

TESTING SEEDS.

INTERESTING OPERATIONS AT AN EXPERIMENT STATION.

Seed Adulteration Has Been Reduced to a Science—Test for Impurities—Home-Made Germinating Apparatus.

WITH the coming of spring, heralded by the alluring and highly colored advertisements of seed dealers and florists, the farmer, housewife and amateur gardener are flooding the mails with the seed orders they are sending to the dealers. The little paper packages, full of promises of lovely blooms and plump vegetables, will be sent by return mail, and then will come the planting, waiting, anxiety and triumph or disappointment. Those who bought their seeds of re-

putable, conscientious dealers will have themselves to blame if plants, grasses, flowers and shrubs fail to spring from the seed, but too often the little bags or packages of seeds contain sand, crushed quartz, "dead" seed or inferior seed mixed with a small proportion of the genuine, for seed adulteration has been reduced to a science.

Sometimes this adulteration is due to sheer carelessness on the part of growers and dealers, but more often it is the result of careful study and careful manipulation by dishonest men. Europe set the example of mixing inferior, dead and cheap seed with the good to increase the profits of the grower and dealer, and some of the worst pests which trouble farmers were introduced into this country through the medium of adulterated seeds.

The Russian thistle, a foul weed which covers over 35,000 square miles of good farming lands and seriously interferes with agricultural operations in seven States, stole into the United

States more than a score of years ago in Russian faxseed.

It is said that the average farmer buys the cheapest seed in the market and trusts to luck for results. This practice is condemned by experts, who declare that cheap seed is the principal source of the hosts of noxious weeds which spring up on many farms.

Purity is a primary requisite to good seed and adulterated seed is not pure. The adulterating matter may be worthless, harmless stuff, such as sand, dirt, stones, crushed quartz or dead seed, or it may be seed of harmful weeds, which so nearly resembles the genuine that the closest inspection fails to discover the fraud.

Grass and clover seed are the principal victims of the dishonest "mixer." A common method of adulteration is to mix the seed of wild and inferior grasses with that which commands a high price.

In Europe there are several "seed control" stations where seed is tested, and seed investigation now is an important feature in many agricultural experimental stations in this country. The apparatus and appliances used in these investigations are complete in every particular and somewhat expensive, but any farmer or gardener can test his own seed and arrive at correct conclusions.

The points to be considered are genuineness, purity, germinating power and actual value of the seed. A good magnifying glass, a set of small bottles or tubes provided with corks, and a home-made germinating apparatus are all that is necessary to enter into a personally conducted pure-seed investigation. The method of testing as carried on in an experimental station is about as follows:

A fair average sample is secured, and this sample is divided up into smaller average samples, so that several tests can be carried on at the same time. After this smaller average sample is weighed, the seeds are spread

out upon a smooth glazed black or white surface and all of the impurities are carefully separated from the genuine seed, weighed and their percentage ascertained. All chaff, sand and foreign mixtures of any sort are regarded as impurities. The seeds of weeds are identified, if possible, and every result is carefully recorded on blanks made for the purpose. When the test for impurities is complete the germinating test is made. Where the tests are made thoroughly two lots of seeds are taken for the germinating test; one for the germinating apparatus and one for outdoor or greenhouse culture. For sprouting seeds it is necessary to have some sort of an apparatus in which all of the different factors governing germination, such as light, temperature and moisture, can be controlled, and this requires artificial heat which can be readily regulated. Various forms of equipments are used; one of them consists of a square chamber

A NINE-FOOT MUSTACHE.

An Idaho Man is the Possessor and Has No Rival in the World.

James H. Brown, Issue Clerk at the Fort Hall Indian Agency, Ross Fork, Bingham County, Idaho, has the longest mustache of any man living. It



JAMES H. BROWN.

measures nine feet from tip to tip, four and a half feet each way from the center of the lip. This mustache is Mr. Brown's greatest joy and pride. It is most carefully kept, and would attract marked attention anywhere. The Indians look upon this enormously long mustache with awe and reverence, believing Mr. Brown to have been exceptionally blessed by God.

Mr. Brown is by birth a Virginian. He was born in Loudoun County, eleven miles west of Leesburg, near what is known now as Round Hill. His father moved from Loudoun County to Barbour County, then in Virginia, but now in West Virginia, in October, 1857.

Mr. Brown's occupation has always been that of a farmer, with the exception of a period of eighteen years, which he devoted to the lumber business, and the time he has been giving to Uncle Sam. Fourteen months ago Mr. Brown was appointed Issue Clerk at the Fort Hall Indian Agency, which position he is still filling.

The fame of Mr. Brown's elongated mustache is by no means confined to the wilds of Idaho. It is known

MUSEUM IN THE "WHITE HOUSE."

Confederate Memorial Collection Established in Richmond.

The building in which the Confederate Memorial Collection has just been established, says Leslie's Weekly, is the old White House of the Confederacy. The building was purchased by the city of Richmond for \$43,000 and presented to President Davis when the seat of the Confederate Government was moved from Montgomery, Ala. Jefferson Davis occupied it four years. In April, 1865, when the Federal Army occupied the town, this building became headquarters for "Military District No. 1." From 1871 to less than two years ago it was used as a public school. Miss Winnie Davis, "the Daughter of the Confederacy," was born in the house. Little Joe Davis fell from the portico and was killed.

A Confederate bazaar in Richmond in 1892 yielded \$32,000, and with this and other contributions the building has been restored and improved under the direction of the ladies of the Confederate Memorial and Literary Society. It is a handsome house, with splendid round columns, roomy porticos, mantels of Carrara marble, and



CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT RICHMOND, VA. (Formerly the White House of the Confederacy.)

large, high rooms. To every State of the old Confederacy a room will be assigned, to be in charge of a regent representing that State. These regents are the daughters of distinguished Confederates, including Miss Mildred Lee, Miss Daisy Hampton and Miss Winnie Davis. There are many visitors daily to the new museum, and it is expected that the project to establish a battle abbey will be consolidated with this enterprise. The matter is now under consideration.

A Twenty Thousand Dollar Bug.
The picture given herewith shows a "lady bird beetle," a small bug brought from Australia by the United States Government to head off the



THE \$20,000 BUG.

ravages of the "white scale," an insect which threatened the orange industry of California with destruction. It cost \$20,000 to introduce the lady bird into California, but as they fed voraciously upon the white scales the latter were nearly wiped out, and the orange groves were saved.

"The Heavy Butter Plate."
One of the tricks of the grocers' trade is "the heavy butter plate." Some grocers have a habit of putting the wooden plates upon which they sell their butter away in a damp place to absorb moisture and gain in weight. In this way the grocer gains about an ounce to the pound, which, in a month's sales, reaches a pretty total. —Chicago Record.

Better for the Boys.
The Judge of the Maysville (Ky.) Police Court summoned into court the parents of some incorrigible boys, and offered them the option of giving their sons a sound whipping or having them sent to the workhouse for thirty days. They chose the former, and officers stood by to see that the paddle was well applied.

FASHION'S REALM.

SEASONABLE HINTS CONCERNING FEMINE APPAREL.

Collets for Spring and Summer Wear—Dainty Dress for a Little Girl—Stylish Shirt Waist.

FOR spring and cool days in summer these collets illustrated herewith are very necessary, stylish and becoming to wear with street gowns or light jackets. Two of the most popular styles are here given. No. 1 has a pointed yoke of black velvet, almost covered with jet passementerie, a circular ripple cape of black satin being joined to its lower edge, which is handsomely trimmed with lace full on and headed with narrow heading. A full ruching of lace or chiffon stylishly finishes the neck, which can be omitted in fa-

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BECOMING COLLETS—DESIGNED BY MAY MANTON.

or of the flaring Medici collar. No. 2 is made from emerald velvet richly decorated with jet passementerie in scrolls and edged all around with black ostrich feather ruching. It can be closed to the neck or left open as here illustrated and cut with or without the notches in back and front. Both capes are lined with fancy taffeta, a firm interlining adding to the warmth and improving the set of these stylish collets. The quantity of material 44 inches wide required to make these collets for a lady of medium size is 1 1/2 yards for No. 1 design, and 1 1/4 yards for No. 2 design.

gathered at top and bottom, on each side of the slashed openings, the fullness at the wrists being joined to straight cuffs that are closed with link



LADIES' SHIRT WAIST.

A LITTLE GIRL'S DRESS.

White embroidered lawn made the simple and attractive frock pictured in the engraving, the square yoke being cut from the skirt edging and the bretelles, neck and wrists trimmed with embroidery to match. Shoulder straps, rosettes and long ends of violet satin ribbon form the pretty decoration. The full skirt is gathered front and back and joined to the lower edge of the straight yoke, the points of embroidery being allowed to fall over the gathered fullness. The neck is finished with a standing collar. Full

buttons. Shirt waists in this style are made of striped and plain batiste, grass linen, percale, madras, cotton chevot and other plain and fancy shirtings, with collar and cuffs to match, or of



DAINTY SUMMER DRESS FOR A LITTLE GIRL.

puffs, gathered top and bottom, are gracefully disposed over comfortable sleeves, that fit closely from elbow to wrists, where they are completed with embroidery. The smooth pointed bretelles are edged with embroidery and sewed to the yoke across the shoulders, to stand out well over the full sleeve puffs. This style is especially desirable for summer wash fabrics, gingham, percale, lawn, dimity or wash silk, which can be daintily trimmed with insertion, lace, fancy stitching or embroidery. Cashmere, camel's hair, serge and other woollens will develop prettily with yoke and under sleeve of contrasting fabrics

white linen as here illustrated. The quantity of material 36 inches wide required to make this shirt waist for a lady having a 36-inch bust measure is 3 1/2 yards.

THE OLD-FASHIONED BAREGES.
The old-fashioned bareges have come back with the mohairs. They are thin and wry, with an infinitesimal thread of some color running through a black ground. A narrow black satin stripe runs the other way of the goods. These, too, will have a colored silk lining to gleam through the transparent texture.