

**FOR FARM AND GARDEN.**

**HEIGHT OF HORSES.**

It is said that the Arabs have two methods of estimating what will be the height of horses. By the first a cord is stretched from the nostril over the ears and down along the neck; this distance is compared with that from the withers to the feet. The colt will grow as much taller as the first distance exceeds the second. By the other method the distance between the knee and the withers is compared with that from the knee to the coronet. If it had reached the proportion of two to one the horse will grow no taller.—New York World.

**FERTILITY FOR APPLE ORCHARDS.**

Mineral fertilizers are what orchards mostly need, especially on long-cultivated ground. But there are some varieties of apple that are such feeble growers that they are all the better for the stimulation of some nitrogenous fertilizer. The Spitzenberg is one of these varieties. It is quite possible that stable manure fermenting in the soil may generate too much nitrogen in warm weather and not enough in early spring. It is this wide variation in amount of fertility at different times of year that has probably much to do with the increase of diseases in the foliage of fruit. When stable manure is applied to orchards it should be well composted. A very little will then be better than a larger amount of coarse stable manure. The finely-decomposed manure starts an early and healthy growth. By midsummer the tree has used up this fertility. Then comes the check to growth at the right time to form fruit buds for next season's bearing.—Boston Cultivator.

**AGE OF SHEEP.**

Sheep have two teeth in the centre of the jaw at one year old, and add two each year until five years old, when they have a "full mouth." After that time the age cannot be told by the teeth.

The natural age of sheep is about ten years, to which age they breed and thrive well, though there are instances of their breeding at the age of fifteen and of living twenty years. On the Western plains sheep do not last nearly so long, from the fact that their teeth soon wear out while constantly nibbling the gritty herbage of the sandy prairie on which they graze. Sheep under these conditions seldom last longer than six years and cease to be profitable after five years. When the teeth give out the sheep take on digestive ailments and soon become emaciated for want of nutrition which they cannot get.

**PROFIT IN BUTTER.**

With butter, as with fruit or meat, it is not the average quality that brings the highest price, but the superfine product, and here is where the true profit comes in. The actual cost of producing a pound of butter is precisely the same whether the result is axle grease or an article of the highest grade. The difference between them represents care and cleanliness. The more you give of these two the better the product.

The majority of butter-makers are willing to bestow a certain amount of care on their work, but they will not go beyond to "fuss" or be "finicky." It is too much trouble, they think; besides their butter is as good or perhaps better than their neighbors. This is doubtless true, and this is why "average" butter is the result. But what we all do equally well has no particular value in every department of life, and butter-making is no exception. It is the doing things a little better than our neighbors that makes us sought after and puts our work at a premium. It is the little extra care and cleanliness in making the butter which raises it above the average, the additional five minutes which seem so trifling compared with the rest of the work, yet which bring about such different results.—New York World.

**ARTIFICIAL WATERING.**

The great loss and suffering entailed by the prolonged drought of the past season have caused the thoughts of farmers, fruit growers and market gardeners to turn toward irrigation as a means of becoming independent of the caprices of the weather, and insuring their crops at all times. This is well, but the other great advantages offered by irrigation are not properly comprehended.

Its effect upon the size of fruit was very plainly shown in a comparison recently made by running irrigated and non-irrigated peaches through a grader set the same for both lots so as to make three grades according to size. The irrigated peaches came out about one-fifth first grade, three-fifths second and one-fifth third while the non-irrigated peaches came out about half and half seconds and thirds, with very few first grade. The variety, culture and general conditions were about the same.

In another experiment undertaken to determine the shrinkage of dried fruit, it has been found that irrigated fruit has less shrinkage, and is, therefore worth more in its green state than fruit grown without irrigation. The explanation is that the greater amount of water in the soil allows the roots to take up more mineral matter, and that the more vigorous growth of leaves on the irrigated plants enables the air to contribute a larger amount of saccharine matter.

**FEEDING PIGS IN WINTER.**

We are quite aware of the fact that in feeding fall and winter pigs it is much easier to throw a few shovelfuls of corn into their trough than to take the time and trouble to stir them up some mixed food or slop, which it is necessary they should have in order to take them through the winter, so that they may be in first-class shape in spring. Take what skim-milk you may have and placing it in a barrel, or some vessel suited for the mixing of food, put in it enough bran or ground feed to make the whole thing quite stiff. In this you have something which will take off the monotony of constantly eating corn, and should the skim-milk be short, water would do almost as well. It is necessary to feed all that has been mixed at one time, for if it is not fed right away it will become sour and consequently give the pigs the scours. If you should add any vegetables to the slop they ought to be cooked before doing so, as young pigs will eat a great deal more of any vegetable if cooked, and relish them more than if they are given raw. In regard to the barrel used for this purpose, it might be well to say that it should be kept scrupulously clean, giving it a good scouring out at least once a week with boiling hot water.—New York Witness.

**FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.**

Fruit should be kept in a cool place. Bran and oats are the best feed for growing colts.

Feed your live stock regularly and liberally. It pays.

There is danger of a founder in feeding corn to heated horses.

When gathered from the field squashes should be placed in a cool, dry room.

In Paris the law compels the dealer in horse-flesh to place a horse's head over his stall.

Crushed wheat mixed with oats in proportion of one to two is said to make an excellent feed for horses.

In the south of France it is customary to feed grapes to horses, seven pounds being the regular allowance.

Fallen leaves are the natural mulch but in these days of insect and fungus enemies it will pay to rake up and burn them and use litter that is free from weed seed as a mulch.

If the ground is not frozen too deep it will still pay you to get some soil and bury part of the roots put in the cellar for home consumption or selling later. If you have never tried it you will be surprised to find how firm and brittle they will come out of the earth in future months.

Sell your surplus now, especially your cockerels and older stock, which you do not intend to keep. Make room for only such birds as you wish to retain for laying purposes and breeding next spring. Feed nothing that does not pay its boarding, as corn will be higher in price during the winter; this means expense, and possibly more than you will derive from the flock.

In destroying rats about a poultry house, or in fact anywhere, always feed them every day some delicate morsel for a week until they expect it; then put poison on it, and nine times out of ten you will be sure to kill your victim. More damage to a hen comes from these rodents than anything else, and every one should be destroyed as fast as it makes its appearance.

Watermelon seeds are highly relished by poultry, as well as the fruit. It is amusing how eagerly they devour the seeds first, and then the melon itself, and how clean they pick every morsel of melon from the rind. Muskmelon and pumpkin seeds are also relished by them. During the season for fruit it is advisable to freely feed them all they will consume, for it is a chance and good for them.

**QUAINT AND CURIOUS.**

Oregon has a yearly gold output of \$1,000,000.

The English Lord Chancellor gets \$50,000 a year.

There are said to be over 600 varieties of wheat.

Italians eat macaroni uncooked when they are hungry.

In Japan it is considered undignified to ride a horse faster than a walk.

The oldest national flag in the world is that of Denmark, which has been in use since the year 1219.

An Austrian nobleman in Vienna won a big bet by standing on one foot continuously for four hours.

A biblical student has figured out that Solomon's Temple was only 107 feet long, thirty-six feet wide and fifty-four feet high.

John Floyd, a colored carpenter of Augusta, Ga., has named his four sons "Jay Gould," "Vanderbilt," "Rockefeller" and "Phil Armour."

A flour mill in Minneapolis, Minn., contains a belt 260 feet long and weighing over a ton. It required twenty cowhides to make it.

A few years ago a pair of wild ducks were placed in a pond of a park in Berlin, Germany. The flock numbers more than seventy birds.

In Peoria, Ill., a house has just been cut in half, and one piece torn down because the half owners disagreed, one only wanting to rebuild.

An English officer has discovered that the descendants of the pure-bred Arab horse bear as a mark what is described as a dark blue tinge of the skin.

Mexican cotton is prolific, but the fibre deteriorates from year to year unless renewed from northern plants, precisely as does the wool of Texan sheep.

James Mahar, a native American, recently walked the streets of New York eight days without food, in search of work, and finally died of starvation.

Mexico imports potatoes from California instead of raising them, which she might easily do. This year the price is very high and potatoes are regarded as luxuries.

In 1858 an island in the Missouri River, near Leavenworth, Kan., contained 500 acres. Now it has spread until it comprises 1,400 acres. A coal mine has been found on it.

The new cash registers introduced into the electric cars at Indianapolis, Ind., look so much like clocks that half the watches in town are wrong, because the owners have set them by the dial of the register.

Herr Boeter, an ex-lieutenant in the German army, now says that vegetarianism is altogether too wide. We must be "fruitarians" if we wish to find sanitary salvation. His disciples live altogether on fruit.

With the completion of the street railway line between Lowell and Haverhill, Mass., a line of forty-two miles is made, becoming what is claimed to be the longest continuous street railway in the country.

**In an Indian Palace.**

Coarse tablecloths of vulgar pattern and crude aniline dye hide the delicate ivory carving which covers chests of black teak wood with a web of filmy lace and cushions of cotton-backed satin conceal the embroidery of a beautiful divan with a hideous melody of magenta and scarlet. Countless mirrors reflect the nightmare of color and the tawdry finery of the European element overpowers the harmonious beauty of native handiwork.—All The Year Round.

Artificial flowers disfigure every room and display an endless variety of tone and texture. Blossoms of wax and wool feathers and foil, beads and muslin, stand as centrepieces on exquisite tables of costly mosaic, or shelter their appalling ugliness under glass shades in every nook and corner. A huge trophy of waxen fruit occupies a tripod of sandalwood and mother-of-pearl, and a splendid Benares vase holds a glaring bouquet of red woolen roses.

**Too Much Art.**

Briggs—That Miss Penstock is very sensitive, isn't she? She won't speak to me any more.

Miss Briggs—What have you been saying to her now?

Briggs—Why, I merely remarked that I could tell by her face she was an artist.—Judge.

**Very Sweet.**

Haverly—I asked her what she loved best in the world and her answer was short and sweet.

Austen—Did she say you? Haverly—No, Candy.

**VELVET AND JET.**

THEY ARE LEADING FEATURES IN FASHIONABLE EXHIBITS.

Sage Advice to Women of Moderate Income—How to Dress Well at a Comparatively Small Cost.

Jet and velvet, according to the New York Ledger, are just now prominent features in fashionable exhibits. Certainly, there is nothing more becoming, stylish and elegant than velvet and jet. The softness of the fabric makes it particularly effective, and as good velvet needs little, if any, trimming, there is something to be said on the score of the economy of making an investment in this material. As long as a bit of velvet lasts it has its uses. There is probably no article that has so little waste about it. This fact should be taken into consideration by all women whose incomes are limited. It is not the amount of money we spend, but the materials we get to show for it that tell in the long run. The woman who buys half a dozen dresses a year, dresses that are so inexpensive that the purchaser flatters herself they are only trifles and really amount to very little, is the woman who is always complaining that she has nothing to wear, and, indeed, she has not, at least nothing that is of practical use in emergencies. Her cheap dresses are not good enough to save carefully, and she never has any that may be called strictly elegant. If the money she spends for these half dozen costumes were put into two, even though she had to wait some time before she could buy these two, she

would idealized form the headgear of the immortal spinsters of Cranford. Cranford, that dream city of the Amazons, where "economy was always elegant," and where the delicately,



PARISIAN POKE BONNET OF BLACK VELVET.

sensitively fibred maidens declared "though some might be poor, we were all aristocratic."

The poke bonnet seems to have all the traditions of femininity to insure its adoption by the distinctively feminine corps of women, and it is rather lamentable that it is not particularly becoming.

Among the prettiest sort is the one illustrated herewith. It is of black velvet which is always more or less beautifying in effect, if the complexion is not too much like putty, and even



VELVET DRESS.



COMBINATION CAPE AND CLOAK.

would be much better off at the end of the season.

One of the best dressed women in the country makes it a rule to put away money to buy one good dress a year, and it is a good one. Little by little she denies herself articles that she thinks she can get along without, because of the satisfaction she finds in the possession of something quite out of the common. Among her present season's investments is a skirt of good black velvet, "all silk," she complacently murmured to herself, as she put it on for the first time. A shower of fine jets over the front of the skirt she made for herself at a very small cost, and with this she wears waists of various sorts. One is a lemon-yellow silk striped with black velvet ribbon, the edges of the ribbon finished with very narrow very fine jet trimming. A collar and belt of velvet, lined with yellow and edged with jet, completes a costume that is simply regal in appearance. Another waist is of pale-blue chiffon striped with darker blue velvet ribbon with a silver embroidered edge. The collar and belt, of course, match, and a fringe of tiny silver-lined beads with jet falls over the front of the skirt.

The most stylish skirts are without trimming, but there are many ladies who do not seem to care for this, and ornament their skirts in various ways. In one model there are velvet flowers applied on in lines down the edges of the plaits, in others there are very full rose ruchings at the foot of the skirt. Others have embroidered edges with fine beads and heavy cord silk. Embroidery of all sorts is sometimes seen on skirts, but this is merely for variety and is not considered the extreme of fashion.

All of the ornamentation is concentrated on the waist, and certainly there is quite enough of it. Never has there been such an evident effort to overdo all reason and sense as appears in the present styles. A concert waist has enormous sleeves shaped like beer kegs. Around the neck is a collar made of braided velvet. From this there are clusters of loops projecting on either side. Below this collar is a yoke edged with wide velvet ribbon, with very large bows on the shoulders, and below this is a fall of lace that extends to the waist-line in front, and covers the tops of the voluminous sleeves. The distance between the outer edges of these sleeves, with this enormous frill over them, is almost incredible. It is impossible for the wearer to pass through an ordinary-sized door without touching the casings on either hand. This waist is worn with a skirt of satin with velvet belt and long ends, and large velvet bows set at intervals on the waist.

THE POKE BONNET.  
The poke bonnets suggest in a mod-

then it is better than almost any other texture to subside the defects. The plumes and bows and strings are black. The one enchanting note of color is given by the bandeau and rosettes which are of vivid geranium red velvet. Any becoming color may be most effectively introduced in these bandeaux. A bandeau of soft red velvet in a poke bonnet that frames a fair face surmounted by gray hair is appropriate and pleasing.

Attention to a few simple rules will assist any one to select from the various hats of the season one distinctively suited to her peculiar needs. People with thin, delicately modelled faces, whose chins are inclined to be pointed, should avoid the bonnets with broad frontal trimming or hats with wide straight brims, as they have a tendency to emphasize the "pointedness" of the face, giving it the look of a flat-iron or a wedge. Such faces should be surmounted by hats with rolling brims and bonnets of high oval shape or trimming.

**SHORT CAPES.**

Short capes are greatly affected for winter, and are particularly nice for dressy occasions when an elaborate toilet is worn, adapting themselves better than any other form of outdoor wrap to the requirements of the prevailing large sleeves.

An especially charming model is



SHORT, DRESSY CAPE.

built on circular lines of Lincoln green velvet. A deep flounce of Renaissance lace, cream tinted, falls from the shoulders, where it is headed by a band of sable, which also edges the bottom of the cape. A sable thibet trims the neck, its long stole ends reaching far below the knees.

The elephant is commonly supposed to be a slow, clumsy animal, but, when excited or frightened, can attain a speed of twenty miles an hour and keep it up for half a day.

**A NEW GRAND ARMY.**

**JUVENILE SOLDIERS.**

New York School Boys Drill as if They Were Veterans.

The exhibition and drill of the battalion of the "American Guard," which is composed of the school boys of School No. 87, at the Central Palace Garden recently, was a revelation to those who have been opposed heretofore to the introduction of military tactics into our public schools. On this occasion the drill was witnessed by the members of the Board of Education; the representatives of the Grand Army of the Republic, a number of leading citizens and one of the largest audiences that ever gathered in New York. The exhibit was arranged mainly through School commissioner J. A. Goulden, who was, with a large staff of comrades of the Grand Army, present, and reviewed the Battalion from the grand stand. Among those present were many of the principals of the public schools, all of whom took the greatest interest in the proceedings and are strongly in favor of its introduction into every school.

This movement was inaugurated by Lafayette Post No. 149, and was emphatically endorsed by the authorities of the Grand Army, who are now urging it in every section of the country. By this means an effective army of nearly 2,000,000 can be made, and one that can be relied upon in any emergency that may arise from loss without or internal dissensions. This battalion was formed under the immediate supervision of Professor Boyer, the principal of the school, who is an enthusiast in the movement. The immense success of this battalion has given the matter a boom that will be felt throughout the length and breadth of the country, and already the matter has been taken up in many other cities among which may be mentioned Boston, Brooklyn, Jersey City and Philadelphia, and being agitated everywhere. The Commander-in-chief of the Grand Army has appointed General George W. Winzler, of Brooklyn, a comrade of John A. Dix Post No. 145 of New York, a special aid on his staff, whose special duty will be to promote the introduction of military tactics in every public school in the country, and who will select his aids in every department and look after its interests vigorously, and there can be no doubt of its ultimate success.

The battalion, numbering about 900 boys ranging in age from 14 to 18 years, is fully armed and equipped and ready to do active duty at a moment's warning, and they are fully equal in drill and general efficiency to the best drilled and disciplined regiment of the National Guard of any State. On the above occasion they were exercised in the manual of arms, battalion movements, riot drill, skirmish drill and field evolutions, and every movement was executed with a precision and perfection which excited rounds of applause from the spectators, and particularly from the many old soldiers present. It was a wonderful exhibition of what these boys are capable of, and settled conclusively in the minds of all the practicality and usefulness of the training of the rising generation in military tactics.

Another thing in its favor is that the boys take naturally to it, and enjoy the drill more than any other athletic exercise. Baseball and football are lost sight of, and all delight in shouldering the gun and wielding the sword.

The movement has already progressed so far that it is safe to say that on the occasion of the next celebration of Memorial Day there will be from 1,000 to 10,000 of these young soldiers in the line who will act as escort to the veterans of the war. There are more than that number now in active drill for the occasion, and the Board of Education are doing all they can to promote it.—New York Press.

**LOUISVILLE GETTING READY.**

The citizens of Louisville are already bestirring themselves to arrange for the reception of the Grand Army men who are to be their guests next September. A committee of one hundred has just been named, consisting of well known business and professional men, to take charge of the affair, and John H. Milliken has been selected as director-general. It was a foregone conclusion that he would be chosen for the place, as he was chairman of the committee which succeeded in having Louisville chosen as the place for the National Encampment of 1895. The vigor of Mr. Milliken and his associates at Pittsburg last September in so warmly endorsing the plan of the city of Louisville, is well known outside of it through his connection with the great Louisville and Nashville Railroad system. He has fine executive ability, is energetic and resourceful, and Louisville will undoubtedly have a hearty old-fashioned welcome for every Grand Army man who attends the encampment.

**Asiatic Criminals.**

The worst features in the Asiatic criminal is his vindictiveness. To plot against the life of one who has done his best to compass your fall, who has dishonored wife or daughter, or lain in wait for a son; to shoot a grasping landlord and knock a land agent on the head—these sort of episodes are familiar enough in British annals of crime. But in his thirst for revenge the Asiatic will sacrifice himself, his wife, his child, his unoffending neighbor, if he can only get up a case against a rival. Human life for him has no sanctity. If the native policeman sought to discover a human body in the premises of his deadly foe, with clothes and ornaments, any one may be sacrificed to supply the corpus delicti.—The Saturday Review.

**Poets and the Nightingale.**

Most of the poets who have sung the praises of the nightingale are said to make two mistakes about the bird. In the first place they write as if it were the hen bird that was the beautiful singer; and, in the second, nearly all of them represent "her" as singing either on the topmost bough or upon the wing. Of course, as folks who are not poets know, the facts are quite otherwise. It is the male bird that causes the woods to resound with melody, and his favorite perch is a low twig close to the ground, his song being addressed to his mate as she sits on the egg. After the young have been hatched, the song ceases, the energy of the vocalist being all taken up in providing for the wants of the nestlings.

"I didn't see your portrait at the exhibition, Miss Holmeleigh." "No, they wouldn't take it. They said it was a good portrait, but my face was out of drawing."—Harper's Bazar.