

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

Roaches are fond of flour-paste, and if ten cents' worth of phosphorus is stirred into it with a stick, they will die while eating it.

Common house flies may be destroyed by feeding them with ground black pepper and sugar, as much as will lie on a dime, moistened with two teaspoonsful of cream or rich milk. They will eat it, seek the air and die out of doors.

Those who make candles will find it a great improvement to steep the wicks in lime water and saltpetre and dry them. The flame is clearer, and the tallow will not run.

Wood ashes make an excellent fertilizer for pear trees. Mixed coal and wood ashes may also be applied with advantage. For fruit trees of all kinds ground bones are better than fermenting manure.

Restoring Carpets.

A tablespoonful of ammonia in one gallon of warm water will often restore the colors of carpets, even if injured by acid or alkali. If a ceiling has been whitewashed with the carpet down, and a few drops should fall, this will remove it. Or, after the carpet is well beaten and brushed, scour with ox-gall, which will not only extract grease, but freshen the colors. One pint of gall in three gallons of warm water will do for a large carpet. Table and floor oil cloths may be thus washed. The suds left from a wash, when ammonia is used, even if almost cold, cleanses oil-cloths well.

Scratches on Horses' Legs.

One of your subscribers asks a cure for this disease. A few years since I had a valuable horse that got the scratches during a muddy winter. I tried all remedies that I knew or heard of, almost, some of which had never failed before, but the horse grew worse till the next fall. An old Dutch horse doctor stopped at my house, and when seeing the horse, wanted to know what was the matter with him.

"He has the scratches."

"Well, I guess it is worse than scratches; it will soon be grease heel. Why don't you cure it?"

"I have tried everything."

"Well, you have the cure in your own house—keep it all the time. Take a small quantity of soft soap, mix enough salt with it to make a kind of paste. After cleansing the sore with castile soap (and when you think you have it clean you are only half done), rub this paste over it twice a day, for a day or two, then cleanse and let the horse stand the same length of time; then repeat, and it will clean it off till it will look like chicken meat. Keep your horse out of the mud and dirt while applying the remedy."

A Corn Experiment.

When I was a boy on my father's farm, I once undertook a little experiment on my own account, and carried it through secretly, for the purpose of enjoying the surprise it might create. With this view, as soon as father got through planting his corn, I selected and marked off, unknown to him, a small space near the centre of the field. To each stalk of the corn planted in this space I gave special attention, for the purpose of finding out how much each grain planted could be made to produce by giving it extra manure and extra hoeing. When the corn was gathered, the difference between my pet stalks and the rest of the field attracted my father's attention, and I remember how puzzled he was in trying to account for it. When, at length, I disclosed the secret, he inquired how much extra work and manure I had applied. Tell me this exactly he said, and I can tell the value of the experiment. I told him I had simply doubled what he had given to the rest of the field. After examining the result and comparing it with the rest of the field, he found that his yield was forty-four bushels to the acre, and mine at the rate of sixty-five bushels. Now, said he, if extra culture and extra manure are good for single stalks, it must be good for the whole crop. So the next year he adopted my plan for the whole crop, and found that the gain was even larger by several bushels than in my experiment; and he also found that the cost of each bushel was reduced about six cents. This little experiment of my early life has been since confirmed by large experience as well as by observation, and I am led to believe that there is, not only in corn, but in most of our crops, a greater power of development under experiment than we are at present aware of.

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