

## Farmers' Department.

### Popular Errors.—No. I.

Under this head we intend to write a series of articles showing up various fallacies in practice among the good people of our country. They will be theoretical or practical according to the subjects treated, and as we happen to be in the mood. For any hints from our friends by way of assisting us to carry out our scheme, we shall be much obliged. We shall aim to make the articles entertaining as well as instructive.

**Changing Seed.**—There is no greater popular error than this, namely, that it is beneficial to bring seed from a distant farm or farm, or different sections of the country, or even a foreign land; for the purpose of change, in supposing this change alone will obtain a superior crop, except occasionally from a higher latitude to a low one, and sometimes vice versa. Ask the reason for this opinion, and the ordinary answer is, "well, I don't know, but I reckon or guess," as the case may be, "it is a good thing to change." After a while, things in this country run out and come to nothing, and to keep 'em up we don't make a change." Ask the man of science the same question, and he will answer, "that after growing a certain kind of grain, vegetable, or plant, in the same soil for a series of years, the soil will become exhausted of the necessary elements to perfect the said grain, &c., & that it then inevitably de-creases, and must be renovated by bringing similar grain from a distant locality, grown in a soil with somewhat different elements, and that such seed will be sure to produce with pristine vigor." And forthwith he adopts the change, without inquiring whether the seed actually has the exhausted elements required in it, or reflecting whether an article so small as many seeds are—wheat for example—can possibly hold a sufficiency of solid elements to increase its growth of straw and grain in said exhausted soil, sufficiently to make it a good crop.

We hold it utterly impossible in this instance, and most others; for what is now wanted is as plain as the nose on a man's face. It is this not a change of seed, but a restoration of those elements to the soil of which it has been exhausted by the crops carried off. For example, in wheat. Protein is the principle matter which has been carried off in the straw; gluten and starch in the grain; so that to grow good wheat again on the exhausted soil, it must be dressed with barn-yard manure or muck, or vegetable mould, or with ashes, charcoal dust, lime, and bones. Then we may have good wheat again without the necessity of a change seed. Indeed, the seed may be improved rather than deteriorated by constantly growing on the same soil, as has been repeatedly proved in this country.

**Trees and Shrubbery Around the House.**—A great error in disposing of these, lies, in planting them too near buildings—the house especially. No large growing trees should be nearer the house than 100 feet, and if several acres of lawns are around, a distance of 200 or 300 feet would be better. The smaller growing trees and shrubbery should be proportionately near.

The objections to the trees being placed too near the house are, first, if ever blown down they endanger the house; second, they keep the sides and roof so constantly damp, that if of wood, it dries much faster than it otherwise would; third, they harbor flies and mosquitoes; fourth, they hide the view of the surrounding country, and make the house dark and gloomy.

There is nothing so beautiful immediately around the house as a well-kept lawn, interspersed with little mounds of flowers, and an occasional flowering shrub. English grounds are thus arranged, and are usually in much better taste than in America. If shade be wanted, it is much better to have a verandah running all round the house, with Venetian blinds or a movable canvas curtain attached to it in front. This is the plan adopted at the South; where their houses are kept cool in the summer as ours are at the North, and without the danger, annoyance, and gloom, of trees planted too near.—*American Agriculturist.*

### New York Farmers' Club.

The meetings of this club have not been very fully attended the last few months, owing to the extreme heat of the season, the absence of many persons from the city, and the necessity of the farmers in the vicinity to remain at home and attend to their crops.

**Grafting the Tomato and the Potato.**—Mr. Meigs read from the "Annals of the Royal Horticultural Society of Paris," an account of a successful experiment of grafting a stem of the tomato upon the stalk of the potato, by which a crop of potatoes was raised in the air, and one of tomatoes in the earth. He also read from the same journal an extract from a paper by Baron D'Honbrems.

**Journal to Pasture,** in which it is stated that, near Naples, they cultivated large fields with gourds, and among them heads of cabbages, cauliflower, salads, and other kitchen vegetables, all of which grow and prosper together. They also cultivate large quantities of melons, the consumption of which is enormous, for nearly half the year. These melons are preserved in winter suspended in straw under the roof and about the windows of houses, both in the country and in town. Large fields of Indian corn were mentioned, the stalks of which served for beans to climb upon and ripen after the ears had been gathered. Plantations of mulberry-trees were also observed, entwined by grape-vines, and the grounds beneath them richly laden with beds of cotton which are picked from August till October, and dried in the sun. The mulberry-trees, which shaded the cotton plants, after having fed two generations of silk-worms, were in vigorous leaf for the third time.

**Valencia Winter Melons.**—Mr. Charles Henry Hall, who resided several years in Spain, and particularly directed his attention to the products of that country, said, that the melons mentioned by the Baron of Honbrems, &c., are the same as those known at Valencia, by the name of winter melons. They are preserved there for half of the year by being suspended in small nets under the projecting part of the roof of the houses, in a similar manner, as they are in Italy. He said that when he returned to the United States, he brought home several of these melons in a perfect state of preservation, and that others were conservatively cultivated from their seeds, in New York, until they ran out before fecundation.

**Wine-making.**—Mr. Hall stated that he had some experience both in raising grapes and in making wine, and that he had personally examined the vineyards in Europe, and the caves and cellars there, which are indispensable for the manufacture and preservation of good wines. He said that wine is made with as much facility, nearly, as cider. Before the "must," or "expressed juice of the grape undergoes its first fermentation, it may vary in its specific gravity according to the kind of wine into which it is to be made. That of the best white wines of France and Spain has a specific gravity of 1.083, which is determined by an instrument known under the name of hydrometer, aerometer, saccharometer, &c. If the specified gravity is below this point, it is increased by the addition of sugar. By this means, good wines can be made from the juice of unripe grapes. While the must is undergoing its first fermentation in the vats, a scum of rich froth rises to the surface, in similar manner to that of the pomace and other impurities do in the "working" of cider, which is skimmed off. When it becomes clear it is put into casks, and kept in a cellar, or cave of the temperature of about 60 deg. F., where a second fermentation takes place, and where the wines are finally prepared and kept for use, &c., for exportation. In the manufacture of wine, he said, the additional alcohol is unnecessary, and contrary to the prevailing opinion, it will keep and bear transportation as well without us with it. **White in Spain.**—he ascertained that most of the wines of domestic consumption, as well as those exported to the West Indies and other colonies, for the use of the Spaniards, were made without the addition of brandy; whereas, all the strong wines, shipped to Britain and the United States, contain, at least 25 per cent. When the makers of wine to export to England or this country were asked why they put brandy in it, the answer was, "You English have hot mouths and we have to gratify them."

**Wine from the Isabella Grape.**—Mr. Hall observed that he had some excellent wine from the Isabella grape, in a perfect state of maturity. By adding to the must, or grape-juice, three-fourth of a pound of sugar to a gallon, he obtained a wine much resembling port; by adding a pound to a gallon, a fair wine was produced; and with the addition of a pound and a half to a gallon, he obtained a sweet wine, which, when tasted by some gentlemen who were experienced in the qualities of wine, not knowing whence it came, was pronounced by them as a foreign article of delicious flavor, resembling that of Muscat.

**Mortality among Horses.**—The Secretary called the attention of the Club to a distemper prevailing among horses in the neighborhood of this city. This disease was principally confined, at first, to Kings County, Long Island, and other places. This malady appears to reside in the head, and generally proves fatal in one or two days. In every instance, it is said, the horses have been turned out to pasture, and those which have been constantly kept in the stables, have escaped the disorder. In several cases the animals have been carefully opened, and every part, except the head, was found to be sound. The brain, on dissection, appeared like a mass of clotted blood. This disease, it would seem, is not contagious, because, in one instance, a horse died where there were standing in the stable several other horses by his side, and none of them were at all affected. It is believed by many that the disorder has been produced by the effects of the sun, which, if true, it is hoped, as the weather becomes cooler, will soon disappear.

Mr. Hall stated that he had seen a similar epidemic in the horses of Spain, a kind of nopyxie, or "blind staggers." He said that it had been cured by winding blankets steeped in hot water around the head of the animal, and following it up by copious bleeding.—*American Agriculturist.*

### Advertisements.

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Suited to the Human Constitution, and equal to the cure of every curable disease, will be found in WRIGHT'S INDIAN VEGETABLE PILLS, OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HEALTH.

These extraordinary Pills are composed of plants which grow spontaneously on our own soil, and are therefore better adapted to our constitutions than Medicines concocted from foreign drugs; however well they may be compounded; and as Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills will fit all cases of disease, it is the very best medicine in the world for curing out this grand purifying principle, because they act upon the body all mordant and corrupt humor, the cause of the disease, in uneasy and natural manner, and while they every day give ease and pleasure, disease of every name is rapidly driven from the body.

**Subject to but one Disease,** namely, corrupt humor, and that said Medicine acts upon the body in a purifying, cleansing and purifying the body, it will be manifest that the constitution will not be entirely exhausted, a perseverance in their use, according to directions, is absolutely certain to drive disease of every name from the body.

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**EDGINGS.**—The following highly respectable storekeepers have been duly appointed agents for the sale of Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills in Susquehanna county:

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**WANTED.**—*Office* devoted exclusively to the sale of Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills, of the North American College of Health, No. 293 Greenwich St., New York; No. 103 Trentham St., Boston; and principal office, No. 169 Race St., Philadelphia.

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