

A Land of Samples.

The first impression of the Bermuda Islands to one expecting a semitropical appearance is disappointing on account of the cedar. This is the prevailing tree; indeed, all the islands are covered with this scraggy foliage. The trees for the most part are small, and suggest to us a Northern latitude and a poor soil. It is true that they are Southern cedars, which originally drifted over from Florida, and some people might try to call them cypress, and give them a botanical juniper flavor; but to us they are Northern, and in such contrast to the cerulean waters and soft blue skies and genial atmosphere that we are not easily reconciled to them. Yet they are the only thing that seems to be native to the land. Every other tree and shrub has an exotic appearance—even the mangoes, which grow in the salt marshes, putting down their branches and dropping their long seeds, loaded at one end, into the slime, and creating an impenetrable thicket, and finally land. It is, indeed, called the continent maker. Palms grow here of several sorts—sago, palmetto, cabbage and date—but they are little more than specimens. The bananae of small and fairly good variety flourish, but not in quantities sufficient to supply the wants of the islands. The oranges and lemons have succumbed to the scale, and the few other semitropical fruits are of no consequence. The islands are at times brilliant with various flowers, but not in the vigor or profusion of Southern California. Very fine, indeed, are the great fields of lilies in bloom (the export of the bulbs is one of the industries of the islands), and occasionally great fields of scarlet amaryllis excite the imagination like a compact regiment of red coats. Brilliant also are the tall hedges of scarlet hibiscus, and everywhere the oleander grows wild in profusion. Much more might be made out of the islands in the way of gardens and small fruits if there were more good farmers and horticulturists and more enterprise; but Bermuda is a sort of child of the sea, and looks beyond the horizon for help. Upon many things there is a sort of blight, at least periodic, and it has even fallen upon the pungent onion and the potato, so that the anxiety of a short crop in these great staples is added to the worry about the American tariff.

—Harper's Magazine.



REMEDY FOR ONION MAGGOT.

Half a pint of kerosene is well mixed with a pint of some dry material, preferably wood ashes, but sand, sawdust, or even dry soil will do fairly well, and after the plants are well up and the trouble is at hand a sprinkling of this mixture along the rows about twice a week during the time the fly does its work will be found a sure preventive. —Scientific American.

FOOD THAT DRIES THE MILK.

A good cow will not be hurt in her milking by any of the ordinary foods in use, if given in moderation. But there are cows that will rather turn their food into fat than into milk, and such cows may be dried by overfeeding such strong food as cornmeal or other grain. Bran will not be apt to dry a cow under any circumstances, and thus it is a safer food than meal for such cows as are too apt to fatten when well fed. Every owner of cows should carefully test each one to discover her character in this direction, for it is very true that a large proportion of cows do not pay for their feeding, and of course such cows are not profitable. More cows of this inferior kind for milk and butter will be found among the shorthorns and other breeds commonly fed for beef, than among the special dairy breeds, as the Ayrshire, the Jersey and the Holstein. —New York Times.

CUTTING OATS.

Oats should be cut for fodder at about the same stage of growth that other grasses are cut, which is when in bloom or very soon after, writes a correspondent. If cut too early the fodder will be hard to cure, and if cut after the kernels have attained much size the fodder will be poorer, beside being liable to much injury from rats and mice in the mow in winter. This rule holds good for time of cutting oats, barley, millet and wheat for fodder. Rye should be cut before it blooms, as it becomes tough and unpalatable very rapidly after it reaches the blooming stage. When the weather is favorable I have found it well to let these coarse, heavy fodders lie a day or so to wilt after cutting before putting in the tedder. It hardly pays to handle green stuff of this kind till part of the water has had time to dry out. Never cut when the dew is on. —New England Farmer.

MAKING AN ASPARAGUS BED.

Of all the crops for the market garden, especially if conveniently situated to a large city, asparagus is one of the most satisfactory, because it is easy to cultivate, easy to gather and easy to sell. The land should be heavily manured and worked up to a depth of at least ten inches. Trenches are then opened up to a depth of nine inches with a plow. The plants should be set about three feet apart in these trenches, and enough earth packed about the roots to cover them well, and the harrow will complete the job, throwing in a little additional earth upon them as it is drawn lengthwise over the rows. This work may be done in the fall or spring. At the end of the season the trenches will be partially covered in and during the next year may be cultivated level, leaving the roots eight or nine inches below the surface of the ground. Every spring the whole surface should receive thorough cultivation with the plow and harrow, and be well manured. Mr. Garfield, of Michigan, who has had eminent success in growing asparagus, states that he applies stable manure and refuse salt alternate years, the former at the rate of thirty-two tons per acre. —Canadian Horticulturist.

PREVENTION OF POTATO DISEASES.

Experiments in the prevention of potato disease were made at the Albert Farm, Glasnevin, and at Garryhill, County Carlow, Ireland, in 1892. According to the recently published report of the Agricultural Department, the blight, a variety extremely liable to disease, was selected, and the experiments were made with a view to ascertain whether the mycelium of the fungus reached the tubers through the tissues of the plant or by means of the spores falling upon the earth and then washed down to the surface of the tubers in the soil. The ground was covered early in June beneath the plants with cotton wool, carefully placed around the stems, with the object of filtering out the spores that might fall upon the ground. The disease appeared in July and the leaves of the plants were badly affected. When the potatoes were lifted in October it was found that there were no diseased tubers beneath the cotton wool, but a considerable amount of disease in the unprotected ground. Hence, it is provisionally inferred by those in charge of the experiments that disease spores reach the tubers by passing through the soil, but further experiments are necessary before stating definite conclusions. If this point be established, the advantage of high mounding, as advocated by Mr. Jensen, in providing a layer of earth of sufficient thickness to filter the rain water as it descends through the earth, and thereby arrest the spores before they could reach the tubers, will receive further proof. The potato crops in County Dublin are generally more free from disease than those grown in other parts of Ireland. This comparative immunity is attributed to the earlier planting of the crop, keeping the land free from weeds, and the general system of changing the seed from which the crop is grown year by year.

RAISING CHICKENS IN SUMMER.

Does it pay to hatch chicks after the weather turns warm and the prices go down? This can only be answered by looking over the prices offered during previous years and estimating the probable cost and loss. One of the obstacles in winter is that there is

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

DO YOUR OWN MARKETING.

There is far more satisfaction in a woman going to market herself than by doing this part of the household duties by proxy. It is genuine satisfaction to pick out the choicest and best for home consumption, and besides that in seeing so much, many new dishes are suggested that would not be thought of if the buying were done by telephone or through the medium of a third person. —St. Louis Star-Sayings.

MATS FOR THE TABLE.

It is too bad to have one's polished tables and stands covered with little rings where a vase has stood and the water has overflowed. There is no need of this, either. Everybody should have on hand an abundant supply of these mats. They need not be obtrusive in design. In fact, no one wants any more the elaborate confection that were once wont to call attention to their crocheted splendors in our drawingrooms. Make the latter-day vase mats of small rounds of olive green felt, preferably not ornamented at all except for a "pinked" border. No one will notice them, but they will keep your rosewood and mahogany from harm. —Detroit Free Press.

PAINTERS' PICKLE.

Painters' pickle is used for removing old paint. It is useless to waste time and money applying good enamel paint over old paint, for it quickly cracks and grows shabby. Mix one pound and a half of stone potash, one pound and a half of two pounds of soft soap, and half a pound of washing soda together, and stir into about a gallon of water. The pickle should then be boiled till the potash is melted. Apply this with a brush, then let it stand for several hours. The work must afterwards be washed thoroughly with strong, hot soda water, using no soap. This pickle may be applied equally well hot or cold. Great care must be taken in using the pickle, as it discolors the finger nails and takes the color out of anything it touches. —New York World.

SPOTTING A BAD EGG.

The most reliable method, as well as the easiest for determining the degree of freshness of an egg, is to hold it to the ear and shake it. The egg shell is perforated by small pores, which can only be seen by the aid of a microscope. Through these pores, day by day, the albumen inside the egg evaporates, and its place is taken by air. When the egg is full a fluid passes constantly toward the pores, and is the principal agent of corruption, the corruption being manifested more rapidly in warm than in cold weather. An egg absolutely fresh is entirely full, but stale eggs have all an empty space in proportion to their age, caused by the loss of albumen by evaporation. Thus, if any sound can be heard when the egg is shaken, it is safe to throw it aside as unfit for use. —New York Sun.

RECIPES.

Lemon Custard—Three well beaten eggs, three cups of milk, three-fourths of a cup of sugar and a tablespoonful of lemon extract. Bake in custard bowl or tin milk pan.

Pudding Sauce—Beat a teaspoonful of cornstarch with a half cup of milk until thoroughly mixed. Stir into a pint of boiling milk, sweeten and flavor with vanilla or any extract you chance to have.

Cream Pie—One-half pound of butter, four eggs, sugar, salt and nutmeg to your taste and two tablespoonfuls of arrow-root. Wet with cold water or milk and pour on it a quart of boiling milk. Stir all together. Bake your pies in a deep dish.

Cold Mutton with Tomato Sauce—Cold boiled leg of mutton, if not too much boiled, is very good cut in rather thick slices, sprinkled with pepper and salt and broiled; to be served very hot with a thick sauce, flavored strongly with fresh tomatoes or tomato sauce.

Tomato Soup—Boil a small piece of meat with cabbage, parsley, celery, pepper and salt, onions and allspice. When they are well boiled add a good quantity of tomatoes and a dessert-spoonful of butter rolled in flour. Strain all through a colander and serve while hot with toasted bread. An excellent tomato soup.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

One rooster to every ten hens is about right.

A horse that is a small eater does not generally amount to much.

Duck eggs, when hatching, require less moisture than do the eggs of hens.

The value of a breed is based upon the raising power of its representatives.

One great advantage of artificial hatching is the freedom of vermin on chicks.

Hard-shelled eggs produce the most vigorous chicks. Those from soft shells are apt to be weakly.

If strong chicks are desired, see to it that the eggs are from healthy stock that has not been overfed.

Who can name a farm crop that has been less affected by the constant downward tendency in prices than the potato?

Resolve now, if you have not before, to spray your fruit trees next season. Spraying is the salvation of the fruit grower.

Gals are quickly healed by applying tannin, keeping saddle on collar away from the gall, meantime by the use of pads.

The pig is now one of the most valuable allies of the dairyman, and will probably remain so for an indefinite time to come.

Horses whose shoulders and backs are often washed in strong brine are seldom troubled with sores when plowing and plauting.

There is more profit in raising geese than chickens, and it is surprising that progressive farmers do not go in for them more.

Indications go to show that many farmers are going to raise onions this year who have never before grown them to any extent.

Breeders will increase their chances of obtaining early speed by breeding their mares to stallions who have shown early speed themselves and have produced early speed.

A flock of sheep at this season will keep down the weeds and grass on a small plot, and will also distribute their droppings evenly over the field. Sheep are considered renovators of worn-out land.

Cols are generally felt too much hay and not enough other things. They should be given more bran, oats, roots, oil cake, linseed meal, ensilage, clover hay and pasture in a field of green wheat or rye.

No manure is necessary around young trees the first year. They will have more and better roots the second year, and will then make faster growth, while manure that is applied the first year will lessen the inclination to increase the root capacity.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN

Straps for clippers come in satin. Some of the new French veils are silk plated.

Antelope skin is the latest novelty or tailor-made waistcoats.

Blue in various shades will be a fashionable summer color.

Checked silk makes the blouse of the moment very frequently.

A number of women in Clay City, Ind., have organized a brass band.

Pleasanton, Kan., has elected as Mayor a Mrs. Austen, who weighs 240 pounds.

The art of dressmaking, as distinct from tailoring, originated in the present century.

In 1516 Francis I. gave to his Queen the equivalent of \$10,000 in our money to buy a hat.

The latest occupation suggested for the fair sex in England is that of "girl auctioneers."

Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Marion Harland do not want to vote.

Mlle. Gorwitz, a young Russian lady, was received as Doctor in Medicine by the Faculty of Paris in April.

Chateaux hung with all sorts of jingling trinkets, such as miniature flasks, salt bottles, seals and pencils, are to be worn again.

Sashes of moire or satin are much worn. They are folded about the waist in front to form a narrow belt and tied in an enormous bow at the back.

There is a return, if desired, to white stockings with white slippers, for white gowns, though black hose and footgear is still worn under the same conditions.

The folded soft velvet stock collars women have all been delighted to put about their day dresses are now transferred to fashionably and becomingly décollete gowns.

Leather colors are the newest things in stockings. Cotton as well as thread and silk goods are now made in the russet, tan and wood-browns to match the summer shoes.

Suits of black serge are seen with waistcoats of white cloth, satin or moire, and those of black moire or satin often accompany dresses of blue whipcord or brown hopsacking.

Vines, sprays, dots, flowers, stripes and geometrical figures are the best-selling designs in white and tinted lawn. The natural linen shade, with neat colored designs, are also in great demand.

Philadelphia has an "artiste in dimples." She produces artificial dimples by a searifying process, which is very painful, but is submitted to by a great many young women anxious to appear piquant.

A lace belt, to which a lace frounce is sewed, and an adjustable Bertha-like caps are among the minor elegancies of the season. These may be worn with any dress and will add to its appearance.

Women who value jewelry from an artistic standpoint rather than according to its intrinsic worth are wearing antique looking necklaces of Chinese silver set with coral, turquoise and garnet cabochons in pendants.

The twin Mercury wings, which are arranged exactly like those on the classical cap of the messenger of the gods, give a piquant expression to the new hats and add to the low, broad effect which is sought for this season in bonnets and hats.

The new nangle is made of a narrow band of gold, set across the top with five emeralds framed in diamonds. Other designs show the narrow band ornamented with a single four-leaf clover in emeralds, the stem twisted about the gold band.

Panama straw is the new idea for hats. It is flat and shiny, blocked, not sewed, row upon row, and will be worn of various shades, toning from white to deep coffee color. The boat shape is certainly the best, with the brim turning slightly up at the side.

There seems to be at present a perfect craze for lace. The dainty afternoon tea cloths, table centers and doilies of finest linen are edged with deep borders of fine Battenberg lace, and they are the most beautiful of all the many decorative things of this kind.

Bridesmaids' dresses of sheer plain muslin, made over silk and trimmed with lace insertion put in perpendicularly, are deep frillings of lace, are pretty for weddings. With these are worn large girlish straw hats. Another fancy is to have the bridesmaids wear different colors.

A new material which is destined to become popular in place of brown holland and linen is a mixture of silk and linen which has a beautiful luster, and comes in all the bright colors. It will be made up into dainty afternoon gowns and freely trimmed with satin, velvet, lace and embroidered muslin.

The red vests in vogue are made of fine cloth in various shades, from scarlet geranium to a rich diaphan tint. The military effect, when the vest is buttoned up to the high collar at the throat, is perhaps the most ultra-fashionable, but again it is seen open at the neck to display a four-in-hand tie.

Gay girls and tailor-made women have the shirt cravat. The last cravat is a colored English percale in rose, pink, blue, custard or lilac with white dots, rings or disks, link-hole cuffs and collar bands; with them a standing or turn-down collar of white linen is worn. The shirts are made by a regular shirtmaker and so are the collars.

It is becoming quite fashionable for ladies to occupy important congregational pulpits in London on Sunday. Twice lately a sister of the late Mr. Spurgeon has preached to crowded congregations at the handsome church in Hampstead road in connection with the anniversary service. She is very impressive in her manner, and is not without personal resemblance to her late eminent brother, from whom, however, she differs, among other things, on the question of baptism.

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The "Counter-glow."

The "Gegenschein," or "Counter-glow," is a very faint, hazy luminosity, which always keeps opposite to the sun in the sky—a nearly round spot varying from ten degrees to twenty degrees in diameter, usually a little brighter at the middle, though one observer has reported seeing it with a darkish center. It is so faint that when it happens to fall near the Milky Way, or even near to any bright star, it is quite drowned out, and, of course, therefore, can be observed at all only at stations where the sky is perfectly dark, and not vitiated by the illumination of gas or electric lights. It seems to have been first noticed by Brorsen, in Germany, just forty years ago, and since then has been more or less studied by a number of observers, who, however, have not fully succeeded in solving the mystery. It is quite certain that it is in some way connected with the zodiacal light; in fact, it is only a brighter and wider portion of the faintly luminous ring which bears that name. At present a number of observers are watching it carefully in this country, as well as in Europe and South America, in hopes to determine its distance from the earth. It ought to show a notable parallax if it is really a compact cloud of any sort and nearer than the moon. Barnard, of the Lick Observatory, has recently published his last year's observations, and they rather confirm the hypothesis that it is due to the reflection of sunlight from a multitude of small meteoric bodies, which are mostly far beyond the moon, and brighten up by one as they come opposite the sun, just as the moon does when it is full; for, as everyone knows, the moon exactly at the full is much brighter than the day before or after the full. If this theory is correct each observer sees his own "Gegenschein," as he does his own rainbow, and parallax is out of the question. —New York Independent.

The Shah of Persia's Great Pearl.

They say the Shah of Persia possesses a pearl which was originally sold to the then ruler by Tavernier, a great traveler, for \$500,000. It is now said to be worth \$650,000. The Imam of Muscat has a pearl weighing 12½ carats, worth about \$165,000. Years ago I remember seeing a beautiful pink pearl set as a rosebud, with leaves in green and gold enamel, says an English writer. It was given, I think, by some royal personage to the man who wore it as a scarf; but pink pearls are less valuable than white or black ones, the latter being, I presume, sought after because of their rarity, like black swans. Queen Victoria, however, has a very fine necklace of pink pearls, worth many thousands of pounds; while the Empresses of Russia and Austria carry off the palm as possessors of black pearls; and for white pearls, perhaps, it would be hard to match the necklaces of two of the Baronesses de Rothschild, one of which is valued at over \$200,000. —New York Journal.

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