

FARM AND GARDEN.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SWINEHERD. The swineherd has commonly been considered a rather degraded person, but little better than his companions to whom he dispensed the husk and garbage upon which they subsisted. But this is all wrong, as we are informed by a manufacturer of "pig condiment." This individual takes a much higher ground, so to speak, in considering the ancient status and the present possibilities of the swineherd. Formerly this person was held to be of much importance and was highly respected. He was all the more highly considered as he might possess "an agreeable voice and a musical talent that he might lead the pigs to sleep after their meals by his sweet singing, so that their fattening might be promoted." He was also well versed in the science of feeding, and able to select "such food of the proper astringent property as would cause the digestions of his greedy herd to disturb their digestive faculties and improve their appetite and health." And this enterprising person impresses, upon the swineherds of America especially, the great importance of buying his condimental food of barks and spices to avoid the risks of cholera from the prevalent system of running hogs in the cornfields after cattle to fatten them in the unwholesome ordure. Possibly a diet of aromatic herbs and spices with accompanying music might give the ordinary ham and bacon a better flavor than is acquired from the filthy food which the rough, uncultivated, coarse-voiced American swineherd now dispenses to his hogs.—New York Times.

CULTIVATION OF WHEAT. Professor A. B. Stout says in the American Agriculturist: In growing a crop of wheat the seed is all important. There is much difference in seed—even that grown on the same soil—that the most careful selection is necessary. The seed must be good, prime, well-ripened, plump and with active germinating power. The only way to secure such is by selection at the time of ripening. Selection is absolutely essential to good average crops and good average quality. Non-selection is a great drawback to all crops. It entails upon the grain elements of deterioration, which cause so many varieties to "run out." The habit of the wheat plant is to tiller or stool, and this habit must be indulged and favored by giving grain more room and substance enough to develop its valuable properties. To have good seed therefore, that must be selected which is nearest like the original and found upon the parent stalk of the stool. It ripens first, contains the best elements and is the best in all respects. The physiological laws governing the production of the animal kingdom also hold good in the vegetable. The transmission of good and bad qualities from parent to offspring are inherent; hence to have good wheat we must sow good seed.

Next to good seed we must have well prepared soil. Rich stiff, calcareous soils are best for wheat. Corn stubble and potato land slightly harrowed and without manure make very fine land for good crops of wheat. The application of fresh or even well rotted barn-yard manure directly to the soil in which wheat is to be sown is unwise and injurious. It produces too much stalk and too little grain. Such manure should always be applied in its fresh state to the crop preceding wheat. Clover sod turned in the fall for spring wheat is excellent, but alfalfa sod exceeds them all. Its roots penetrate to a great depth, not only enriching the soil but making it porous and remarkably well adapted to the growth of all crops. So superior is it that as high as sixty and seventy bushels of wheat per acre have been produced upon land thus treated. Wheat, especially in arid regions, should never follow oats, rye or barley. So dry is the winter that the seed scattered in the harvesting germinates in the spring and becomes badly mixed with the wheat, and they are not the proper crops to rotate. As many opinions are held about sowing as there are farmers that sow. In Europe Australia and other wheat countries two or three bushels per acre are sown, while in our own country about a bushel and a half is the rule. Almost all the experiments made with thick and thin seedings are favorable to the latter; indeed they have reason to be, because the greatest enemy of the successful germination and healthy growth of the wheat-plant is wheat. Like people, wheat cannot flourish when sown too thickly. If a bushel of wheat were sown evenly over an acre of ground, no two grains would be more than two inches apart each way, and a half bushel would place them less than four inches apart—thick enough for all soils under favorable conditions. However, different preparation of both seed and soil will vary the amount of seed. Itch land requires less seed than poor, and a long season in some sections less than short ones. The proper depth to sow grain varies with soil and climate. In rainy sections where the frost heaves the surface of the ground in the spring, wheat should be sown at least two inches deep and on a rough surface, while in dry, arid climates, one and a half inches is deep enough. The heavier the soil the shallower the sowing, and the lighter the soil the deeper.

The cultivation of the wheat crop adds much to its growth and yield; however abundant this may appear to some, it is nevertheless true. Most people, and I might say ninety-nine hundredths of all farmers in the United States, never touch their wheat from sowing time to harvest. A cultivation of the wheat crop does it as much good as a cultivation of the corn crop on any other crop. As soon as the wheat is well up and begins to stool, the light harrowing not only kills the weeds but helps the growth of the crop, and when the wheat begins to make stalks another and heavier harrowing will often increase the yield ten to fifteen per cent. These harrowings not only kill the little weeds and give vigor to the plant, but they keep the surface of the soil open and mellow for the better action of the atmosphere upon the roots. If the wheat is sown in drills a foot apart a small cultivator is better than a harrow, especially in those sections where the crops are irrigated. All crops do better when irrigated from below. The water, when put on the surface, comes in contact with the tender plant, and injures it.

Harvesting should be done early, when the wheat is in the dough state, to make good returns for the mill, but seed wheat should not be cut until fully ripe. Early harvests often escape rust, make heavier grain and of better milling elements, less wheat is lost in the cutting and handling, and the farmer is better satisfied, having his crop out of the way.

HOME-MADE IMPLEMENTS.

Days when no outdoor work can be done can be turned to good account by making various conveniences. For example, a light-stone boat, or what is better a sled to carry the harrow, plow, bags of seed, rakes, water-jug, etc., to the field. Men drink much less water when it is close at hand than when they have to go some distance for it. Another useful implement to be made, is a marker for laying out the corn ground. Boxes in use about the farm should be of a size to hold a bushel or half a bushel. They will save a great deal of grain and perhaps a great deal of hunting for the half-bushel measure.—American Agriculturist.

HOW ROSES BLOOM.

Hybrid perpetual roses bloom mostly upon shoots that grow from the old wood; that is, canes of one or more years' growth. The best blooms are found upon the canes which start from near the root the previous season. Therefore, it is best every spring to cut out all canes which have bloomed one season. As you value good roses and a quantity of them do not fail to do this. To increase the quantity and richness of bloom with hybrid perpetuals practice what is called "pegging down." This is to bend all the canes that have been left after pruning nearly to the ground. The outermost ones may be within six inches of the surface and the others a little higher. This horizontal position of the canes somewhat retards the flow of the sap as it returns to the roots, and more of it is used in forming buds and flowers. If you prefer to grow your roses upright, do not fail to cut back the canes about one-half. If you wish to have seed for new varieties, it is well to have the soil too rich, else, according to my experience, you will get fewer seeds and not the best roses. All the roses should be where they will have plenty of sunlight, and yet be protected from high winds.—New York Herald.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Farmers should limit and control the cost of production. Corn should be ground in the ear; it is better than to shell it and feed the cow separately. Everything points to the silo as one of the best and probably the best way to harvest corn. Farmers who raise rye should sell the straw and buy grain and fertilizer with the proceeds. Careless, hasty seed-sowing accounts for the failure of many amateur attempts at gardening. A mixture of kerosene and lampblack is a good application to keep steel surfaces bright. One speaker thought that a little pure water added to thick cream would assist in its separation. If the whiffletree breaks, don't throw it into a corner. Remove the irons. They can be fitted to new wood. Corn for ensilage should not be cut when the kernels are in the milky state. It should be allowed to glaze a little. By keeping the cattle off the pasture one day longer in the spring you may keep them until two days longer in the fall. Farming is like other industries; if you expect to be successful, you must adopt some special line and make it a study. Cows should have plenty of fresh water and salt daily. Always feed and milk regularly. Keep stables clean with good bedding. The farther you are from market the greater is your need of condensing products by feeding grain and stover to your animals. A handy thing to have is a box containing an assortment of bolts, nuts, rivets, nails and a hammer, pitch and cold-chisel. Rye straw is considered to be worth only \$3.50 per ton as a fertilizer. It brings from \$10 to \$15 a ton at the straw-paper mills. Trees about the house make it more homelike and attractive, and shield it from the cold winds of winter and the hot sun of summer. "If I were to preach a sermon on horticulture I would take as my text: 'Stir the soil,'" was said by one of our best horticulturists. Forty pounds of good corn ensilage, with five pounds of hay and six pounds of cotton-seed meal and shorts is a full ration for a 800-pound cow. A silo and good ensilage is necessary to making good butter in winter. It cheapens cost of production, and improves the quality of the butter. It is impossible to make a first-rate quality of butter from poor milk; hence the making of good butter commences with the cow, her food and care. A grapevine over the out-building will not injure the building, will increase the attractiveness of the premises, and will furnish wholesome, agreeable food at slight cost. The best land you have got is not any too good for strawberries, but any land that will raise a first-class crop of corn or potatoes will raise a good fair crop of strawberries. When the garden gets as much attention as the wine lot, and the fruit trees as much feed and care as the cattle, there will be more health and good humor on the farm, and just as much money. Many people make a mistake in turning their flock out in the pasture too early in the spring, before there is sufficient food for them to nourish themselves, and in that case the wool will commence to shed, affirms a sheep-owner of many years' experience. The paint brush that proved to be a bargain was cleaned in turpentine each time its work was done, dried, and hung up by its handle. Keep a few panes of window glass and a paper of tacks, or some putty on hand. When the window pane is broken, don't make-shift; replace it. A New Sp. It is an interesting fact, which might become important in case of war, that the telephone furnishes a simple and ready means of intercepting secret telegraphic dispatches without the knowledge of the operators. All that is necessary is to run a wire parallel with the telegraph line at a short distance, when the currents induce the signals in the telephone. The plan is attended by one difficulty, which is that the signals would become a confused medley of sounds if dispatches were transmitted simultaneously from both ends of the line. This matter has attracted the attention of the Austrian Government.—Trenton (N. J.) American.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Fifteen cubic feet of gas will give as much heat as one pound of bituminous coal. Hard-working Parisians average sensibly less in stature than their wealthy neighbors. A German chemist condemns boracic acid as an ineffective and poisonous food preservative. The latest use of photography is to make a cannon ball take a picture of its own wabbings. Ice crumbles under saw and chisel, but is said to be more capable than wood of being smoothed and shaped by the plane. A Dresden manufacturer has produced thread from the common nettle so fine that sixty miles of it only weighs two and one-half pounds. It has been noted at several of the leading natural gas wells that the minimum and maximum of pressure corresponds to the ebb and flow of the tides. The saw is largely used now instead of the axe in bringing down the giant redwoods in California. The tree is sawed partly through, and then is forced over by wedges. By means of the bisulphide process, saw used for paper pulp, a foreign chemist has succeeded in preparing wood fibre that may be spun and woven into coarse cloths. Dr. Lintner, the entomologist, says that insects destroy \$300,000,000 worth each year, and that a single insect caused a loss of \$15,000,000 a year in the State of New York. Seamless boiler tubes are now made from solid ingots of metal by a process that twists and stretches the fibres, and is said to make a tube much stronger than the ordinary ones. The common use of kerosene as a preventive of corrosion in boilers is not without its danger, as gas arising from it may accumulate and explode upon finding an opportunity to escape to a light. A photographic reflecting telescope has been presented to Dunsink Observatory having a mirror by With of fifteen-inch aperture. It will be employed in furthering the study of star parallaxes. Carriage manufacturers are predicting that in the not distant future wooden wheels will be done away with, and steel wheels substituted on account of the increasing scarcity of lumber for wheels. Soapstone is made into tubs, sinks, stoves and so, and the waste is ground into powder that is used for paint, and is an indestructible wall covering as well as an adulterant to rubber for overshoes. The new circular cloth so highly recommended as a preventive of colds, is made of either wool, cotton or silk, so woven as to include in it which the air is warmed, while the vapors of the body readily pass off through it. An English electrician has invented a material that he calls "alterion," for the prevention of corrosion in boilers. The interior of the boiler is coated with the material, and from time to time electrical currents are sent through it. Kanaff, the new Russian textile, is soft, elastic, silky and immensely strong. It takes all colored readily, and is easily made into all manner of stuffs, but especially adapted to bagging rope and cordage, as it is very cheaply produced. Professor Haddison, of Dublin, declares that a species of fish of Torres Straits, breathes largely through its tail fin. Though living much out of water, it was not affected by prolonged submersion, but soon died when its tail had been varnished. The process of manufacturing India ink has been a secret with the Chinese for many centuries, but a firm of English chemists claim to have discovered a process of treating camphor with sulphuric acid that produces a pigment identical with India ink. There is a small fortune waiting for the man who can discover some process of making the veneer used in making fruit baskets flexible without the use of steam or hot water, and thereby save the manufacturers the time now wasted in the drying of the material. Workers in hardware and cutlery will be glad to hear of a new solvent for rust which is said to be very effective. A piece of rusty iron is immersed in a saturated solution of chloride of tin for twenty-four hours. It may then be rinsed first in water and afterward in ammonia, when it will be found that the rust has entirely disappeared. Causes of Sudden Death. Sudden deaths are most frequent, according to the Lancet, when the conditions of life change suddenly, or are especially liable to change—and this without necessary reference to whether the change effected be relatively for the better or for the worse; for the change may be so rapidly effected, in either direction, as to throw upon the circulatory and respiratory functions a strain which the organs are not able to bear. In this way, persons with unsound or weak hearts or weak arteries die suddenly under rapid changes, although, if there were no special strain consequent on the change, it would be itself quite advantageous to them. It may be accepted that sudden deaths are especially likely to occur at periods of seasonal change, and at times when rapid variations of temperature are taking place. The Helm Wind. During recent years some scientific attention has been given to the meteorological phenomenon known as the Helm wind, which occurs only on the Cross Fell range of mountains in England. This range is 2900 feet high, and drops off abruptly to the west from 1000 to 1500 feet in a mile and a half. With an easterly wind, a cloud forms on the summit of the range, while parallel with it at a distance of two or three miles a slender roll of dark cloud called the Helm bar appears in the mid-air. A cold wind blows down the sides of the Fell until nearly under the bar, when it suddenly ceases. 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