

OFFICIAL SPIES.

EUROPE THEIR BUSINESS IS CONSIDERED A SCIENCE.

Turkey's Military Attaches at the Principal Courts—England's Intelligence Department—Germany's Mysterious Systematic Organization.

Of late years in Europe spying has been elevated into a science. It goes on all the time. The most honest and sincere friendship of one nation for another does not prevent it from existing in a noble form, learning and cunning by rote all about its friend's military strength and weakness and favorite projects and general inclinations, thus acting on the principle "treat a friend as if he may some day become an enemy."

In England the intelligence department is of quite modern growth. When it was invented it was put under the quarter-master general. Last year it was transferred to the division of the adjutant general, which seems to be its proper place. The office used to be facing the war office in Pall Mall, but it is now on the other side of St. James' park, in one of the quiet old-fashioned mansions of Queen Anne's day.

But the best-organized intelligence department in the world is, if not on the banks of the Spree, at least on the banks of one of the canals connected with that pretty river. The staff quarters of the German army occupy a fine block of buildings between the Brandenburg gate at the end of the Unter den Linden and the Hofstrasse railway station, and in this block, built and paid for out of the French indemnity, the intelligence department has a grand suite of offices which are arranged systematically.

Plans are made not only for dealing with France or Austria or Scandinavia, but for invading Belgium and Holland and even insular England. What they are precisely very few people know. They have been drafted in the first instance as exercises in military staff work, they have then been revised by high authority, touched up by the highest authority, and being from time to time amended as information is received, remain ready to the hands of those who may at any time be called upon to execute the task which their framers had in view.

The French are believed to have developed an intelligence department which fairly rivals that of Berlin. In 1870 they had the spy mania very acute. It was not easy for any man of blockade to travel in France, however remotely from the theatre of war, without being arrested as an "Espion Prusse." Now the French are spending money and more labor than any other country in acquiring just the sort of information that the spies supply.

Explosion of Melinite. The report made to the French Chirurgical society by the surgeons who examined the bodies of the soldiers killed by the explosion of melinite at Belfort shows, as printed in L'Avenir Militaire, that the effects of this new explosive are, a more to be dreaded than was supposed. On the seven men killed, only six lived. The bodies of the slain, it is said, were literally torn in shreds, and it is the belief of Dr. Richard and his assistants that much of the substance exploded after entering the bodies, or in other words, that melinite as now compounded explodes at different periods, some early, some late; the first bursting the shell into fragments, and the latter, adhering to these fragments, exploding when driven home. They remarked on the absence of tumors and of remarkable "blebs" of the wounded were poisoning. The bodies of the wounded were found to be soaked as if with explosive dust.—Scientific American.

The "Electric Birch." A new invention for schools is the "electric birch." This new instrument of discipline does not leave marks upon the skin and regulates blows to measure. Electricity was never put to a more curious use, but it is to be doubted whether schoolboys will take it kindly.—Chicago Herald.

A SONG.

All the earth is wrapped in shadows, And the dew has drenched the meadows, And the moon has 'tween her station, And the midnight rules creation. Where is my beloved staying? In her chamber kneeling praying, Is she praying for her lover? Then her heart is flowing over, My beloved! In she keeping Watch, or is she sweetly sleeping? If she sleep not, if she pray not, If to listening ears she says naught— Thought with thought in silence linking— Oh, I know not whom she's thinking! Think, oh, think of me, sweet angel, Rose of life, and love's evangel! All the thoughts that melt or move thee Are like stars that shine above thee; And while clinging to the center Of thy spirit's spirit center, And there light a flame eternal— Like eternal love, eternal.

—Hungarian of Petofi.

FLASHED UNDER THE SEA.

Ingenious Business Men Who Can Give Points to the Cable Makers.

When ocean cables cost \$1 a word it was perfectly natural that the brokers and merchants who found it desirable to use that means of communication for business should do everything possible to reduce the number of words necessary to convey the meaning of their messages.

The wrinkle in question is the arrangement of the cable code in such a way that the address not only serves to carry the message to its destination, but has a significance of its own. For instance, a New York firm telegraphing to its London branch addresses their cables under twenty-five or thirty different registered names, all of which are recorded in the London office.

Another favorite mode of cutting down the number of cable words, especially in cabling to Germany and Italy, is to take two or three foreign words, each of which may represent a phrase, and blend them together in what appears to be one word.

The Bat's Liver Superstition. Of all the queer superstitions of which I ever heard there is one possessed by a man on 'Change that caps the superstitious climax. I won't tell you his name, but he is one of the most prominent grain and pork dealers in the city.

He told us where he had discovered the bat's liver charm. It was on a lower Mississippi steamboat, about a year ago. A party of colored deck hands were playing craps. One of the party had a bat's liver, and he laid it on the deck floor every time he picked up the ivory to throw.

A Plea for College Training. A young man with a common commercial education receives employment sooner than a graduate from the classical department of a college.

There is but one way to account for this. Brain force is the power to be used in the race of life. The greater the force, the greater the chances of success.

Japan's "Seven Ages of Man." The "seven ages of man" were depicted by Japanese artists long before they became famous in Shakespearean recitations in this country.

The standard oil men of Russia are the two Nobel brothers, who are said to be worth \$400,000,000. Their income is greater than the czar's.

FARM AND GARDEN.

A VERY DESIRABLE VARIETY OF EARLY SWEET CORN.

Making Poultry One of a Series of Rotation Crops—How Farmers Feel About Dehorning Cattle—One Way to Layer the Grape.

Numbered with experienced southern horticulturists is Mr. T. V. Munson, of Denison, Tex. In an article on "Horticultural Surgery," in Texas Farm and Ranch, occurs the following:



FIG. 1—LAYERING THE GRAPE.

In Fig. 1 it is desired to produce new individuals by layering. We must first partly stop, by a wound, the food supply from the parent, cause the layer to heal the wound, and at the same time secure its food from mother earth itself.

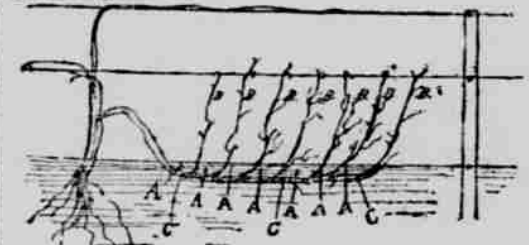


FIG. 2—LAYERING THE GRAPE.

For spring layering the grape, proceed as shown in Fig. 2. A trench some four or five inches deep along row is made so as to be out of way of cultivation.

Dehorning Cattle. The practice of dehorning cattle is rapidly increasing, not only in the west but in some sections of the middle and eastern states.

Double Runs for Poultry. The importance of double runs for poultry is not appreciated by the majority of amateurs who try growing poultry on a comparatively small scale.

Preparation for the operation the animal's head is made fast, then the horns are sawed off with a suitable saw close to the hair, where a soft place occurs in the horns.

Efficiency of this plan has been proven to the writer's own satisfaction, and is well worth a trial.

Contrary to a prevailing opinion, says The Southern Cultivator, it is not in practice a matter of great importance to determine and adhere to fixed proportions of ingredients in compounding a mixture of fertilizing materials, or compost, for a particular crop.

Utilizing Coal Ashes. It is the general understanding that coal ashes are not of enough value as fertilizer to pay for hauling them out for that purpose.

Best Milk Producing Food. Professor Stewart, authority on such matters, says: "Neither corn meal nor bran is the best milk producing food. With the best clover hay, corn meal should be added as a part of the ration."

to some extent suggested by the fertilizer laws of the state, in Georgia, a standard fertilizer for cotton, and most other crops, should contain the three valuable elements in about the proportions of ammonia, 2 to 3 per cent.; phosphoric acid 8 to 12 per cent., and potash 1.2 to 2 per cent., and this is about the average of the commercial fertilizers sold in Georgia.

Productiveness of Fruit Trees. "It is curious to note," says James Fitz, of Virginia, "the difference in the productiveness of fruit trees, caused by soil and climate. For instance, the Northern Spy apple, the Esopus Spitzenburg and the Baldwin, three of the most popular varieties of the northern and some of the middle states, are perfectly worthless in most parts of Virginia and states further south."

The Treatment of Colic. The treatment which colic receive has a telling effect upon them when they are grown up. Injuries and bruises are like the leaves on trees—they increase in size as the body increases.

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Sowing Oats. Undoubtedly the Burt oat is the safest for spring sowing, as it will mature in 100 to 120 days when sown in February or March, according to latitude.

Earliest of All Sweet Corn. Repeated tests of the new extra early varieties of sweet corn make it appear that the Cory corn is as early as the earliest, if not the earliest, of all sweet corn.

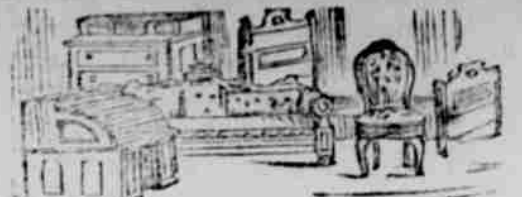


THE CORY CORN.

Factors Farmers Ought to Know. Lettuce gives best results when grown in a moist soil and in comparatively cool weather.

According to a recent announcement the next convention of the American Horticultural society will be held in Texas two years hence.

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The Year 1888

Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place.

Political, Commercial and Social Transactions

of this year and would keep pace with the times should

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