

HORTICULTURE

The Care of Trees.

The growing of trees, whether for fruit or shade, is growing a crop, and the trees deserve rich soil, care and fertilizer. If trees die or become diseased there is a cause, which should be discovered and some remedy applied.

Training Strawberry Runners.

While the matted row system for strawberries is preferred by the majority of growers, yet it will be an advantage to train the first runners to grow in the rows, and not have the rows very wide, by cutting off the late runners that appear.

Growing Good Parsnips.

In most parts of the North parsnips are in their full glory. Of course, it should be understood that they favor shade and never a too bold exposure to the sun's direct rays. There is no flower that pays better for careful attention to its habits. Great results have been attained by cultivation. J. C. Vanehan, who is good authority in horticulture, has his rules for growing fine parsnips. The following:

"The soil to grow good parsnips in can hardly be too rich, using cow dung in preference to any other, and a liberal sprinkling of bone-dust from time to time. The strains of parsnips that are grown now will well repay for good cultivation, and they require it, as to such slovenly culture as is often met with will grow good parsnips, no matter how choice the strains of seed."

—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Transplanting the Evergreen.

It is recognized among planters that more risk attends the transplanting of evergreens than deciduous trees. This applies with more force to those of a broad-leaved character, such as the holly, evergreen magnolia and mahonia are examples of. Why this should be a surprise to many, yet the cause is not far to seek. When deciduous trees are planted it is either spring or autumn, when they are bereft of foliage. At such times the calls on the roots are not so important as they are when foliage is to be supplied. The evergreen is never without foliage, and it is because of this so much more care is required in transplanting it. There is no reason why so much care should be taken to preserve the leaves, when, by reducing their number, the safety of the tree would be so much advanced.

Beautifying the Farm Home.

The illustration shows a simple yet most attractive rustic fence, which may be easily built and will be an added attraction to any farm home, used either as a dividing fence between the house lawn and the farm proper or as a line fence bordering the road. It will not be necessary to make the entire sketch of fence of this rustic work unless desired; a section or two will answer, and is especially attractive when used in connection with a hedge. The artist has drawn the illustration from a section of fence which separated the lawn from an orchard. The length of rustic fence on either side of the gate was but ten feet, and beyond that consisted of a well-kept hedge of California privet. The posts in this case were made of the trunk of a cherry tree which was destroyed in a storm. The tubs on each gatepost were small tobacco pails cut in half and covered with bark from the woods. In them each spring was planted roots of dwarf canna, which in the fall were taken out and stored in the cellar. Such gates and fences can be made at a trifling expense, and are handsome enough to surround any home.—New York Tribune.

Single and Double Flowers.

Florists invariably look with disfavour upon single flowers, for they neither handle well nor appear attractive to their patrons. The petals of a single flower fall sooner, as a rule, than those of a double flower, which may be accounted for in the fact that the inner petals of the latter are transformed into stamens, and these are more firmly attached than simple petals.

The objection to single flowers is generally confined to those used for cut-flower purposes. No one will deny the beauty and fine form of a well-grown single peony, and even a good single rose reaches the heart of many persons before a double one. Single hollyhocks, too, are attractive and less formal than the double.

Many persons will not appreciate the reference to the single peonies, for, strange to say, they are very uncommon. A single tree-peony is even more rare. The writer considered it a treat to see a number of the latter recently. Fully expanded, the flowers measured seven inches in diameter—the color, a royal purple.—Mechanics Monthly.

One Pair of Gloves For Two Men.

Mr. A. E. Randle, of Congress Heights, visited the District Commissioners, escorting General Charles E. Hooker, of Mississippi.

"General Hooker," remarked Mr. Randle, "was a gallant Confederate officer. At Vicksburg a cannon ball cut off his left arm and at the same time blew off the head of his servant, who was kneeling by his side. A Union officer in the same battle, who shall be nameless, lost his right arm during the same siege. In after years the two officers became close friends, as one of them lost the right arm and the other the left one, they send each other the odd glove every time either purchases a pair of gloves."—Washington Post.

Flowers for \$25,000 For a Rug.

Every time J. Pierpont Morgan goes abroad, says the New York Times, he makes it a point to acquire a number of valuable souvenirs of the trip. This time, besides a number of rare paintings, including the famous Gainsborough portrait, he has purchased for himself a Persian rug, probably the rarest of its kind in existence, for which he paid \$25,000. The rug measures ten feet six inches by nineteen feet, was made of Persian silk in Tabriz, Persia, and was woven by Mohammedan friars 150 years ago for a shah. The time required to weave the rug was sixteen years.

CATCHING TIGERS.

Powerful Steel Traps Which Securely Impose the Results.

Capturing tigers by a novel method is now being adopted in Sumatra and is proving almost invariably successful. As soon as a tiger's hair has been found, natives are employed to construct a wooden fence nine feet long and four feet wide a short distance away from it, and in this inclosure is then placed a bait dog, which is tied to one of the fence posts. A narrow entrance leads into the inclosure, and there, deftly concealed under earth, leaves and boughs of trees, is placed a strong steel trap, which is so designed that its jaws are held open as long as the tiger is in it, neverthless so delicate that the pressure even of a dog's foot would release the springs and cause the animal's leg to be crushed in a twinkling.—London Telegraph.

The Tonic of Success.

The exercise of the highest faculties of the mind is not only stimulating, but creates the highest character. Perhaps there is nothing else which has such a magical effect upon the brain, the nervous system, the whole man in fact, as the consciousness of achieving that on which his heart is set. There is a wonderful uplift in feeling that things which we take hold of will move. Achievement acts like a tonic on the whole system, it quickens the circulation, stimulates the digestion, and enlarges hope. People who have been invalids for years, whom no medicine or physician could help, have frequently been entirely restored to health, by suddenly hearing some good news, or unexpectedly coming into some good fortune.

This shows that the mind is master; that the body and its functions are good servants, and that the thoughts are reflected in the physical man.—Success.

Swiss Town to Abolish Fuel.

The town of Davos, writes a Swiss correspondent, is considering a bold scheme for the abolition of all the ordinary forms of fuel. It is proposed to erect an extensive electric plant at the confluence of two large mountain torrents, whose united waters will supply the necessary motive force. A large firm of Swiss electricians has been studying the problem for over a year and has obtained the concession of the forces of the torrents alluded to. The same firm has bought out new electric heating and cooking apparatus especially designed for the scheme. The first cost of the installation is estimated to be \$3,000,000 francs. Already electricity is not only used for lighting and motive power, but is adopted in many villas for cooking and heating and in one of the largest bakeries. The idea is to do away with all contamination of the air by the use of fuel.

Homeless Monkey-Faced Owls.

Three owls that appear to be part monkey have been found near Red Bud, Ill. Two of the birds are now in possession of Phil Offending, a hotel keeper, and are viewed with great curiosity. The owls are two months old now, and so far have shown no signs of feathering, which adds to the monkey likeness. They have large, staring eyes like the owls, even the beak being depressed, but the forehead runs back like that of the monkey. The hoot which has made the owl well known is absent. The vocal powers of these monkey-faced beings are somewhat impaired. They remain silent unless disturbed, when they let out a hiss like that of a snake. They were taken from a nest in the woods near Red Bud by George Carpenter.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Helping Him to Like.

"Yes," he said, with a deprecating sweep of the hand, "this is a very small world, after all."

"I know it," she replied; "sometimes it really astonishes me that you can back up or turn around on it without slipping over the edge."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Justified.

"So you didn't think, before we met," she said, with an arch smile, "that I was beautiful? Why?"

"I had heard several of your lady friends say you were 'such a nice, sweet little thing,'" he replied.

After that she naturally had less confidence in herself.

The Price of Knowledge.

"I sent away a dollar," she sadly said, "to a party in New York who offered to tell for that amount how to make the guests at summer resorts love your children."

"Oh, did you?" her friend asked.

"What do you have to do?"

"Leave them at home!"—Chicago Record-Herald.

Self-Esteem.

"Yes," said the youngster's mother, "Mr. Bilgins insists that our boy is going to grow up to be a wonderfully intellectual and estimable man."

"That is only a natural parental pride."

"But, mamma," said the beautiful South American heiress, "do you believe I will have any trouble in being received in society in the United States?"

"I don't see why," answered her mother. "You have plenty of money and you can make the best of them, look like small change when it comes to being a daughter of the revolution."—Indianapolis Sun.

MERRY SIDE OF LIFE

A Compromise—Sadly Lacking—The Reward of Perseverance—Provisioned—A Useful Adjunct—The Responsibility—Mildir Apprehension—Hopeful, Etc.

"Will you give me a steam yacht?"

"When I am married?"—You Jack!"

"The yacht was mine, and, like a shot, gave her a little smack!"—Life.

Sadly Lacking.

Baby Swellhead (to friend)—"How awkwardly that common child walks?"

Friend—"Yes; she has no carriage at all!"—Chicago News.

The Reward of Perseverance.

"Why, I didn't think you intended to encourage him?"

"Well, I didn't at first, but it was impossible to discourage him!"—Puck.

Provisioned.

"Did little Jim enjoy that children's party?"

"I guess so. He wasn't hungry until the next afternoon at four o'clock!"—Puck.

A Useful Adjunct.

Ascum—"What's the idea in your new story?"

Wright—"Idea? Why, it hasn't any. It's a society novel!"—Philadelphia Press.

The Responsibility.

She—"Did it ever occur to you what poor talkers the men are?"

He—"Did you ever consider that it is the women who teach babies to say things?"—Boston Transcript.

Mildir Apprehension.

Pinching Bug—"Say, it is silly for you to wear your headlight on behind."

Lightning Bug—"Not at all. I'm awfully nervous about rear-and collisions."

Hopeful.

He—"Do you suppose we will ever have enough to get married on?"

She—"Surely. Why, Jack, we don't need a million. A couple of hundred thousand will do to start on!"—Detroit Free Press.

Girls Who Sing Over Hard Work.

Young girls in Japan are employed to perform a task which cannot be done in the same time and with the same ease by any other body of work-folk in the world. They are engaged at the different ports in loading the large steamers with coal. The coal barges are swung alongside the vessel, from stem to stern of which are hung a series of platforms, the broadest nearest the base and diminishing as they rise. On each of these platforms a girl stands. Men on the barges fill baskets containing about two buckets of coal each, and pass them to the girl standing on the lowest platform. She passes them to the girl above her, and a continuous and unbroken line of baskets pass into the vessel from 10 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon.

The girls will handle from sixty to seventy baskets of coal per minute, and over 1000 tons of coal a day. This really arduous toll they perform as if it were mere play, for they keep up a running fire of jokes, and their laughter is continuous. They often break into a song, the notes of which are clear, melodious and stimulating.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Eating Locusts.

The Filipinos in Manila are having an unexpected feast. It came to them like the manna to the Israelites, being furnished by a swarm of locusts, which recently flew over the city. To these people the locusts are a great delicacy. The insects are served dry or in a pot-pourri. They are also made into pies and cakes, and in some instances ground into powder and steeped in liquid so as to make a beverage. At times catching the insects becomes a very profitable business. In Manila and the other large cities they sell at \$2 a sack, gold. These sacks hold about a bushel. When dried the locust can be kept indefinitely. The natives never eat the grasshoppers green, but they eat them in every form, dried or cooked. They even carry them in their pockets and eat them as they would candies and other confections. When dried the locust is nice and crisp, and tastes something like gingersnaps. Some confectioners dress the grasshoppers in various ways, serving them up occasionally with chocolate trimmings and coats of sugar.—New York Post.

Have You Met This Woman?

Her husband is all right—but he is so fat!

Her little boy is all right—but he is growing so spindling!

Her home is all right—but the paint is too light!

Did she like the last lecture at the club? Liked what he said very much—but his hair was cut so short—like a prize fighter!

Her new tailor suit is all right—but Mrs. Zyz has her coat a trifle, the merest shred, longer, and it's much better!

Her new hat is elegant—but if that ribbon was a shade darker, now!—Boston Herald.

An Immigrant's Progress.

Fifteen years ago Joseph Hauga arrived in Buttes County, Kan., with five cents in his pocket. He went to work for a farmer, with whom he remained five years, saving something from his wages each year. At the end of that time he started farming on his own account. To-day he owns five hundred acres of land, and has it stocked with a fine herd of cattle. A short time ago he went to El Dorado to bid on another half section of land, which he had the money to buy.

Needed the Money.

Dibbles—"That was a beautiful poem you had in Gusher's magazine this month. Where did you get the inspiration?"

Scribbles—"From my creditors!"—Chicago News.

How Secrets Get Out.

Wild-cat-rug—"Say, that young man has got a wooden leg."

Bear-skin-rug—"How do you know?"

Wild-cat-rug—"When he stepped on my head I bit him in three places—and he never even winked."

Glad of It.

"I read somewhere the other day that the American people spend \$15,000,000 a year for gold."

"Good! I'm glad to hear it. If they didn't blow it in that way they might spend it on fireworks."

Quite Out of It.

Mrs. Bluegrove—"But they are very fashionable, are they not?"

Mrs. Swellman—"Fashionable? Most assuredly not. Why, they permit the care of their children to interfere with their social obligations!"—Philadelphia Press.

Good Popular Songs Scarce.

Great Hits Few Nowadays. Although Music Publishers Are Hurling.

"It is singular, but true," said a music publisher, "that there are very few big hits in popular songs nowadays, that is, songs that have reached the million mark in sales, such as 'After the Ball,' 'Annie Rooney,' 'Daisy Bell,' 'Down Went McGinty,' 'Two Little Girls in Blue' and 'Comrades.' Many songs published since then have been very popular, to be sure, but they cannot be compared with the old-timers.

"Many dealers have asked me the cause of this, but thus far I have been unable to explain it satisfactorily. It is all the stranger when you take into consideration the fact that there are more singers and better facilities for publishing songs than in former years.

"Years ago a good song would force itself upon the market. At present a publisher has to humor the singers and do a lot of hustling. Some of the top-liners require pay to sing songs. In the old days they were only too glad to get a good ballad. To enter to the whims of the singers a publisher must have at least three pianos in his establishment, employ expert players and vocalists to teach the songs, print professional cards and do a thousand other things. You see the competition is keen, and if you should hurt the feelings of any singer, especially a man or woman of reputation, you will have considerable trouble in making your songs popular.

"Publishers have to take a lot of chances, too. For instance, to popularize a song you must have slides made for stereopticon views. This costs quite a sum. One publisher spent \$400 to take pictures for a set of slides for the song 'Sing Again That Sweet Refrain.' He had to employ a troupe of colored minstrels, a band and a hall. Fortunately the song made money and he did not lose anything.

There are other things to contend with, too, such as lawsuits, etc. There was a dispute over the ownership of one song, for instance. After fighting in the courts for some time one of the firms concerned compromised by paying the other \$2000 in cash and the costs of the suit."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Lost Hair.

"My hair came out by the handful, and the gray hairs began to creep in. I tried Ayer's Hair Vigor, and it stopped the hair from coming out and restored the color."—Mrs. M. D. Gray, No. Salem, Mass.

There's a pleasure in offering such a preparation as Ayer's Hair Vigor. It gives to all who use it such satisfaction. The hair becomes thicker, longer, softer, and more glossy. And you feel so secure in using such an old and reliable preparation.

\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

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If it's coated, your stomach is bad, your liver is out of order. Ayer's Pills will clean your tongue, cure your dyspepsia, make your liver right. Easy to take, easy to operate.

25c. All druggists.

BUCKINGHAM'S DYE FOR THE HICKERS.

Want your mustache or beard a beautiful brown or rich black? Then use

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Balloon Over an Ocean of Fire.

A Paris correspondent writes that the aeronaut, M. Surcouf, his wife, M. Clairon, (General Secretary of the last Paris Exhibition) and M. Binot (architect of the Porte Monumentale) had an exciting balloon trip between Rueil and Beauvais. Passing through the clouds they were caught in a violent storm, and when they finally emerged into clear air it was at a height of 12,000 feet, and they were traveling over a variable ocean of fire, formed by vivid lightning flashes. The aerial voyage landed near Beauvais after being up nearly 4 1/2 hours, and the ball, in which was covered with snow, caused the greatest wonder among the astonished inhabitants.

Our Highest Mountain Peak.

Mount McKinley, with an altitude of 29,244 feet, is the highest mountain in North America and forms the central point of an enormous and surpassingly grand mountain mass, situated at the head waters of the Situkina and Kuskokwim rivers in Alaska. Mount McKinley was known to the Russians who settled about the head of Cook Inlet nearly 100 years ago and was called by them Rukhala—that is, Big. The first American to see and publish an account of it was a prospector named W. A. Dickey, who gave the mountain his present name.

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Cryolite is a mineral found in Greenland.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

The Phoenicians and the Greeks were the first to place much dependence on naval warfare.

Yamasa Pisco's Cure for Consumption saved my life three years ago.—Mrs. THOMAS ROSS, Maple St., Norwich, N.Y., Feb. 17, 1893.

The shipping trade along the Central American coast is to a large extent in German hands.

People who are not really ill—just languid and indolent—will derive great benefit from using Garfield Headache Powder, a wonderfully simple remedy that tones and refreshes.

In Strasburg and other German cities dentists have been officially appointed for the public schools. In some parts of Bavaria 90 per cent. of school children were found to have carious teeth.

How Uncle Sam Keeps Tab on Crops.

There are in the United States, approximately, 2,750 counties of agricultural importance. In each of these counties the Agricultural Department has a principal county correspondent, who maintains an organization of three assistants, each covering a specified territory. Facilities are furnished the principal correspondent to enable him to obtain regular reports from his assistants. These reports he tabulates at the end of each month, supplementing the information thus obtained by his own observation and knowledge of the situation, and the consolidated report is submitted to the statistician. Although there is no compensation attached to the position, an average of about 90 per cent. of them reports monthly.

Locomotives Are Clumsy.

There seems to be no present help for it, but the existent style of locomotive is at best a clumsy mechanism. The crank principle must be done away with before 100 miles an hour can be reached for long journeys. Rowing is a stupid sport, because the recovery retards the progress of the boat. The forward motion is accomplished by a series of jerks. In an eight-oared boat the blades should not enter and leave the water at the same time, but should work in alternation. The forward motion of the crank helps an engine, while the backward motion retards it, and between the two the mechanism is gradually shaken to pieces. By sacrificing strength to speed a rotary engine might be built that would make 100 miles an hour at all distances. The high speed of electric motors is derived from the rotary principle.

England has a yearly surplus of births over deaths of 369,000; Scotland, 51,000; Ireland, of 27,000.

Because of their purity, simplicity and effectiveness, Garfield Headache Powder is present in a variety of forms. It might be built that would make 100 miles an hour at all distances. The high speed of electric motors is derived from the rotary principle.

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