

AGRICULTURAL.

SCIENTIFIC.

DOMESTIC.

RECREATION.

YOUTH'S COLUMN.

THE HAZARD.

THE PEOPLE'S REMEDY.

TEMPERATURE OF PLANTS.—Most of our plants are injured by too much heat. For general collection, of house plants it is best to use the thermometer to be above seventy, and if they could be kept in a room where the thermometer does not usually range above thirty-five it would be better. In the night time fifty is high enough. Give a little fresh air every day, and all the sunlight attainable. Cleanliness is just as necessary to plants as to other bodies; therefore sweep them from dust, if possible. Sweeping carpets is enough to kill both plants and growers. A little moisture in the air is a most pleasant and healthy. We would not say that a green house or mushroom house would be a good place to live in, but we do say that a room that is kept a few plants in good health, other things being favorable, will keep a family in the same desired condition. The family can be made more comfortable, dusty, dry, overheated air of a room and live, because they are out in the air a good portion of the time, but those who are content with a room of living-rooms the greatest number of hours, are the most delicate, and the plants have to remain in too much heat, without a moment's relief, many of them die. Cleanliness, fresh air, moderate heat, and a moist atmosphere will secure healthy plants.

HOW TO CHOOSE A PLOW.—Plows frequently annoy those who use them in a most mysterious manner. They refuse to run evenly in the ground and refuse to keep to the land as they ought to. On examining them nothing seems to be wrong. Every properly shaped plow ought to have a slight concavity along the base of the land side, and a convexity on the sixteenth of an inch so that the implement will "suck" into the soil and run steadily. This concavity may be shown by holding a steel square to the bottom of the plow. If the concavity is not there it is not infrequently a no matter how high a reputation the maker of the plow has, it will not stay in the ground, and whenever the plowman till the soil is remedied. The handle of the base should also be slightly concave, to the same extent of one-eighth of an inch or more, and must be tight to the neck or bulging, under any circumstances. If these apparently trifling items are properly attended to at the time of selecting a plow, the farmer will be surprised how often seriously perplexed the plowman, and causes him to lose much time which may be saved.

REQUISITES OF A FAMILY ORCHARD.—M. B. Bateham writes in the Country Gentleman as follows: In stating what I conceive to be the requisites of a good family orchard, I am guided by the observation and experience with a family of eight or nine persons, and a goodly share of friendly visitors. Of course we are all vegetarians, and choose from choice as well as conviction, and as apples are more reliable than most other fruits, we need to calculate for a supply of these in the autumn, winter or from August to May; then, if there are plenty of grapes or peaches, there will be some surplus of apples to be disposed of.

A REMEDY FOR CHEAT AND COCKLE.—Some years ago my wheat was very much "turked" by cheat and cockle. As I had just as much faith in wheat turning to one as the other, I resolved to sow no more of the seed of either, and to look a severe trial of the wheat I sowed, and it was very much improved. I sowed only what would not pass through. The result was, scarcely a stalk of anything but wheat could be found in the harvest, and what few stalks appeared I presume had been in the manure. I treated my seed the same way the next year, and the following spring, in sowing grass seed over 50 acres, I found but one stalk of cockle; and in harvesting, not a handful of cheat, and no cockle was seen. The wheat was very much improved, and one field near the barn had been run on, tramped and eaten by the lambs and chickens very much.—Cor. Farmers' Friend.

RAISING CHICKENS.—In an article in the "Care of young chickens," the Practical Farmer says: It may be asked, what is the best feed for young chickens? There is some difference of opinion on this point. Breeders of fancy and exhibition stock are very careful and particular in feeding, using hard boiled eggs, cooked meat cut into small pieces, bread, rice, etc., but the average farmer will not need to go to so much trouble. As good feed as we want is sour, thick milk mixed with corn-meal and bran; the mixture should not be too wet when given to the chickens. Cured is very good food one day, and as soon as they are two weeks old a little good wheat at night will be found excellent. Some condiments, as Cayenne or black pepper, a little salt, etc., may be given once or twice a week, but only a little at a time. Only the best should be selected for mothers for the early broods. A nervous, flighty hen will not hover and nourish her chicks, and without this on her part, they will not grow and thrive with the best of care on the part of the owner.

PEAS FOR CATTLE.—A. W. Stokes, Hernandez, Miss., says: I have for years kept fatter cows and had more milk and butter, and for less money, than anybody I know of. First, I sow the best broad-cast, three pecks to a bushel per acre, in the month of May, harrowing them in after breaking the ground well; then, in September, I pull them up just as if it were the best of mowing. Pulling up is far preferable to mowing, as cattle seem to love the root better than the tops, and it is said to be more nutritious. No manure is necessary, as one acre sown in peas is worth six of fodder. The advantage of a thorough preparation of the soil to receive seed can hardly be too highly appreciated. The more finely pulverized the soil is, the better for the seed and the crop. Close contact between seed and soil exerts a wonderful influence upon germination. The germ starts into vigorous life, and both radical and plumule are more rapidly developed; the little rootlets take hold firmly in the plant soil, exuding and appropriating far more nourishment from mother earth than they can do if the soil is not imperfectly pulverized.

EXPLOSIONS IN MINES.—The late very disastrous accidents in France and Belgium have again directed the attention of the French Academy of Sciences toward all possible methods of discovering the causes of such calamities. The eminent geologist, M. de la Roche, has been particularly successful in the coal-dust with which the air of the mine is mixed, and believes such dust to be one of the great adjuncts of explosions. This same idea has been of late advanced in England, as mine explosions have apparently been more common in England than in France, when the mines were drier. The methods of prevention, if arising from the admixture of coal-dust with the air, would consist in blowing occasional jets of water away all such particles of carbonaceous matter.

THE APREHENSION THAT IVORY WOULD become one of the products of the past, as we have often heard our cutlery and billiard ball manufacturers, does not seem to be justified by the fact, with their growth, the following, from the British Mail, Messrs. Lewis & Peat, colonial brokers, has issued a very interesting report of the modern ivory trade, which, though showing great improvement since 1842, is a mere shadow of what it must have been in its prime. The total quantity imported into Great Britain in 1875 was 620 tons, the largest in any year between that time and 1842, when was only 297 tons the lowest being 1844, but 211 tons. The fact of there being an appreciable increase in last year's imports over 1874 of 70 tons is, says the report, "of the greatest interest, because in this article especially, much more than in any other known, there is no reason to apprehend any falling off in the demand. In one important article of manufacture—billiard balls—there is not any other substitute. The public sales are held four times in the year. Prices last year were, on the average, much lower than in any other year, and attributed to the general commercial stagnation. The prices of good teeth, which are the most valuable, ranged from \$275 to \$335 per set, "servals," \$120 to \$270. Walrus teeth, sound, weighing from 11 lbs. to 50 lbs., must have been 42 cents each, and five, 40 to 44 cents. Rhinoceros horns, of which 37 tons were imported in 1874, realized from 21 to 75 cents. The price of walrus teeth, which were reported last year could not be less than \$2,500,000. A larger portion came from the coast of Greenland, and from year, and from South America a little more, and from West Africa a little less.

Light as a Motor.—From the multitude that crowd the sidewalk of the west side of the Union square, many are attracted by a small machine in the hands of a man, who is exhibiting a motive power. In front of the instrument, which is in a front window, is a placard asserting that the machine is a motor, and the radiometer, the invention of Professor William Crookes, F. R. S., of London. The machine is a small globe, with a radiometer moves only when struck by rays of light, and is therefore no more than a perpetual motion than is a windmill. The globe is made of a thin, transparent, and repulsive power of light, and by means of a delicate scale can, it is said, be made to weigh a millionth part of a grain. The radiometer consists of four pith disks, black on one side, and white on the other, and are connected with a metal or jewel point in the center. This point spins in a glass cut at the top of a rod, which is high and thin, and is in contact, in what the maker says is a perfect vacuum. This vacuum is the interior of a glass globe, and is maintained by the use of a thermometrical tube, the four disks revolving in the bulb at the top. The light striking on the black side of the disks attracts them, and striking on the black side repels them, so that the four disks revolve like the sails of a windmill. In the strong light they revolve as such rapidly as to be undistinguishable; in reflected light their motion is slow, and in a very faint light they stop. The four disks revolving in the bulb at the top. The light striking on the black side of the disks attracts them, and striking on the black side repels them, so that the four disks revolve like the sails of a windmill. In the strong light they revolve as such rapidly as to be undistinguishable; in reflected light their motion is slow, and in a very faint light they stop. The four disks revolving in the bulb at the top. The light striking on the black side of the disks attracts them, and striking on the black side repels them, so that the four disks revolve like the sails of a windmill. In the strong light they revolve as such rapidly as to be undistinguishable; in reflected light their motion is slow, and in a very faint light they stop.

Dandelion Greens.—When the leaves of young dandelions are three or four inches long, cut up the leaves, and wash them well in water. Then put them in a kettle, with about an equal quantity of water, and boil for an hour or more. When tender, let them drain in a colander ten minutes, and serve warm. If a seasoning is desired, stew one-fourth the quantity of raisins in as little water as possible, chop up the cooked greens and mix with the stewed rhubarb intimately.

MILLET BREAD.—Boil one part millet in two parts water until a half a corn-meal, just as for corn-balls in the recipe given above. These make a more delicate article than the wheat, and the yellow corn-meal. The millet is an imported article, usually found in German groceries, and so far as I know, not raised in this country. It is a different article from that raised for the birds.

DIET.—Butter is much cheaper than pork, and far healthier diet for a family, especially in spring and summer. Delicate and sedentary people should refrain pork at any price, whether it be butter, milk, and good corn-meal, and good flour, and sound vegetables and fruit for dinner, there is little else to be desired in the way of food, and nourishing diet. Try it, dyspeptics.

ON THE LIGHT ABSORBED BY THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SUN.—Professor Strömgren, of the University of Lund, has made a series of experiments for the purpose of determining the amount of light received from portions of the sun's surface at varying distances from the center of the disk. He uses the results as follows: The light of the various parts of the sun's disk is measured by the modification of the Bunsen photometer here employed. The light at the edge of the disk is about four tenths of that at the center. The variations in brightness are nearly equal to the sun's radius and opacity such that only 28 per cent of the light is transmitted. There appears to be a slightly different distribution of the light along the polar, from that along the equatorial diameter. If the atmosphere were removed, the brightness of the sun's disk would be uniform, and 3.85 times that of the center of the disk at present, while the total amount of light would be increased 4.65 times.

UNDERGROUND FORESTS IN THE THAMES VALLEY.—An interesting geological discovery, as we learn from Nature, was recently made during the excavation of a new tidal basin at the Surrey Commercial Docks, London. On penetrating some six feet below the surface, the workmen everywhere came across a subterranean forest-bed, consisting of peat with trunks of trees, for the most part still standing erect. All are of species inhabiting Britain: the oak, alder, and willow are apparently most abundant. The trees are not mineralized, but they are thoroughly saturated with water. In the peat are found bones of the great fossil ox, and the bones of a deer. It is not a doubt is entertained that the bed thus exposed is a continuation of the old forest bed which has been in contact with light at various localities on both sides of the Thames. In each case the forest bed is found buried beneath the peat, and the peat is in the better position below the tidal level since the forest flourished.

EGG SANDWICHES.—Boil fresh eggs five minutes; put them in cold water, and when quite cold, peel them, and cut them into slices. Lay a few slices of the eggs cut the remainder in four slices. Lay them between bread and butter.

TO KEEP A TIN TEA-KETTLE BRIGHT, rub it every day with newspaper. It will keep very bright, without any washing. To keep copper or tin tanks in their original brightness, rub every day with dry newspaper.

A GOOD COOK is not the one who uses the most and richest ingredients, but the one who studies economy, and is able to concoct a delicious meal from scanty materials.

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