hague and others.

Whether American women have a peculiar penchant for diplomacy, or diplomats for them, is a difficult question to decide. At all events, diplomacy is a career for which our women seem to be admirably adapted. They have also broken down the exclusive barrier of hereditary aristocracy, and some of them are connected with the oldest noble families of England and the continent. Proverbial as is their beauty, their natural grace and dignity of manner and their intelligence are no less striking.—Washington Correspondent.

Geography Bees. It was spelling matches last winter, but this season the enjoyment is geography bees. Bee it ever so humble, there's nothing like geography. First they give out easy places; big cities like Detroit that every body knows about—then they get down to places like Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and Boston, and at last those who remain up are floored by asking about obscure towns, such as Toledo, Pampkianville, Sunkrant, Cleveland, and places of that class. If any person remains standing after such an ordeal, the war dispatches of the Asian campaign are read from some newspaper, and appalling names like Polliwollygobles, Afghunirkistrick, Dargjextoyppajji, etc., now down the remainder like the unrelenting swath of Time's scythe. These geography matches are epidemic, and are devastating the Western States.—Detroit Free Press.

Nerves and Noises. Newspaper writers are commenting extensively upon the uproar of cities. They say that nature has provided the eye with a contrivance for protecting itself against unpleasant sights, and one has only to hold his nose in coming in contact with anything disagreeable to the olfactory. Meanwhile the ears stand open like doors that cannot be shut. All sorts of rackets from the bells of the peddlers to the sharp clanking of the cars of the elevated railroad, rap on the ear-drum. It has been suggested that if Edison or somebody could invent some kind of a contrivance to be worn over the ears that would take up all these discordant sound waves and arrange them into concord and music, life in our cities might be made more tolerable.—Dr. E. B. Foot's Health Monthly.

The island of Jersey, in the English channel, produces a remarkable variety of cabbage, called the Jersey-cow cabbage, which grows to the height of three or four feet, and is cultivated for fodder. The stalk, which is tall and very straight, is often made into walking-sticks, and, when smoothed off and varnished, it is similar in appearance to bamboo cane.

The first printing office established in Russia, in 1560, was destroyed by the superstitious populace. The individual who was accidentally injured by the discharge of his duty is still very low.

Suffering for a Life Time. Persons afflicted with rheumatism often suffer for a life time, their tortures being almost without remission. The joints and muscles of such unfortunate are in most cases shockingly contorted and drawn out of shape. To afford them even temporary relief, the ordinary remedies often prove utterly useless. Hosiater's Stomach Bitters, on the other hand, is avouched by persons who have used it, to be a genuine source of relief. It keeps the blood cool by promoting a regular habit of body, and removes from it impurities which, in the opinion of all rational pathologists, originate the agonizing complaint, and its kindred malady, the gout. Besides this, the Bitters remedies disorders of the stomach, liver and nerves, prevent and eradicate intermittent and remittent fevers, promote appetite and sleep, and are highly recommended by physicians as a desirable medicinal stimulant and tonic.

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