

# AGRICULTURAL.

**When to Mulch Strawberry Beds.**  
Mulch the strawberry beds as soon as the ground is frozen, so as to prevent alternate freezing and thawing of the ground and the throwing up of the plants.

**Do Not Use Unwholesome Dairy Food**  
According to the Alabama station it does not pay to use unwholesome food, and especially is this so in the dairy where the feed supply should be carefully and frequently investigated and any kinds of decayed feed excluded from the dairy cow's bill of fare. Ill-smelling, fermenting silage must not be permitted in the stalls at time of milking, as the milk is liable to absorb the odor, and the bacteria in the silage are liable to infect the milk. Bitter weeds and wild onions must be removed from the pastures if possible, since they are liable to transmit a foreign taste or odor.

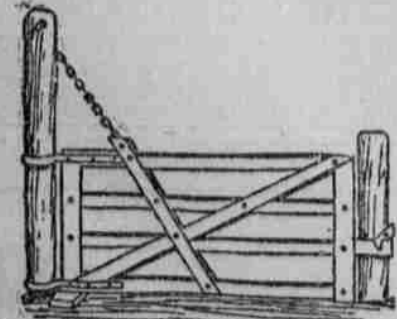
**Insects in Greenhouses.**  
Bisulphide of carbon has been used in greenhouses and other enclosures for the destruction of insects, but it must be applied with care, as the material is both inflammable and explosive when the fumes are mixed with air. About one pound in 1000 cubic feet of air space will be sufficient, but the house must be made very tight and the fumes should not be left too long, as there would be danger of injuring the plants. Hydrocyanic acid gas would be just as effective and more easily applied. It is a very poisonous gas and must be handled with great care.

**The Nest.**  
Make the nest large enough to avoid crowding the hen, which will cause her discomfort and thus drive her to shift her position more often than is good for the eggs. The nest should be deep enough to hold the hen in a regular degree on the under side of the eggs; there should also be plenty of width all around so that outside influences of changeable weather may not have a bad effect upon the eggs. The hen should be given a fair chance to do her portion of the work. When these matters receive attention much trouble and disappointment will be averted and better results obtained from the eggs.—The Feather.

**Root Crops and Improved Breeds.**  
The countries that lead in quality of live stock use roots as food for the animals. England, which gave us our best breeds, would never have done so but for her large crops of turnips. The English market reports give prices for beets, mangels and turnips as regularly as do our journals for grain and hay. In some sections of this country the root crop is becoming an important one, but we rely mostly on corn, which produces not only largely of grain, but also of fodder; hence it is cheaper to grow corn than roots, but better results would be obtained if roots were added to the corn, hay and fodder. Labor-saving implements now cheapen the cost of producing roots compared with former years, and with the use of roots the feed is more varied, which promotes more rapid growth of young stock and greater yields from producers.

**The Early Lambs.**  
Some of the earliest lambs come in January, but February and March are the months when the large majority of lambs are expected. They are cold months, and young lambs are very tender little things. The ewes should now be given some attention, as it is necessary that each lamb have an abundance of milk. If fed too liberally on grain the ewes may become too fat and many of them be subject to milk fever. A pint of oats per day for each ewe, with an abundance of clover hay, using silage turnips as a change, will keep the ewes in good condition. When the lambs come they must be in warm quarters. If exposed in the fields, as sometimes happens, some of the lambs will perish, and many will become stunted in growth. One of the main points in producing early lambs is to secure rapid growth from the start and get them into market as soon as possible.

**A Self-Closing Gate.**  
Take any ordinary gate and attach hinges as shown (to be made from old wagon or buggy tire), just so the same will work easily on the post. Then attach trace chain at brace and also to post on reverse side from gate. By



opening the gate the chain is wound around the post, raising the gate about eight inches. It will close by its own weight. The hinges are cheaply and easily made and attached, using only two small bolts on each. If people will adopt this hinge and method of swinging a gate they will have no further trouble by having gates left open. I have used three now for four years, and have had no trouble. Before it was nearly impossible for me to keep them closed. The gate is suspended by the chain, and the brace is for the purpose of letting the weight come on all four slats and should be about eighteen inches from the rear of the gate.—Farm and Ranch.

**Feed For Growth.**  
We feed growing pigs this season a mixed food, the same as we do at any time of the year, oats, whole oats, shorts or oat flour, wheat shorts, bean and corn. We do not feed much corn. I consider new corn this season of the year as splendid feed. But our staff gets too fat if we feed heavily of corn. Spring pigs, weighing from 175 to 225 pounds, can utilize a good deal of corn, however, if they have plenty

of range for exercise. We have no especial feed for brood sows at this season. We feed a little corn. Have plenty of water and a range of pasture where they get a good many acorns.  
I consider good pastures very essential. There is no pasture in this section the equal of red clover after July 1 and until the weather gets cool. In the spring and fall, blue grass, Timothy is, of course, good. But I think the most rapid and cheapest growth can be put on during the hot weather of July, August and September on clover, with a moderate grain ration. Sugar cane and pumpkins are good mixers in their season. When the weather gets cold we feed all slop food warm. We never cook food, but keep hot water to mix feed with, and let it set from one feed to another. I have nothing against the cooking process, but the other way takes less work, with equally good results. Have tried both.—Iowa Breeder.

**The Pig on the Small Farm.**  
Since the advent of hog cholera it is really astonishing to find the great number of farmers that do not keep a single hog upon their farms, and at the same time they are throwing away enough milk and refuse from a table to keep a good sow or two, and besides raising their own meat, have a nice little bunch to sell each year. The idea seems to prevail among a great many that unless you own or are operating a large farm, there is no place for the hog. This is a very mistaken idea. There can be just as much made in proportion with hogs upon a small farm as on a large one.

Few are the farms (it matters not the size) that will not support a brood sow or two and do it well, with scarcely any other feed than the milk, parings and refuse from the table and a liberal supply of grass. Sows kept in this manner will, as a rule, have more pigs, and they will also be healthier and stronger. After the sows have their pigs, push them along and do not let them become stunted, because a pig stunted when it is little will never make the hog it would have made had it been kept continually growing. After the pigs will weigh from sixty to 100 pounds, if they are nice, growly, attractive fellows, there is always a market for them. There is scarcely a neighborhood where you will not find men that always on the lookout for shoats of this kind, to follow cattle or feed out, and this is the small farmer's opportunity to dispose of them at a good profit, too.—Ohio Farmer.

**Quarters For Ducks.**  
Where the chances permit it is a question if ducks are not more profitable to keep as layers than hens. Ducks' eggs are always higher than hens' eggs, seldom dropping much, if any, below twenty or twenty-five cents a dozen. There is always an advantage in feeding. Ducks can be fed a coarser grade of food than hens, and the growth of a young duck is something phenomenal; it grows with amazing rapidity for a dozen weeks or so, when it should be marketed, if not to be kept as laying stock.  
Ducks, however, cannot very well be kept in the poultry house, nor in the barn or other buildings, since they are never tidy housekeepers. Nevertheless, they need a comfortable place—a place by themselves—for then they will lay a good profit and without inconvenience to the owner. A space even only a few feet high will suffice, which can often be provided under a barn, workshop or other building as suggested in the accompanying picture, and such quarters can easily be cleaned out with a hoe or rake, and a new litter thrown in. This low pen will be warm in winter, and so conduce to early laying, while, on the other hand, it will prove a very cool spot during the heat of summer, being thus conducive to continuous laying.—Fred O. Sibley, in Ohio Farmer.

**Ropiness in Milk.**  
The slimy, viscid condition of milk has been a source of perplexity and annoyance to all dairymen and milk dealers at one time or another. It is quite commonly supposed to be always due to a diseased state of the udder, known as "garget," but we are told in the latest Farmers' Bulletin that this is a "mistaken belief." There is "ropy milk" that is due to zargat and may always be known by its yielding on standing a viscid or even bloody sediment. But what the milkman knows as "ropy milk" is not that. This bulletin tells us that this kind of ropy milk contains bacteria known to scientists as Bacillus lactis viscosus. They live naturally in water, and preventive measures are most important. Some are these: Wash and scald the milk utensils after use.  
Merely rinsing them will not do. Bacteria may be introduced by that very act. Keep the cows' udders clean. The floors of all rooms where ropy milk is kept should be disinfected with a mixture of five parts of crude sulphuric acid to ninety-five parts of water. All milk utensils should be scalded most thoroughly daily. Never let cold water come in contact with utensils unless they are scalded before using for milk again. Exercise the greatest care to prevent even a drop of water from the cooling tank getting into the milk. That occurrence is probably the most common cause of trouble from ropy milk. If water must be scattered about, the cans standing in ice water should be covered. Utensils after washing and scalding should stand upside down to prevent the accumulation of dust on the inside.—New York Tribune.

A Philadelphia firm has calculated that there still remain unmined 5,074,775,000 tons of coal in the anthracite regions.



**WONDERFUL PLASTIC SURGERY.**  
Complicated Operations Performed With the Use of Paraffin.  
A Viennese surgeon, M. Gersuny, has found that in a great number of plastic or autoplasmic operations excellent results may be obtained by the use of paraffin, termed medicinal vasaline, writes Dr. R. Romo in La Rome, Paris (the translation from which we quote being given by public opinion).  
To raise a nose deformed from birth or lost in the battles of life, or simply broken by a blow of the fist, is a delicate and complicated operation under the present procedure. It is necessary to make, first, an appropriate nasal skeleton; then this skeleton, once established, with a thin piece of bone tissue cut from the thickness of the frontal bone, the question is to cover it with skin. When the nose has thus, with great difficulty, been re-established, it remains in place, and the final result leaves much to be desired from a plastic point of view at least.  
M. Gersuny has changed all this. Under the skin of the broken nose which needs to be raised, one simply injects with a Pravaz syringe two or three cubic centimeters of vaseline-paraffin, first liquefied by heat, the injected mass raising the skin of the nose. As the paraffin becomes solid at thirty-seven degrees—that is to say the temperature of the body—it has only to be fashioned during the time it is cooling under the skin to give to the nose any desired form. Noses which are made in this way are absolutely perfect.  
But what becomes of the vaseline-paraffin injected under the skin? Experiments made on animals show that it is not reabsorbed and that it remains in place. And not only is it not reabsorbed but it produces in the neighborhood tissues an excellent reactive effect. There is formed a web of connective tissues which unites and traverses all the parts of the injected vaseline. When at the end of some time the animal has been killed, at the place where the injection was made a hard body similar to cartilage is found, a sort of connective web of which the links are filled with the paraffin.  
The formation of these particular tissues allows us to suppose that the results obtained by the Gersuny method are durable, perhaps conclusive. Among the operations made in this way some were made two years ago, and the corrected deformity has not reappeared.

**Why the Boer Was Set Free.**  
In the fight at Lindley the Dublin Hunt section of the Imperial Yeomanry suffered heavily. Trooper William Holmes was found on the battle field severely injured. But for the kindness of a Boer who sat by him all night and conveyed him in a cart next morning to Lindley, he would probably have died. As it was, his condition was serious, and a leg had to be cut off. In the course of time this very Boer was captured and transported beyond the seas. From his new quarters he wrote to the trooper in the hope that he might get him sent back to the Cape on parole. The letter reached the invalid's home in Dublin before he died, but it was opened by his father, Lord Justice Holmes, who at once forwarded it to Earl (then Lord) Roberts. The commander-in-chief answered by telegraph that the Boer had been released and was on his way home. It is such grateful incidents as these that tone down to some extent the horrors of war.

**Constantinople Beggars' Feastday.**  
One day in the year Constantinople is free from the beggar nuisance—on November 25. This is the festival of St. John the Almsgiver, the patron saint of the mendicant profession. No beggar of the Greek faith is on his or her beat that day. In the forenoon all, or nearly all, orthodox mendicants attend a special service in the Church of St. Constantine, at which an Archbishop officiated. It was arranged by their corporation, for they are organized into a guild like any other trade. The church, spacious as it is, was none too large for the numerous congregation of caddies, many of whom in their holiday garb looked like respectable citizens. The rest of the day was spent in festivities, which were apt to extend so far into the night that many of the travelers were unable to attend to business on the morrow.—The Constantinople Epitimer.

**Sir Walter Raleigh's Watch.**  
Among the bequests of the late Dr. Edmund Croker, of Lisabrinna House, Tallow, County Waterford, the probate of whose will has just been published, says the Westminster Gazette, is a gold watch which Sir Walter Raleigh gave to the infant son of Richard Croker, the direct ancestor of Dr. Croker, in 1589. Raleigh, who at the time owned vast estates in Waterford and Cork, including Lisabrinna, gave Richard Croker a long lease of Lisabrinna and was sponsor to his infant son, who was named Walter and to whom the watch, which has ever since been in the Croker family, was given. Until a few years ago the watch kept excellent time, although the case was worn to the thickness of silver paper.  
**Life Insured For a Million Dollars.**  
Mrs. Dunsun, mother of the Premier of British Columbia, has recently secured two life policies of \$500,000 each, making an aggregate risk of \$1,000,000. The insurance agent who placed them claims under the provincial law a commission of five per cent, which would amount to \$50,000. This is resisted, so that Mrs. Dunsun will not only a remarkably heavy life insurance, but a lawsuit as well.—Toronto (Ont.) Mail and Empire.

**Britain's Fleet in Many Colors.**  
When the English Channel Squadron starts for its next cruise every ship will be painted a different color. The British Admiralty is anxious to discover the tint giving the greatest possible invisibility. The present black hulls and white upper works are very conspicuous. Sky blue, khaki and black have already been experimented on, and black has been a dead failure except at night.

**Character Revealed by the National Museum's Collection of Curiosities—The Headman's Blade—To Fit the "Talakong's" Curve a Scabbard is Designed.**  
Filipino ingenuity and character are revealed at the National Museum at Washington in a new collection of hunting and fishing implements, hand-carved, musical instruments and weapons of warfare.  
The natives of the Philippine group have developed to a very high degree the use of rattan, bamboo, vegetable fibre and palm leaves in the manufacture of dozens of miscellaneous articles. Rattan is plaited and woven into hats, arrow quivers, scabbards for swords and knives, and umbrellas. Bamboo is fashioned into telescope fishing rods, water and wine bottles, covers for the swords of executioners and blowpipes. Palmleaves are shaped into a score of designs—into dippers, water-proof hats, torches and other articles. The native has apparently found in the vegetable growths of his dwelling place material to supply all his demands except the need for iron.  
Possibly the most prominent feature of the collection is a group of half a dozen "talakongs" or headman's axes. They are huge knives, three feet long or more, curved like a scimitar reversed. In order the better to strike the unfortunate victim's neck this curve is irregular—wide at the two ends and acute in the middle. It is impossible, of course, to slide such an "eccentric" curve into a scabbard, but the Philippine headmen have overcome that difficulty easily. Two pieces of bamboo, shaped like the scabbard and flat on the side nearest the blade, have been joined together along one edge with a fiber which is a little elastic. Separating these two slabs of wood the workman can slip his blade into it from one side and from the end. The fiber at the outside joint holds the bamboo closely to the knife, open only at one end.  
Among the army officers this need for a knife fitted to a man's neck has not been allowed to interfere with a sense of design. Their swords, or "campalongs," are regular, graceful arcs of a circle. One such sword, apparently made from a thick sawbrought to the islands by a trading ship, is chased and inlaid with silver and has a mahogany handle. The workman who engraved the blade evidently worked long to carve the handle into a shape singularly like that of the swords used among the Saracen tribes. At the curve in the hilt Spanish coins have been sunk into flush with the surface. The handle is decorated with a fringe of hair dyed red or maroon.  
Another knife is little and curved back toward the wrist when held in the closed fist. This is intended for a swift blow at the stomach, and then, when the enemy has doubled over, to complete the attack with a stab in the back. Many of the knives are decorated with horn or silver handles, and some terminate in an ivory tuft. Nearly all of these short knives are curved into the form of a kris, and look like highly ornamented bread knives.  
An umbrella in the collection is a work of art, but it is suspected of Chinese origin. Palm leaves have been cut and trimmed until they fitted together for an outer covering, as smooth and firm as heavy paper. This was then applied to a frame of split bamboo in the fashion of the ordinary Chinese or Japanese parasol. Inside the frame has been decorated with rattan split into slender strands and woven about the umbrella ribs. The whole was then given a top of deep red and the outside varnished to make it impervious to water. Everything used in the construction of the umbrella is vegetable, even the fastenings at the ends of the ribs and the little rivets used in the frame.  
The Filipino blowpipe will disappoint those whose ideas of such weapons have been obtained from the geographies of fifteen years ago or more. It is not ten feet long or two inches in diameter. On the contrary, it is a most inoffensive instrument, about three-quarters of an inch thick and only a yard long. It is merely an enlarged party blower, of the sort possessed by the American boy. The material used in its manufacture is a section of bamboo, with the openings carefully rounded. For darts the native shapes little arrows of split bamboo, and winds about the barb end a little ball of cotton to fill the tube and offer the greatest possible resistance to the air.  
Nothing could more fully meet the old alia idea of South Sea Islanders than the bamboo wine bottle which rests alongside the blowpipe. It is about a foot long, four or five inches in diameter and would hold possibly half a gallon. Holes have been bored in the fibre at the end, and a strip of rattan fastened to them for a sling-strap. The last item of its equipment is a round wooden cork, which is fastened to the "bottle" by rattan.  
The musical instruments are equipped with vegetable strings. One of them is much like the guitar of the Tyrol, but more slender and weighted down with long, highly carved keys. The other is somewhat like an Indian pipe—a queer bowl at one end of a long, hollow tube, with strings from the top of the bowl to the further end of the tube. The musician in the Philippines evidently gives his extra time to carving his instrument, as both gullies and fiddle are covered with little decorations cut with a knife.  
The last feature of the collection is a harmless looking cane that rattles when picked up, yet one might hunt for an hour without discovering how it is opened. Inside is a steel blade, long enough for a duel. Another cane opens at the end and lets out a sort of a spear. But the greatest surprise is the cane with a screw cap at the ferule. When finally that cap has been worked off and the cane has been shaken, the wood grows longer and longer, until the spectator holds in his hand a light, tapering, beautifully joined fishing rod.

There are eight hundred public baths in Tokio, which are patronized daily by three hundred thousand persons. The charge is about half a cent.

**An Automobile Fire Engine.**  
The first town in England to effectively display the possibilities of the motor fire engine for fire brigade purposes is Eccles, in Lancashire. The engine was constructed by a local firm and has proved a conspicuous success. It carries five men, 200 yards of hose, two standpipes, scaling ladders, jumping sheet and other necessary apparatus. It is propelled by a six horse power electric motor. It is remarkably silent in motion, and averages a speed of fourteen to sixteen miles per hour on the level. It has also established its ability for climbing stiff gradients with facility.

**Whiskers Keep Out Cold.**  
There is nobody in the Senate nowadays with whiskers to equal ex-Senator Peffer's. Senator Stewart has a luxuriant growth, but compared to Peffer's hirsute adornment, Stewart's chin is like a stubble field alongside an acre of waving grain. When Peffer was in the Senate, his whiskers were a better indicator of the state of the weather than a barometer. On cold and damp days Peffer would tuck his beard under his coat and use it as a cheer protector. On fine days he allowed it to fly freely, until each separate hair stood out like a pennant from a mast.—Washington Post.

# THE FILIPINO'S CUNNING

PATIENT SKILL AND REAL ART IN NATIVE KNIVES.

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# CURIOS FACTS

There is said to be salt enough in the sea to cover seven million square miles of land with a layer one mile in thickness.

The New Hampshire Historical Society has the original patent on a process for the use of steam in propelling boats. It was issued to Samuel Morley, March 25, 1795, and was signed by George Washington.

A man-made volcano exists in Belgium, which has been burning constantly for nearly one hundred years, and emits vast columns of black smoke, rendering the neighboring country barren, baked and utterly unprofitable.

A singing well is one of the natural curiosities of Texas. In fine weather a sound like that of an Aeolian harp is given out by the well.

An interesting coin has just been sold in Germany. It is one of the few coins in the history of the world which can be accused of having a humorous side to it.

Empress Elizabeth is the fortunate father of six bright boys, and each of those boys has a sister, as the old countess puts it.

Has the ancient art of lying fallen into desuetude and decay? Have we come upon an unimaginative age of truth, naked and undomated?

The body of a man who had been dead for some hours was found by the police, and the magistrate, acting as coroner, was notified.

The following story of a former county magistrate was told at Tawson.

# SWEDEN'S CHEAP TELEPHONES.

In the latest paper received, says a correspondent of the New York Herald, writing from Nyland, Sweden, I notice that the price of telephones in New York is \$240 per year. It may be of some interest to your readers to know something of the telephone business in this country.

The number of telephones may be a surprise to you. In the city of Stockholm alone (with a population of 280,000) there are no less than 36,000 telephones.

There is hardly a village in the whole country where at least a dozen phones are not found, and in the very woods you may, during your travels, find a telephone put up for the accommodation of chance travelers or tourists.

Words of Wisdom.  
Fear is the mother of foresight.—H. Taylor.  
Experience teaches slowly, and at the cost of mistakes.—Froude.  
A good man is kinder to his enemy than bad men to their friends.—Bishop Hall.  
Knowledge is the treasure, but judgment is the treasurer of a wise man.—Penny.

Many things are difficult and dark to me; but I can see one thing quite clearly, that I must not, cannot seek my own happiness by sacrificing others.—George Eliot.  
Let it be our happiness this day to add to the happiness of those around us, to comfort some sorrow, to relieve some want, to add some strength to our neighbor's virtue.—Channing.

Physical culture as it is taught in the public schools of to-day comes delightfully near to meeting with all of the requirements planned for it a score of years ago by progressive educators, who were, at that time, looked upon as idealists.

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