

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

FEEDING DUCKS.

Where the ducks are confined they are usually fed too much, and being apparently always hungry the owner is often tempted to feed them liberally. A duck will easily fatten, and this should be guarded against when they are laying. During the day they should have no food but chopped grass or vegetable tops, but three times a week they should have meat or animal food of some kind, such as ground fish or ground meal, which may be given in their evening meal. Mashed potatoes and ground oats at night may be allowed.

DIP FOR SHEEP.

Arsenic is not a desirable material for a sheep dip to destroy scab mites or ticks. It is dangerous to the sheep and the man who dip them. A better dip is made of one pound of coarse tobacco or the stems steeped in boiling water, but not boiled, along with four ounces of sulphur for each gallon of water. When reduced to 120 degrees by slow cooling, being covered up meanwhile, it is ready for use. Fifty gallons will be enough for fifty sheep if a tank no larger than is necessary to take in the sheep is used, and five or ten gallons is kept hot to replenish the liquid as it is used.

POT-GROWN STRAWBERRIES.

The so-called potted strawberry plants are grown by rooting runners in small pots about two inches in diameter. These are filled with rich soil and soon become filled with a mass of roots. The plants are shaken out of the pots and wrapped in moss, and are thus sent safely to much greater distances than rooted runner plants taken from the beds. They grow on when planted without any check, and when set out in the fall will bear a full crop the next spring. They are usually sold for twice to four or five times as much as runner plants. They are not ready for distribution until July. A potted plant set out in July or August will make several runners which can be grown in the same way and transplanted in the fall, and so in the end this is really the cheapest way to get a stock for fruiting the next season.—New York Times.

FEATHER-EATING IN POULTRY.

There is a bad fault with some poultry termed feather-eating. I believe that idleness is one of the principal causes of that vice, and that poultry should be kept busy in some way. A short time ago a friend of mine, who has a number of varieties of fine poultry, asked me to go down and look at his hens, who were picking the feathers from each other so badly. I noticed one old hen had picked at another till the blood ran. He wanted me to see what I could do with them and I took home half a dozen and put them in a place where they were warm and the sun shone in, and I put a lot of corn there and covered it up so they had to scratch for it. Then I took a mixture of lard and carbolic acid and tincture of nux, which you know is not very sweet, and with a small brush I rubbed it on each one of the hens made a peck at the swab, but she didn't like it. One day I went out to watch those chickens. They still had a disposition to pick into each other, still they would pick a feather out and drop it and not seem to like it, and I have a hope that I am going to break up the habit.

HOW TO DEHORN.

Mr. H. M. Scott, of Scott County, Kan., sends the Prairie Farmer his mode of dehorning cattle, which is as follows: "We have taken the horns off our herd of cattle, and can recommend dehorning to the readers of the Prairie Farmer. I made a chute one foot wide at bottom, flaring at the sides to admit the largest animals; twenty-four feet long, with stanchion at one end, six inches wide, to fasten the neck in. Then we put on a halter to hold the head down, by a pole with a short chain with hook on, to fasten to the posts. We next placed the end of the pole under the cross piece of the stanchion frame and held the head down on a cross piece of 2x4 scantling, laid under the head and lying on a rest fastened to the posts at each side. Then we attached a rope to one of the sides above the eyes, using two rings on the rope that come on each side of the head. We passed one end under the jaws, and drew through the rings and fastened to a post of the stanchion frame on the other side, to keep the head from moving sideways. Thus the animal was securely confined. Wetting the hair and rubbing it back out of the way of the saw, the operation was then quickly done. Then, by taking off the halter and rope, removing the scantling and lifting the strap that holds the movable stanchion, so that it could fall back, the animal walks out and the next is placed in the chute. By such an arrangement we took off 100 horns in a day."

WATER FOR CROPS.

More water attention is being given to the need of supplying plenty of water to growing plants by the fact that plants contain from seventy-eight to eighty-five per cent, of water, showing that water is by far the most important constituent of their growth. The plant during growth is constantly evaporating water through its leaves, stems, and at every pore, and the surface soil is giving off water in vapor all the time. The quantity of water required by a growing crop is simply immense. If water fails to be supplied the growth is checked and finally comes to a standstill, and then the plants begin to wilt and dry up. It has been calculated that the production of one pound of wheat requires the evaporation of seven hundred and eighty-eight pounds of water during the growth of the plants. A German scientist found that the production of two and a fourth pounds of barley required the evaporation of one hundred and fifty-five gallons of water. Such a consumption of water would require a rainfall of eleven inches. Two tons of hay per acre would represent a rainfall of eleven inches. If the rainfall is deficient a full crop will not be obtained unless some means are provided to artificially supply water. By providing an artificial supply of water to be used when needed almost crops can be secured every year. In many instances brooks or streams of water might be turned aside and conducted along side-hills and used to supply the farm crops with water when needed. Or if there be no brooks that could be used for the purpose, a well with a windmill and pump could be used to irrigate six or eight acres.—Ploughman.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

A flash-light signal for rear of trains is being tested in England. Science is now able to inspect the molecule in its ultimate condition. The English law recognizes the need of vaccination after twelve years of age. The sounds of the heart have been recorded and reproduced by the phonograph. The waters of Salt Lake are not as salty as they were twenty-five years ago by thirty per cent. A putty of starch and chloride of zinc hardens quickly, and lasts as a stopper of holes in metals for months. There is a great increase in the consumption of African teakwood, on account of its property of preserving from rust iron or steel that is in contact with it. The saw is largely used now instead of the ax in bringing down the giant redwoods in California. The tree is sawed partly through, and then is forced over wedges. Major Powell states that material has been gathered showing seventy-three different stocks of languages and nearly 800 dialects among the Indians of North America. Seamless boiler tubes are now made from solid igots of metal by a process that twists and scratches the fibres, and is said to have a tube much stronger than the ordinary ones. A French scientist has come to the conclusion that we are traversing a "cold period." He notes that during the last four years there has been a constant diminution in the average mean temperature. A good imitation of frosted glass may be produced by applying to the glass a saturated solution of alum in water. It may be colored by the addition of aniline dyes. The coloring is not very permanent, however. The simplest way to fumigate a room is to heat an iron shovel very hot, and then pour vinegar upon it, drop by drop. The steam arising from this is a disinfectant. Door or windows should be opened that it may escape. Gold miners might be interested in an automatic and self-feeding gold amalgamator recently brought out in Baltimore, which can be operated in connection with stamp mills with a small quantity of water that can be used over and over again. Some railroad managers propose to put down 1000-pound rails and run eighty-ton engines and use thirty-ton freight cars, with air brakes, in order to make more speed and reduce the cost of traffic. One eighty-ton locomotive has just been turned out that has a speed of seventy miles an hour. There are said to be more than 100,000 varieties of butterflies. One of the finest collections of butterflies in the world is owned by Berthold Neumegen, of New York. Only two others in the world can compare with it. One of them is in the British Museum and the other belongs to a public institution in Paris. Burls, used in making veneers with remarkable eccentricities of grain, are excrescences that grow upon various trees, such as the walnut, rosewood, mahogany, oak and ash. They weigh from 1000 to 6000 pounds, and the largest and best come from Persia and Circasia, and cost in the rough from fifteen to forty cents a pound. "Quartered" oak, of which so much was heard during the early part of the ceiling investigation at Albany, is made by sawing the oak log first into quarters and then laying the round side down and saving each quarter up into boards. This method of working up the log gives to the boards a peculiar figure in the grain that is lacking in oak prepared in the ordinary way by cutting the whole log up into strips. The London Lancet vigorously condemns the use of heavy overcoats, and advocates instead the wearing of heavier underclothing. There is reason in this. A man may lose his overcoat or leave it with his uncle. He would not so part with his underclothing. On the other hand a man making calls could lay off his overcoat and make himself comfortable entering a warm room. It would be in bad form to so dispose of his red-flannel undershirt.

How a Doctor Missed a Large Fee.

The late Dr. Trousseau, a celebrated Parisian physician, had the reputation of being exceedingly sharp after his fees, though he always declined to take anything in the nature of a present from his clientele—perhaps because he thought the acceptance of such gifts might render it more difficult for him to exact his honorarium. Once Dr. Trousseau had been fortunate enough to cure the only child of one of the few rich members of the French aristocracy. When the child had become convalescent and the doctor was paying his last visit, with renewed thankful expressions and numerous appeals to heaven the mother pressed a small silken purse into Trousseau's hand. "Thank you, madame," he replied, "but, pardon me, I never accept presents," and he firmly rejected her offer, probably regarding both the purse and the appeals as things of equally problematical value. "My fee, madame," he quietly added, is \$100." Opening the purse, Mme. de Comtesse took out the sum named, and presenting it to Dr. Trousseau, remarked: "I am sorry you do not take presents, the purse contained \$800."

The Congressional Library.

The Congressional Library at Washington contains 615,781 volumes and the pamphlets number 200,000. This, of course, is the largest collection of books in the United States. It is over twice as many as are included in the Astor Library, where, according to last accounts, the total footed up about 250,000 books; and it is five times as many as the Chicago Public Library can boast of, where there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 140,000 volumes. One-eighth of the books in the Congressional Library belong to the Law Department, and this division of the library is more frequently consulted than any other. There have been over 7000 volumes added to the law library during the last year and nearly 12,000 volumes to the general library. This makes a total increase of 19,000 books. The Toner collection has been supplemented during the last year by the addition of 114 books and 796 pamphlets.—Mail and Express.

The English Sparrows are building their nests in the electric lamps in Atlanta, Ga.

Dancing at Eighty-Five.

The island of Nantucket is off the track of the modern world. The people and their customs are very unlike those in any other part of the world—the "off-island part," as the Nantucketers are wont to call it. They follow the beaten paths of a century ago, five simple, thrifty, laborious lives, and furnish little business for the doctors. They thrive financially and physically. A visitor at an evening gathering on the island, not long since, told how one lady, aged ninety-one, presided at the piano, and another, aged eighty-five, danced. And you may take my word for it," adds the visitor, "that the dancing was sure-enough dancing, if one might judge from the lady's snapping eyes, nervous speech and decisive movements." Locality and climate would seem to have comparatively little effect on health and longevity if people lived simply, as nature bids, and when ailing built up their nature's simple remedies, like Warner's Log Cabin Sarsaparilla, instead of pulling down their vitality by various poisonous mineral drugs. People who last to the physician every time they have a headache, or experience any of the minor evidences of nature's revolt against dissipation and luxury, will not be found dancing at eighty-five. The mineral poisons of the apothecary lead to early physical decay.

Purifying Raw Coffee.

Talking with a leading wholesale grocer, the other day, he interested me not a little in describing improved methods by which raw coffee is now cleared of impurities before being ground. It first goes through a roaster. The roasted berry is considerably mixed with sand and grit and small stones. This is the principal impurity of raw coffee, and the one most difficult to remove. The latest invention for that purpose is an air shaft running from the cellar to the garret of the building in which it is operated. Upward through this shaft a current of air is passed of just sufficient force to carry the roasted berry to the top floor, but not strong enough to carry the sand and small stones, which drop into the basement. As the coffee rises to the top floor, after being thrown in at the bottom, it is swept to one side and then sent to the grinding machine.—New York Graphic.

Sexuality in Atoms.

Mr. Mason Kinne is a quiet gentleman who lived for many years in this city. He is an enthusiastic member of the Microscopical Society, an honorary member of several foreign scientific societies, and contributes to several scientific journals. He is an indefatigable investigator. Some time ago he declared that he had discovered sexuality in atoms—that is, after examining the smallest fragments of inorganic matter, iron and other mineral substances, he had discovered certain traces that led him to believe that all atoms, animal and vegetable, are either male or female, and reproduce their species. The importance of such a discovery cannot be estimated. If verified, and Mr. Kinne is confident that it can be verified, it means the revolution of science—a new alphabet for geology, chemistry and natural philosophy.—San Francisco Call.

A Horse Resurrection.

A case of horse resurrection has come to light in Newburg, N. Y. A horse died, apparently, on a Thursday, and was buried beneath a pile of rubbish until an "equine undertaker" could be summoned to remove it to the bone factory. On the following Saturday removal was attempted. A rope was fastened to the animal, and on the first pull it arose to its feet and frisked its tail. Now the equine is seen drawing garbage on the streets.—Chicago Herald.

Health and Strength

Not only weakness and languor, but that terrible malady, Scurvy, is cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla. It is a blood purifier and expels the poisons of scurvy, salt rheum, and other poisons which cause so much suffering, and sooner or later undermine the general health. By its regular use, the system is purified, and the blood is restored to its normal condition. It is the people's favorite purifying medicine. "I know that Hood's Sarsaparilla has restored my health and strength, and I can give it as a testimonial for a long time, my trouble being a general nervous prostration, accompanied with chills and fever. After taking five bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla I felt red as a rose and as healthy as ever. I am as well now as any one of my age, 40 years.—Mrs. M. E. Thompson, St. Albans, Vt.

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Gathering Coral and Sponges.

Gathering of coral and sponges is an important industry on the Florida reefs. Both are frequently found in the same locality. The sponges are found wherever the bottom is rocky, generally from ten to thirty feet beneath the surface. Two or three dozen schooners are now engaged in the work of gathering the sponges, each schooner carrying two small boats, manned by a crew of two. When the reef is reached the small boats put off, and while one sculls the other keeps an eye out for sponges. A simple contrivance enables the watchmen to see sponges on the reef twenty feet or more under the water. On the side of the small boat a long barrel sort of arrangement is built, the lower end of which is under water and closed up by a glass head. By placing his head in this barrel the watchman can see through the clear water to the bottom of the sea with remarkable distinctness. When a good sponge is detected it is brought up with an iron hook on a long pole.

An Extraordinary Reminiscence.

That was a most extraordinary reminiscence which the speaker (Judge O. W. Holmes) cited from a letter written by the late Sidney Bartlett: "Deacon Spooner died in 1818, age ninety-four. I saw him and talked with him. He talked with Elder Faunce, who talked with the Pilgrims, and it is said to have pointed out the rock." Only three lives, one of them but just passed away, between us and the men of the Mayflower!—Boston Advertiser.

The Excitement Not Over.

The rush on the druggists still continues and daily scores of people call for a bottle of Kemp's Balsam for the Throat and Lungs for the cure of Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis and Consumption. Kemp's Balsam, the standard family remedy, sold on a guarantee and never fails to give entire satisfaction. Price 50c and \$1. Trial size free.

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To the Editor—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease which I warrant to cure the worst cases. So strong is my faith in its virtue that I will send free a sample bottle and valuable treatise to any sufferer who will give me his P. O. and Express address. Respy. H. G. ROOT, M. C., 181 Pearl St., New York.

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