



### What Motherhood Means

#### WHEN AND HOW TO PRUNE.

**In Winter For Wood Growth, In Summer For Fruit Production.**

There are many orchards well cared for in every way except in the matter of pruning, and this is often sadly neglected or improperly done, some claiming that it is working against nature. If we neglect it, nature makes an effort to do it for us, in her only way—by causing the surplus wood to die for want of air and sunlight. This is an objectionable way of pruning, as it leaves open sores on our trees for life. The true principle of pruning is to begin with the young maiden tree and give it light annual pruning when it can be done with the pruning shears. If this is neglected, and a tree allowed to grow as it will, we will have hard work to get it in proper shape and will injure the tree more or less by cutting away large branches. Trees will form a very nice looking head when young with but little pruning, but before we are aware of it they have a tree so dense that the inside wood begins to die, and it is impossible for the fruit to come to perfection.

This matter of pruning is neglected and improperly done more than anything else pertaining to fruit culture. Every kind of fruit and in fact nearly every variety of the same kind needs a different method of pruning. A Clapp's Favorite pear might do fairly well with an occasional heading in, as it makes but a little surplus wood, but the same treatment applied to many other varieties that make a surplus of wood, such as the Lawrence and many others, would give us a perfect bush.

The time of pruning is not so important as the method. It has been said, "Prune whenever your tools are sharp," but I would not advise severe pruning when the trees are growing or are in full foliage, as cutting off much foliage has a tendency to weaken the tree somewhat. Where the work can be done in a short time March and April are preferable, but where there is much to be done any time from the falling of the leaf until it starts again in spring. I do not advise cutting off large branches in the fall and winter, but where it is absolutely necessary to cut such they should be cut several inches from the trunk or large branch and then cut closely any time during June, when they will heal readily, or they may be cut close and the wound covered with a thick paint. This will in a measure prevent decay. All branches over an inch in diameter should be so treated, or the wounds will decay more or less. This is especially true on old trees where there is not so much vigor as in younger trees.

There is no danger of injury from pruning when the wood is frozen. Whenever the workman can endure the cold the tree can. I have practiced pruning in every month of winter and have never seen any injurious effect from it when the wood was frozen. Pruning when the tree is dormant induces wood growth. Summer pruning induces fruit production and is not generally to be recommended. In some cases where trees are large and old, and excessive wood growth, judicious summer pruning might be advisable, but must be done with caution—Charles Hack of New Jersey Horticultural Society.

**White Gloire de Lorraine Begonia.**

Five plants ever bounded more suddenly into certain favor than Begonia gloire de Lorraine, whose advent is not more than five years past. This charming begonia seems to be everywhere, a wealth of pink bloom and a lecture of loveliness. It has also yielded a number of color variations, and, according to American Gardening, which illustrates this sort, fair to be almost as well liked as the older pink begonia.

**THE REVIVAL OF HEALTH.**

This Old Favorite is Now a Popular Christmas and Easter Plant.

The erica or heath family has lately come into very general popularity as interior decorative plants, being widely grown for both the Christmas and the Easter pot plant market.

The winter heath (Erica hymenalis) is well known for its delicate beauty, its pink and white blossoms being very abundant. But it is not so easy to manage as some other plants, and it is to be feared that many of the beautiful specimens of this erica sold soon die or at least become too unhealthy to blossom again.

"Although heaths enjoy a little warmth in winter, it must be accompanied by moisture or it is fatal to them."

I will have some meat and some potatoes," she said gravely, "and by and by I may have cream."

The order was given, the cream followed, and the little lady was an altogether charming, dainty and sweet little companion for luncheon. The meal ended with the dignity with which it had begun, the young woman doffed her wraps, and as the young man was preparing to escort her to the door she remarked gravely:

"And now I will have some flowers."

It was the last touch of grown upness, and it was the proudest young man in New York who took home a pretty and dignified baby with a big bunch of roses in her arms.—New York Times.

Added opportunities are coming to those American housewives who have an ambition to marry a title. It is reported from China that titles in the Celestial empire are now on sale at greatly reduced prices.

Bishop Potter recommends that such of the population of overcrowded New York be transplanted. There are several places which would be willing to take sections of Fifth avenue or even some chunks of Broadway.

**FEEDING BY ELECTRICITY.**

An up to date invention for farmers now on trial in Michigan.

A man named McNair has devised a system of pasturing sheep by electricity, and experiments are being made with it at the agricultural experiment station of Michigan at Lansing. In recent years nearly every town of any size has been provided with an electric generating plant, and frequently the wires are strung along country roads from town to town. This fact led Mr. McNair to attempt the use of electricity on the farm. For sheep feeding he devised a curious pen some 35 feet square, built of wire and mounted on broad flat wheels. This pen is designed to run in any pasture, even though it be hilly. Wires connect it with a small motor stationed at one side of the pasture, this in turn being connected with the electric wires from which power is derived. At the top of the pen and the pen slowly creeps across the field. This is the essence of the invention.

Two lambs and part of the time an old ewe have been pastured in the pen during the summer at the station at Lansing. The field he planted with lucerne, growing thick and heavy. The pen is so arranged that it crawls the full length of the pasture in one month, traveling about two feet an hour. At the end of this time it is switched around and travels back in the same direction, eagerly cropping next the forward side of the pen as it runs over new ground. A bit of canvas duck is hung over one corner of the pen so that the sheep may be well sheltered. As curious as it may seem, they have become so accustomed to the moving of the pen that when they lie down to sleep they snuggle up close to the forward end of the pen so that they may lie as long as possible without being disturbed by the rear end of the pen as it creeps toward them.

When the pen has passed, the lucerne that has been cropped by the sheep grows up again, and by the time the pen has made its monthly circuit the pasture is again in good condition. A comparison of the photographs certainly does show strong resemblance in both features and figure.

As a result of the fact that she favors the late English sovereign Mrs. Le Clerc has had some rather queer experiences. She is frequently stung at one of the streets by people familiar with the queen's picture, who will stop and look at her. Englishmen whom she has met have been astounded when they came into her presence and have declared that she was the queen's double.

**SHE RESEMBLES VICTORIA.**

A Chicago woman who is said to be the late Queen's Double.

Mrs. Sarah Derby Le Clerc, 6525 Perry avenue, is said to bear a striking resemblance to Queen Victoria. Persons who have seen the queen stated the likeness is hardly less than marvelous. A comparison of the photographs certainly does show strong resemblance in both features and figure.

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**THE FLOCKMASTER'S TANNING.**

The only thing to do for the insatiable American taste for mutton is to "take something for it," a lamb chop or a leg of mutton, says The Breeder's Gazette. Comment has been recently made on the capital demand for mutton. A large number of packers are outstripping the supply and absorbing the enormous receipts with scarcely a ripple in the market. From Kansas City comes a complaint that packers are unable to get sufficient supplies of fat sheep to keep their killing plants in operation to all capacity. So keen has been the demand for mutton that packers have been obliged to enter into competition with feeders for the range bred sheep that should by rights go to feed lots rather than to the shambles. Now that the run from the range is largely over, dependence must be placed on the supplies from the feed lots, and it does not seem that the demand at that market is likely to be met. All this comes from the increase in the appetite of our people for mutton. Packers at Kansas City have planned to increase their output of mutton if they can obtain the raw material. Observe the situation: Last fall so many sheep were going on feed that conservative heads feared for the future of the industry. The enormous numbers that came from the feed lots during the winter and spring were killed up at satisfactory prices, and now killers are competing with feeders for sheep. This certainly argues the expansion and the permanency of the industry. It is merely the state of improved mutton that has wrought this revolution. The public knows a good thing when it tastes it. The industry is capable of considerable extension yet, and the man who breeds and feeds good sheep is very apt to come out winner.

**Getting Over Wire Fences.**

A wire fence is an ugly affair to cross either by climbing over or crawling under between the strands. The accompanying cut from The American

**STILE FOR WIRE FENCE.**

Agriculturist shows a handy arrangement where one must cross a wire fence occasionally and does not wish to lose the tension on the wires by cutting a gateway. This double stipladder can be put together in a few moments and will prove a very convenient affair.

**Home-made cures for coughs.**

For bronchial trouble put 10 teaspoonfuls of camphor to 40 times their bulk in boiling water. Place in a pitcher and incline the open mouth over the top, so that the steam enters the throat freely. Care must be taken in the respiration which comes next to contract further cold; but this is a royal remedy for heavy chest colds.

For threatened pneumonia put the patient to bed with hot water bottles applied to the soles of the feet, palms of the hands, armpits and under the arms. The patient should be kept as quiet as possible and should not be given any food or drink until they are incorporated.

For neuralgia place a wet cloth over a hot water bottle, a soapstone heated as a hot brick and apply the steam to the affected part.—Good House-keeping.

One of the curious things in American life is the fondness of people and legislators for new laws. Everybody seems to think the millennium can be hastened by legislation, and hence legislators every year are busy passing new laws, which sometimes are a dead letter within three months after the date of their supposed enforcement.

**Nerves Like a Flat-Iron.**

A woman who suffered for three years from nervous prostration says two bottles of Lichy's Cerebral Nerve Compound effected a complete cure. She hardly knows to-day whether she has nerves or not, as she never felt gravely. This is certainly a wonderful remedy. Sold by Ross and Son's Pharmacy.

The chief stenographer of the relict's tag says that the German emperor talks very fast. The stenographer might have added, if he dared to do so, that he talks very much.

"Adebrly stalks in Mrs. Nation's walk," excitedly remarks a Kansas newspaper. If anxiously doesn't look out, it will get hit with a hatchet.

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### THE SPORTING WORLD.

In connection with the festivities attending upon the second inauguration of President McKinley a mammoth intercollegiate athletic meet has been arranged and will be an event of much importance. Many colleges are considering plans for attending the inauguration to participate in the grand parade as organized bodies, and the entries of their leading athletic representatives in the games are assured.

The games will be the third annual Indoor meet of the Georgetown University Athletic association, which is noted with such notable success that three world records were established.

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Sorghum is a good roughness for colts where it can be had. Colts will soon learn to drink skim milk or kitchenslops, and I know of no other profitable way of disposing of same on the farm.

As to the amount of food to be given no fixed rule can be laid down. Give the colt all he will eat three times a day. Be careful and never allow food to accumulate and sour in the trough. Do not allow them to have water that you would not care to drink yourself. Always keep salt by them in a box separate from the feed trough. Once a week give each colt a tablespoonful of sulphur in bran. This will keep them from worms and ward off lice. Examine colts carefully once a week to see that they are free of vermin. When a colt gets lousy, he will do no good until relieved of the pests.

I would not waste any time grooming colts during the winter. They need to be kept well bedded with straw, and if there is not a great deal of room in the stable it should be cleaned out every few days. Unless the stable is kept dry the colt is liable to get scabs, and this is a trouble quite difficult to get rid of in winter. Handle the colt often the first winter of his life. This is the time to gentle him down and teach him to lead. A colt not halter broken by the time he is a year old gets wild, and when handling becomes imperative he is as wild as a Texas pony. If when you go into the stable you carry an apple, a lick of salt or something of the kind, the colt soon learns to welcome your coming. Fillies as a rule are more shy than the male colts and need more attention to put them on a familiar track with the feeder or handler. Never allow other horses to run with the colts. They crowd them through doorways, in stalls and corners and are likely to injure them some way or other. Older horses do not like to have colts run with them and will kick and injure them. Even the mother of a colt does not care to have him around after he has been weaned a few weeks.

**Best Hog For Farmers.**

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**Out Cow Bonanza.**

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With the retirement of Mr. Wolcott of Colorado on March 4 the senate will lose its only left handed member, says the New York World. This will detract considerably from the picturesque character of that body. Many members and spectators drop out of the business whenever Mr. Wolcott begins writing and watch him. He almost turns his back to the desk.

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**Importance of Proper Care During the First Winter.**

The first important item in the care of colts through their first winter is to have a good, warm stable, says W. W. Stevens in The American Agriculturist. It is not objectionable to put several colts in one stable if they have plenty of room to move about and lie down at will. Stop all cracks if the barn shield is not tight. If there are any flimsy ones in the lot that will not assert their rights and crowd in for their rations, better stall them to themselves. Have good water within reach of colts all the while and provide a small lot of corn on the east or south side of the barn where the little fellows can take exercise and sun themselves when the weather is pleasant.

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**Nasal Catarrh.**

ELY'S CREAM BALM FOR THE NOSE  
In all its stages should be discontinued.

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### WEANLING COLTS.

**Importance of Proper Care During the First Winter.**

The first important item in the care of colts through their first winter is to have a good, warm stable, says W. W. Stevens in The American Agriculturist. It is not objectionable to put several colts in one stable if they have plenty of room to move about and lie down at will. Stop all cracks if the barn shield is not tight. If there are any flimsy ones in the lot that will not assert their rights and crowd in for their rations, better stall them to themselves. Have good water within reach of colts all the while and provide a small lot of corn on the east or south side of the barn where the little fellows can take exercise and sun themselves when the weather is pleasant.

The ration of the colt should be made mostly of clover hay, oats, animal and bran. A few horsemen successfully feed considerable corn where there is a blue grass pasture to turn the colts in when the weather will permit. But I would not advise a very liberal use of corn unless the feeder has had considerable experience. Never feed a colt timothy hay. If you have sheep out, dump up and mix with bran, making a camp chop in mild weather and dry mixture in cold.

Sorghum is a good roughness for colts where it can be had. Colts will soon learn to drink skim milk or kitchenslops, and I know of no other profitable way of disposing of same on the farm.

As to the amount of food to be given no fixed rule can be laid down. Give the colt all he will eat three times a day. Be