

FARM AND GARDEN.

A CHEAP NEST.

A cheap nest is easily constructed of wire netting shaped round and fastened by staples to a wooden frame, so that it can hang securely upon a nail in the wall. It can be lined with soft hay and a china nest egg placed in it to invite Biddy to make herself at home. It can be easily cleaned, and vermin will not get much chance to rent lodging in this nest.—New York Independent.

INSECT POWDER ON CABBAGES.

The time to apply insect powder to cabbages is just as soon as the young caterpillars begin to emerge from the eggs, that is, if you refer to the common green cabbage worm. But you may have some other kind of pest on your cabbages, such as the cabbage louse, or the Harlequin bug, upon which the Persian insect powder has little or no effect. There are many different kinds of insect powders, and fully as great a number of different insects which attack and feed upon cabbages, and an insecticide that will destroy one kind may not have the least effect upon another. Kill the caterpillars.—American Agriculturist.

THE VALUE OF SALT.

The French government recently made a scientific investigation of the value of salt for the use of domestic animals. In the report of the commission that carried on the experiments on which it is based, the investigators state that salt is necessary to the health of domestic animals to replace the saline matter that is extracted from their food by boiling, steaming or other artificial causes. In the case of sheep it was observed to counteract the ill effects of wet pastures and acted as a preventative of foot rot. It was also noticed that it increased the flow of saliva, thereby benefitting and hastening fattening. Further, that it is an advantage to add salt in all fodder mixtures. The quantity recommended by the commission for a daily ration is two ounces for a milk cow or ox. For a fattening stall fed ox two and one-half to four and one-half ounces; a fattening pig, one to two ounces; a lean sheep, one-half to three-fourths ounce; horse, donkey or mule, one ounce.—American Dairyman.

FLAVOR OF EGGS.

The flavor of eggs depends very much on the kind of food given to the poultry. When hens are fed largely or almost exclusively on milk, the yolk is lighter in color, the white has a milky look and the whole egg is watery and less firm in texture than those laid by grain-fed hens. The taste of the egg is also affected, being insipid and unsatisfactory when boiled or poached and less fine for ordinary cooking purposes even. There is no use in saying that the idea of the quality of eggs being influenced by the food of hens is a mere whim, since it is a well-known fact that the eggs of fowls kept in the neighborhood of the sea, and fed almost entirely on fish—taken as they come, embracing the strong and oily as well as the more delicate sorts—have "an ancient and fish-like" taste, if not "smell," and eggs coming from those regions sell for less in the market, in some instances, than those coming from districts farther inland.

The reason why hens fed on "slops" of milk, etc., are able to give no better eggs to their owners is because the "old, old story" is repeated in their case. You demand the "tale of brick" of your servants, but you give them no straw to make them with. Curd hardly comes under the head of milk, and there is little danger of having it in large quantities to offer to your fowls. It contains all the best and most nutritious portions of the milk, without its objectionable watery qualities. But the true feed for laying fowls is one-third or one-quarter Indian corn, ground or otherwise, and oats or wheat, together with milk and whatever scraps from the house are obtainable, and as much green vegetable food as they will eat, and with these, combined and fed properly, your eggs will be of the true gold and silver stamp—when the cook's fire has refined them, and prepared them as a relish for your breakfast table.—Poultry World.

KEEPING SHEEP.

Every farmer who keeps track of his business understands that with all lines of farming and stock keeping there are ups and downs. A kind of stock that will pay a good profit this year will pay little or nothing next. But taking a series of years together the farmer who adopts a certain line of products and stocks and sticks to them, taking care, of course, to give them good management, will secure the best results.

One advantage with sheep over other stock is that they all eat a greater variety of plants than any other of our domestic animals, and in this way will often help to utilize much that would otherwise go to waste.

In doing this they will also be of help in keeping down weeds both in the fields and pastures. They afford three means of income—the wool in the spring, the early lambs and the matured sheep for mutton. Good fat sheep are always marketable, and good wool will sell. With sheep as with other stock, the value of the feed and care is the same, whether it is given to a sheep that will only shear four pounds of poor wool, or to one that will shear eight pounds of good wool, that when sent to market will sell for one-third more per pound. One of the most important items in keeping sheep for profit is to keep good sheep, and then to keep them thrifty, and if this is done there are but few farms but where a small flock of sheep can be kept with profit.

Under present conditions there is no class of stock that will pay anything like a fair profit, unless they are given good treatment. In fact, it requires good management to make stock on the farm pay. Another advantage with sheep is that they add to the variety, and in this way lessen the risk of failure, and they can be kept upon land that horses or cattle cannot thrive upon. A very good plan of management with sheep is to have them follow after cattle in the pastures, as in this way much feed that would otherwise be wasted will be saved. Sheep bite off more or less of everything that comes in their way, and sassafras and persimmon sprouts, weeds and grass are all eaten. And after the cattle have eaten down or pastured, the sheep can be turned in and will do a good work in still further eating down the growth.

Good mutton is the farmer's best summer meat. During the busy season, harvesting or threshing, mutton will furnish an economical, wholesome meat, and this will, in many cases, be quite an item. Sheep can be made so useful in so many ways on the farms that considering the returns secured it will pay to keep at least some sheep.

A farmer remarked to me a day or two ago, after marketing a little over nine hundred pounds of wool, from 115 sheep at 17 cents a pound, "If I had to choose and only keep one kind of stock on the farm for ten years I would always take sheep."—Nebraska Farmer.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Unthreshed oats, cut early, makes a good feed for horses.

The horse that is being worked hard steadily will repay generous feeding.

The chief obstacle in the raising of good horses in the ignorance of the breeders.

If the colt's ankles seem weak bathe them with cold salt and water and bandage lightly.

When a horse begins to limp look to his feet. A stone or nail is often picked up which, unless removed, will ruin the horse.

Carrots are excellent for colts, horses, milch cows and all young stock. Cabbages are valuable for all kinds of stock.

While it can be had so readily, keep plenty of dry soil where the pigs sleep. It is not so hot as the litter will be, and is an equally good absorbent.

If one-half the pains were taken to develop speed at the walk that is now taken to develop the trotting gait the practical value of our work-horses could be doubled within the next twenty years.

If you wish to have a great horse do not allow him to get out of condition, but keep him so that he can always be put in racing form in a short time. Never let him forget, that he not only was but is a racer.

Corn feeds very close to the surface, and for that reason the soil should not be cultivated in a manner to break the roots too much. Shallow cultivation, just sufficient to keep the top soil loose, should be practiced.

Horses allowed to run in the barnyard to the straw stack with a few cornstalks every day, are often in a better condition for work in the spring than horses stabled all the time and fed timothy hay. Exercise and coarse, laxative food account for it.

If the horse are given their grain mixed with a little bran and all a little moistened, and are allowed time to eat it and a half-hour afterwards for rest and digestion, they will work enough faster and harder to make up the time, will not suffer from indigestion, and will keep in good condition.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

TO PEEL TOMATOES.

Mrs. Emma P. Ewing of cooking fame, says in one of her household papers: This is the proper way to peel tomatoes: Cover them with boiling water half a minute, then lay them in cold water until perfectly cold, and the skin can be peeled off without difficulty, leaving the tomatoes unbroken and as firm as they were before being scalded.

FLY PAPERS.

Every good housekeeper wishes to say that there is not a single fly in her house. Now, as we all know to our annoyance, flies are very troublesome in these hot days. Here are three good recipes which can be recommended as exterminators of the dipterous pest. The peculiar virtue of these ingredients is that no poisonous ingredient is used in their composition. Boil together linseed oil and rosin until the compound becomes thick, or boil three parts of rosin and four parts of rapeseed oil together until a sticky mass is produced, or again boil to a thick paste one pound of rosin, three and one-half ounces of molasses and the same quantity of linseed oil. Any one of these compounds spread on thick sheets of brown paper and scattered over the tables and shelves will effectually exterminate flies. These recipes were given to Woman's World and Work by a well known New Orleans gentleman, who vouches for their success in the application.—New York Advertiser.

TANSY FOR ANTS.

A sure remedy for these summer pests is here outlined. Big, fat, black antmires and little, lean, scurrying red ants have put in their early appearance at our house for the past few summers, taking possession of every pantry and cellar shelf where food is kept and persistently remaining until frost comes. I have tried washing the shelves in alum water, and circling the sugar bucket and cake box with chalk marks, thick and broad, to strand the foraging, and sifted sponges full of sugar, and, when filled with victims, have plunged them into hot water. I have put sulphur bags and borax lumps and cedar chips and tarred paper strips in my cupboards and ice chest, but with no other result than to see them both black and red ants scampering as lively as ever over the supposed exterminator.

"Why don't you try tansy?" the new girl said one morning last spring. "Mother always drives them off by putting tansy leaves on her shelves." I had little faith in the bundle of green-leaved stalks she picked that day and laid on every food shelf in cupboard, pantry and cellar—less faith, even, than I had in my plump little sulphur bags and wabily chalk marks. But the tansy did it; for there was a stampede of ants big and little, black and red, presently from my shelves. A thorough routing; for from that day to this, six weeks, not one ant have we seen, though we leave the syrup can unsealed and the sugar bucket on the shelf.—Household.

RECIPES.

Sally Lunn—One quart of flour sifted with three small teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Beat two eggs with two tablespoonfuls of sugar; add three tablespoonfuls of melted butter and one pint of milk; stir in the flour and a teaspoonful of salt. Bake.

Stewed Turnips with Gravy.—Pare some new turnips, cut in quarters and cook until tender in salted boiling water. Drain and place in a stewpan with a tablespoonful of butter; shake until turning yellow; add a cupful of good gravy; simmer five minutes, season and serve.

Fried Parsley.—Select full stalks of parsley and remove all dried or imperfect leaves. Wash it thoroughly in cold, salted water and dry on a clean, soft towel; when it is perfectly dry, gather a bunch at a time by the stalks, dip leaves in smoking hot fat for one moment. If there is any moisture on parsley the fat will sputter and there is danger of burning the hand; but if carefully dried and dipped in, there is no trouble in frying the parsley as desired.

Duchesse Potatoes.—To two cups of mashed potatoes add one teaspoonful of butter melted, beat until light and smooth; then add six tablespoonfuls of cream and the yolks of two eggs beaten light. When well mixed and seasoned with salt and pepper add carefully the whites of the eggs, beaten to a stiff, dry froth; fill a greased hot gem pan two-thirds full of this mixture, brush over the top with milk of the beaten yolk of an egg and brown in a quick oven; serve at once.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Twenty-four carat gold is all gold. The Soudan of Africa, gives the world most of the ostrich feathers worn.

In A. D. 105, Trajan built a magnificent stone bridge across the Danube, 4,770 feet long.

An industrious Sedalia (Mo.) burglar went through seven houses in a single night, recently.

The Hindoos are passionately fond of horse racing, and a race will practically close all business.

The first discovery of land in the limits of the United States was on April 2, 1512 by De Leon, and the land was Florida.

A remarkable animal is the ornithorynchus paradoxus. It has a beak like a duck, a body like an otter, is web-footed, is amphibious and lays eggs.

A special train on the London and Northwestern Railway makes the trip from Liverpool to London, a distance of 201 miles, in three hours and forty-three minutes.

Harris, in his book, "Hermes," says that all the nations of the earth, ancient and modern, have ascribed to the sun a masculine and to the moon a feminine gender.

A curious article of export from Pakhoi, according to the British consul there, is dried lizards. They are used for making medicine called "lizard wine;" it is said to be a tonic.

What is asserted to be the oldest lifeboat in existence is preserved at South Shields, England, as a valued relic. It was built in 1830, and during more than fifty years of active service was instrumental in saving 1028 lives.

A trifling annoyance caused Frederick Pferr, of Pittsburg, Penn., aged seventy-nine, to exclaim, "I wish I were dead!" His wish was soon gratified. Almost immediately he arose from his chair, walked into the yard and dropped dead.

Rama Rahmah, a Hindoo, recently performed the feat of playing three games of chess simultaneously, and at the same time repeating from memory that portion of Macaulay's "History of England," which treats of the accession of William and Mary to the throne.

A unique case of borrowing is reported from Sherman Mills, Me. A man whose home was destroyed by fire last winter, has borrowed a house from one of his friends, which he will have hauled to his lot, and will occupy as a dwelling this summer, returning it in the fall.

The last of the Wyandottes, James Williams, is now living at North Fairfield, Huron County, Ohio. Not long ago "Uncle Jim," who is about ninety years old, made a large bow, which he uses with ease and accuracy. He is the only living person who can speak the Wyandotte language fluently.

It may be of interest to numismatists to know that a large find of Saxon coins was recently made near Douglas, the capital of the Isle of Man. The coins were silver skeatta, and date between A. D. 925 and 975. The find is interesting, as specimens of Saxon coins are comparatively scarce.

Value of the Peach.

Peaches are a tonic, an aperient, a food and a drink combined; or, to put it briefly, they are meat and medicine. A good meal may be made on cut peaches, with sugar and cream, bread and butter. After a meal of this variety a person will feel more like attending to the duties of the afternoon than if he or she indulged in heavy foods. Peaches are good before breakfast and after dinner; they are good for the digestion, good for the blood and good for the complexion. Some people eat them without cream or sugar, and with good results. The fruit is so rich in sugar and acid that it preserves its flavor a long while, but to get the full benefit it should be eaten as soon as it is cut. Redness of the nose, due to congestion, inflamed complexions, scrofulous and bilious tendencies are said to be materially influenced by a liberal consumption of this luscious fruit.—New York Advertiser.

His Substitute.

A little fellow had been seriously lectured by his mother, and finally sent into the garden to find a switch, with which he was to be punished. He returned soon, and said: "I couldn't find a switch, mamma, but here's a stone you can throw at me."—Pittsburg Bulletin.

Mozart, the composer, was a small, slight man, who looked more diminutive than he really was. He was almost as fond of bird as of music.

SELECTIONS FOR SOLDIERS.

SIDELIGHTS OF MILITARY LIFE.

Stories, Anecdotes, and Articles of Interest to Old and Young.

WAR'S NEW TERRORS.

DEVICES FOR SLAUGHTER THAT ARE ALMOST BEYOND IMAGINATION'S GRASP.

Indications are that when two European armies eventually meet on the field, if the war talk ever resolves itself into actual conflict, a good many men will faint away in error of their adversaries. The "inventions" which have been brought out lately in France, Germany and Austria, and which have been purchased by the Governments of those countries, are innumerable, and everyone of them are designed to slaughter human life at a rate that appalls the imagination. The most atrocious and the most terrible of these inventions, and which have been patented concerning all these inventions, and only a few general facts regarding them have been made public. The German army, it is understood, is armed with rifles which will send a bullet through four men, standing one behind the other, at a distance of two and a half miles from the rifle. Austria has a machine-gun which shoots several thousand bullets a minute, which is operated by steam and controlled by a single gentleman with a waxed moustache and a monocle in his left eye, who lightly turns the crank at least this is the condition of things according to the latest illustrated journals at hand. The man with the eyeglass can turn the crank fast enough to sweep thirty or forty thousand men into eternity during the luncheon hour.

Incidentally, a German tailor has invented a coat that makes the wearer absolutely indifferent to bullets at any range, and the Italians have machines for throwing very small and almost invisible torpedoes a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile. The torpedoes describe a parabola in the air, drop into the camp of the enemy, and explode with force enough to kill a hundred or more soldiers if they happen to be in the vicinity. Great numbers of them can be thrown at a time, and it is a terrible misfortune that it is all that there are no disagreeable odors or any smoke whatever when the explosion occurs.

Mr. Turpin of France is the latest hero in this direction. He has invented something which is so altogether useful that the Germans have requested the Government to give M. Turpin a great amount of money so that he will not turn his machine over to the Germans. The machine is operated by electricity, and, according to the inventor, it is so terrible a nature that it will do away with all fortifications throughout the civilized world. This is merely a detail of the execution which this machine is expected to accomplish. Forts will be of no use, because M. Turpin's machines would send them all into atoms, and at a distance of several miles a man can now down the enemy at the rate of 20,000 an engagement. The facts are inspiring, but there is a lack of detail about them which is in accordance with much of the literature which has lately been put forth by the various Munchausens and the war officers of Europe. The Turpin invention so far outstrips everything else, according to the critics of modern warfare, that will insure universal peace. One machine alone is enough to devastate a country.—N. Y. Sun.

A Sign in the Heavens.

Early on Friday, May 1, 1863, Woolfolk's battery broke camp and moved to the plank road running from Fredericksburg through the Wilderness. Up this road (and on each side of it) the best of the Federal troops were carried to meet a line of Federal infantry having one or more pieces of artillery. Grapeshot fell thick and fast, mingled with bullets, and to the men with Woolfolk's gun, on the road, the missiles falling on the planks cut up the men as if they were cut with a limbered and ready to return the hostile fire, had not delivered a shot when, suddenly, General "Stonewall" Jackson rode up and stopped at the side of it. At that moment the gun was still laboring in vain to cross the north of the plank road, where it faced east, and was ordered to halt. The sun was just setting and the battle had not begun, although there were a few dropping shots as the Confederate infantry and artillery moved down by the river and up the plank road. Behind Woolfolk's battery were "Stonewall" Jackson, his chief of artillery, Colonel Critchfield and others of his staff, in a mounted, silent and expectant group. The artillerymen stood or lay upon the ground, in silence. It was a curious and solemn moment, and the momentary stillness enhanced the awe of the occasion.

It was then that one of the Woolfolk's men, stretched his back, with his blanket and knapsack under his head, called attention to a striking spectacle in the sky. The northern half of the heavens seemed brilliantly lighted up, and the southern half was overcast with gloom. An apparent, well-defined, straight line seemed to run direct east and west. For a few moments everybody gazed and wondered, until some one looked to the west and pointed out that the phenomenon was caused by a cloud, black as night, which, with a sharp and perpendicular edge, completely obscured the southern half of that luminary, leaving the northern half all the more brilliant by contrast. With that explanation, followed speedily by orders to press forward into the movement that was already driving Hooker's surprised forces in confusion, the celestial vision was forgotten by most of its beholders, at least for a time.

That night, as they were still engaged in securing the Federal wounded that lay thick upon the half-worn field, Woolfolk's men heard sudden rattle of musketry. Next day (Sunday), not "Stonewall" Jackson, but another general was in command when the battle was renewed, and then it was sadly spread abroad that the missing hero had been wounded in that mighty battle, and some days after, all went to hear that he was dead. Then some recalled the scene in the skies as the fight began, and more than one survivor piously believes to-day that it was an omen of the great soldier's death.—Col. W. C. ELAM, in Blue and Gray.

Past Help.

Bouvard, one of the most learned as well as brusque physicians of his times, was one day called to attend the Archbishop of Rheims, who was suffering from violent colic. "I am coming," said Bouvard, who, however, did not stir. "For the love of God, sir," said the messenger, "do not wait any longer. M. l'archevêque is suffering the tortures of the damned." "What!" exclaimed Bouvard, "already!"

KEYSTONE STATE COLLINGS

THREE CHILDREN DROWNED.

A Vigilance Committee in Beaver County—Miners Resuming.

CALLED IN THE LOAN.

State Treasurer Jackson has paid \$1,500,000 in the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia, with which to redeem the loan of that amount negotiated in 1873. This loan does not absolutely mature until 1901, but an exchequer of the State is overflowing it has been decided to call it in fifteen years after it was made.

As the interest on the loan has been stopped holders are already presenting their bonds for redemption. Many of them will regard the course of the State Treasurer with regret because of the safe character of their investment, but they will doubtless soon call for their money because the interest on it ceased the 1st instant.

The entire State debt is about \$7,000,000, but this amount is offset by monies in the general and sinking funds and investments in United States securities.

TO WATCH FOR THIEVES.

Roger O'Mara, Superintendent of the Pittsburg Bureau of Police, has made arrangements with the authorities of 15 of the leading cities of the country by which they will send to Pittsburg during the C. A. R. encampment week a detective from each of the cities. Councils have agreed to pay the expenses of these officials.

KILLED WHILE AT HIS WORK.

William Steiner, an air tester at the Union station, Pittsburg, was instantly killed on Tuesday night. He was preparing to examine an automatic coupler, which was out of order, and the engineer dropped his engine back harder than was expected, catching Steiner between the bumpers. He was 35 years old, and leaves a wife and child.

A VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.

Owing to the frequent occurrence of petty thieving and highway robbery in the vicinity, the citizens of Bacon, Moon and Hopewell townships, Beaver county, have organized to mutually assist in bringing to justice all highway robbers and to inquire into the ways and by what means some people live without work.

Dr. John McKinley's store room in New Castle was burned. It was occupied by Jas. Rigby whose family were almost suffocated and escaped in their night clothing. The origin of the fire is a mystery. The loss is \$4,200 and is partly covered by insurance.

The body of James Wenzel, of Allegheny, was found hanging to a tree in Seminary Grove, Glenwood. Life had been extinct for hours. The man had stood on a chair, and, after adjusting the rope, kicked the chair from under and the rope strangled him. Wenzel has been missing from home for several days. The suicide's friends say that he had been acting queerly for some time, and had been a frequent visitor to Hazelwood. He formerly lived within a short distance of where the act was committed. Being out of work is the supposed cause of the suicide.

The grasshopper plague has invaded certain sections of Erie county and farmers are telling deplorable tales of their crops being ruined by the insects. In some places oats are being cut before ripening in order to save the product. Millions upon millions of grasshoppers dropped into an oat field there one other day and before the farmer had time to get his reaper at work the crop was ruined.

Samuel Matthews, a miner employed at the Leisewick No. 1 works near Cranberry township, was stung by a snake while returning from work. Matthews had only lately deserted the ranks of the strikers and during the early part of the fight took an active part against the operators. His return to work incensed the striking slaves.

Of the 80 negroes who were conveyed from Romoke, Va., to Mercer county, Pa., to take the places of the striking miners in Pine township, 43 refuse to work and will be cared for by the county authorities until they can be sent back home. They were told that the mine was a new one where no strike was on.

It is said that snow fell in Cranberry township, Venango county, while the thermometer registered 112 degrees in the sun. There are several big gas wells near, and the snow was caused by the rapid evaporation of the gas upon coming in contact with the heated air.

Quite a surprise was caused at Johnstown by the announcement of the suspension of the "Daily Herald," one of the leading journals there. The suspension is accredited to the hard times.

Patrick Brogan, of McKeesport, was found by the police lying along the R. & O. railroad tracks, near Denison, early Saturday morning. Brogan had been spending the evening at Bradlock's.

The large oil refining property of the late H. C. Chase at Smith's Ferry, has been sold to H. Wallace and T. L. Mueserger who will put it in operation soon.

There are 100 cases of sickness in McKeesport, resulting it is said, from impure water. The water has been analyzed and is said to contain lead.

Johnny Whalen, a 14-year-old boy of Prospect, Butler county, swallowed a water snake 18 inches long. He goes from one convulsion into another.

John A. Elliott, assignee of E. L. Cunningham, of Beaver Falls, says ways will soon be arranged whereby the \$40,000 indebtedness will be paid.

Michael Stanley, aged 18, committed suicide by hanging himself in his father's barn at Lawson. His father was a well-known contractor.

The Enterprise pottery company, of New Brighton, owned by R. Folk and Samuel Leiby, has been placed in the hands of J. L. Martin, of Beaver as receiver.

A fire to the left of the entrance to Schenley park, Pittsburg, burned the Schenley Park Plating Mill and Lumber company's mill, entailing a loss of \$20,000.

Two children of David Raybould, of Lake Lomond, were drowned while playing along the banks of the lake. Their bodies were recovered.

The coke strike at Dunbar is practically broken. The Cambria Iron Company has 500 out of 700 ovens in full operation.

Edward Dahlstrom, a McKeesport boy, 14 years old, went boat riding in an old flat and was drowned in the Monongahela.

Albert Bissinger, of Cokesville, became demoralized, and tried to kill his brother-in-law with an axe.

The annual harvest home of the Pentecost band ended at Uniontown with a big revival meeting.

Francis P. Keller, 80 years old, the father of the famous musician, Harry Keller, was buried at Erie.

Arrangements have been made for the boatmen's reunion at Johnstown, August 25 and 26, are expected to attend.

The next institute to be held by the teachers in Lawrence county, will be held at Ellwood, October 22.

Ex-Mayor Samuel Warden, of Mt. Pleasant, is dead at the age of 72 years. He was a prominent Democrat.

The miners are resuming in the mountain and in the Clearfield region.

Most of the miners about Phillipsburg are resuming work.