SOIL STIRRING IS NOT ESSENTIAL.

High Market Value of Fresh Eggs-How Young Pigs Should Be Fed --- Moving Bees--- City Men As Farmers.

A common opinion is that we plow the ground in order to make a bed of loose mold in which the roots can spread and feed with ease, thus promoting growth; while at the same time destroying other competitive growth, or making it easier to destroy it. The last of these reasons should be put first, for it is, by all odds, the main reason for using a plow, says a writer in the New York Tribune. It is common to find plants and trees and even vines of all sorts growing with the finest health and vigor on soil never stirred at all, if there is fertility bough; and if, by a mulch or other means, the plant is protected from competition by other plants, and has room enough all to itself for its full development. Cattle are apt to destroy such specimens in the fields, but in the garden we find hardy flowers that have seeded themselves in the fall on the hard ground, if left alone make better and stronger plants than any we get by sowing on worked ground in the spring I have repeatedly, on receiving two or three plants of some new strawberry, early in the spring, put the roots into a hollow in some fall-worked bed, too wet to work at the time, and covered each with a fire-shovelful of dry mold or sand, and these have always exthose planted later on mellowed soil. A large strawberry grower in the west-I think Mr. Smith lately stated a similar experience on a large scale, I have planted onions and lettuce seed similarly on fall-prepared ground with excellent results. The Tribune not long since contained an account of an enormous melon growth by the first professor of botany at the Pennsylvania agricultural college, on a piece sod which was never stirred, nor hoed -the only culture being given with a shovel used only to scatter around the hill a thick, wide mulch of chip mold. And another case of corn being brought into the garden by the Johnstown flood, germinating in the inch of mud left on the old strawberry bed, and being thinned and protected from weeds, etc., made perfect and unusually productive in growth. This is, on a small scale, an example of the mode of culture common on the Nile, and indeed in most parts of Africa and Asia, where simply scratch-ing the soil with a pointed block of wood often produces better yield with less manuring than we get by our assiduous and often overdone employment of the plows we take such pride in, but which are undoubtedly a means of greatly hastening the ruin of the soil and of the farmer, when used injudiciously, especially when the operation buries the rich su face deep under a mass of raw subsoil; o when the stirred soil is not sufficiently reconsolidated by rolling or dragging to make it a safe bed for the tender roots of newly germinated plants, while the surface left on or near the surface, remains free and open because it is chiefly humus, which does not consolidate or compact like the loam or clay beneath We want the plow, then, not so much to make an open bed for the roots of plants, as to sweep out of their way in the reediest and completest way, the proceupants of the soil, which the proceupants of the soil, which being dablished there would leave no

scarify the soil below at one operationa roller following. Fresh Eggs.

chance for our crop, and must therefore, necessarily be extirpated. Experience has taught the emigrants

to the west, who have been obliged to

search out the surest and cheapest way

of annihilating the prairie sod and grow-

ing corn at once in its place, that a very

shallow paring off and reversal of the

entire surface, which then remains on the surface, is the way to succeed in

both aims. And the same principle ap-

plies in preparing sod ground anywhere for corn or wheat. As a means of re-

taining the indispensable water longer,

the soil should be well loosened up under

the surface, and the ideal plow for such

field is one that will both pare and re-

verse carbonaceous surface soil, and

No one knows the difficulty experienced by those who are willing to purchase strictly fresh eggs in procuring them, especially persons living in the crowded cities. They can buy eggs, it is true, but they are compelled to do so with a confidence in the merchant that the eggs are fresh; and yet the me chant, with all the care he may exercise, knows nothing of the stock he has on hand, other than the fact that he, in turn, places his confidence in those who supply him. Despite the care that may be shown by all par-ties, stall eggs will put in an appear-ance, and when such is the case, all parties concerned are more or less disgusted, and the result may be an injury to the merchant and but few eggs, purchased by the customer. Destroy the confidence and prices decline. When a reliable party produces eggs on the farm and makes it a point to sell them daily, so as to render it an impossibility to make any mistake, he can build up a custom that will be permanent, and can also command a price above the regular market quotations. But such person cannot afford to buy eggs from other parties also. In all cases where the poultryman has included eggs from other parties, he eventually meets with disaster. and who can in time command his trade. must not attempt to sell eggs from any yards but his own. If he cannot fill or-ders he should not attempt to do so with eggs from other yards. In this way bet-ter prices will be obtained and confi-dence retained. We can point to parties who sell eggs at 60 cents the entire year. The eggs are no better than some that are sold at 20 cents a dozen, but the parties supplied by them know that they will never incur any risk of having a stale egg among the lot. These men sell 40 cents worth of confidence with every dozen eggs, for it is after all, the re-liability of the parties that secures for them the higher prices.

Feeding Young Pigs. I believe that to make the greatest profit from pigs they must be pushed and got into the market at from six to eight onths old, and to do this they must be fed for at least five months on bone and muscle making food rather than on corn. The best possible food is milk, and even a small amount of it for each pig mixed with the other food will be a great help, and so if the pig raiser can combine dairying with pig growing it will be good for the pigs. Next to milk is a slep made from bran, ground cats and oil meal mixed at the rate of one bushel of bran to one bushel of the oats and one gallon of oil meal mixed. and one gallon of oil meal. Some shorts and a little corn meal added will not be objectionable, and after five or six other countries,

months old I would substitute these for

'I should prefer that the pigs should run on clover for three mon is after weaning, and if not, give them some bulky succulent food each day, and I find it an advantage to continue this during the fattening period. Perhaps there is no cheaper or better food for this pur-pose than sweet corn, fed stalks and all, and by planting early and late this may be had from the middle of July to frost, I would keep a barrel of sait in the feed room and sait all the slops, and I would always let slop stand until it softened and began to slightly ferment. This will take place in ten or tweive hours in summer, but it will require longer in winter, but if your barrels are packed outside with sawdust, and boiling water is used to raise the temperature, it will generally ferment in twenty-four hours. With a good foundation of bone laid by feeding bran and oats, you need not be afraid to feed heavily with corn during the last three months of fattering, but if you can get your pigs to eat freely of pumpkins or any green succulent food at the same tim., there will be less danger of dis-

Moving Bees. Actual experience is the best teacher after all. One may plan a thing ever so nicely and yet for some unforseen cause get into trouble. We thought we knew all about hauling bees to the out apiary on Mill Creek, but came very near getting into difficulty. In hauling bees by wagon it is absolutely necessary that they be secured so nicely that not a single bee can get out, and at the same time give them plenty of air. Of course this was well known to us, as we have moved bees quite frequently, and once got into serious trouble by the bees getting out on the road. This time we fastened the bees in by means of wire cloth to give plenty of air, and placed an escape board on the honey board, and securely tied both bottom and top to the hive by means of tarred twine. The escape poards were new, and each made of three pieces of one-fourth inch boards. These had seasoned somewhat since they were made, and the cracks were about one-half large enough to let a bee squeeze out in some of them. This we thought an advantage rather than otherwise, as it would afford additional venti-We found, however, when we reached our Mill Creek apiary with the first load that the hot sunshine had so dried out the boards that a very few bees did actually get out. Now had we had much further to haul them, we would have been obliged to have unloaded them, or run the chances of getting into trouble by getting the horses stung. We moved them, twenty-five hives at a ond, and used a hay rack to draw them The rack was prepared with a level deck with guards on the outside, so that no hives could slip off. The time chosen was during fruit bloom, and as the combs were quite light did not have a comb broken down. We now have a very nice little apiary on Mill Creek, and are ready for the harvest. Next month we will try and draw a pen picture of this apiary for these notes.

Work of the Experiment Stations. Farmers' Bulletin, No. 2, issued by the department of agriculture, through the office of experiment stations, is now ready for distribution. This bulletin presents in a brief and practical form some of the more important results of the work done at sundry experiment stations. The subjects presented in this bulletin are better cows, the effect of heat and cold on milk, silos and silage, alfalfa and field experiments with fertilizers. The bulletin is a handy sixteen-page pamphlet, pre-especially, as the title indicates, for the information of the practical farmer, condensing for his use the results given on the subjects indicated in bulletins issued rom time to time during the past year by the various stations where these subjects have been the object of special ex-periment work, Application should be made to the secretary of agriculture, Washington, D. C. A considerable por-tion of the edition will also be distributed through members of congress.

The Animal Parasites of Sheep.

"The Animal Parasites of Sheep," Dr. Cooper Curtis, is a special report of the bureau of animal industry about to be issued by the United States department of agriculture. It is a volume of 214 pages containing thirty-six plates, and gives an interesting description of all the various species of animal parasites known to affect sheep in this country, with the symptoms of the diseases which they cause and the methods of treatment which have been proposed.

The principal subjects covered are, "Grub in the Head," "Ticks," "Lice," "Scab Insects," "Tape Worms," "Flukes," "Stomach Worms," "Intestinal Worms" and "Lung Worms."

The illustrations are a prominent feature of the work, having been drawn and lithographed with great care. They show the parasites in the different stages of growth, and in the most im-portant diseases they illustrate the condition of the affected organs. There are four colored plates showing the condi-tion of the lungs when affected with the hair lung worm and the thread lung worm. The article on the modular disease of the intestines is also of special interest, as it is the first information which has been given to the public in regard to the cause of the disease, extensive investigations of which have been made by the bureau of animal in-

dustry.

It has been the aim in the preparation of this report to make the descriptions and illustrations so plain that any one will be able to identify the parasites which be may find in his flocks and apply the appropriate treatment for the prevention and cure of the disease which they produce.

Ten Months' Foreign Trade. Bradstreets: April's foreign trade showed a noticeable gain over the total for the like period of the preceding year, and still further enlarged the preceding year, and still further enlarged the percentages of gain already shown in the figures for the expired portion of the fiscal year. Every branch of trade in the month showed an increase, but that made in the item of free imports was proportionately the greatest, being \$2.7 per cent whereas the gain in imports as a whole we only 9 per cent, the gain in dutiable imports being only 9.5 per cent. Exports gained 8.7 being only 2.5 per cent. Exports gained 8.7 per cent, while foreign trade as a whole gained fully 9 per cent. The details of the Month's trade are as follows:

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A Matter of Interest to Travelers. A Matter of Interest to Travelers.

Tourists, emigrants and mariners find that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is a medicinal safegnard against unhealthful influences, upon which they can implicitly rely, since it provents the effects that an unhealthy climate, vitiated atmosphere, unaccustomed or unwholesome diet, bad water or other conditions unfavorable to health, would otherwise produce. On long voyages, or journeys by land in lattitutes adjacent to the equator, it is especially useful as a preventive of the febrile land in lattitutes adjacent to the equator, it is especially useful as a preventive of the febrile complaints and all disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels, which are apt to attack natives of the temperate zones sojourning or traveling in such regions, and is an excellent protection against the influence of extreme cold, sudden changes of temperature, exposure to damp or extreme fatigue. It not only prevents intermitteat and remittent fever and other diseases of malurial type, but eradicates them, a fact which has been notorious for years past in North and South America, Mexico, the West Indies, Australia and other countries,

SIGNIFICANT TRADE MOVEMENT. The Western Iron Markets Growing in Importance. A matter which has been the source of

some comment lately is the prominence which the west occupies as a leader in the iron and steel markets, says the Iron Age. Relatively the east has declined in importance, and this is more particularly true of New York. One cause for this decline is not for to seek. The falling off in imports, through the growth of our home industries, has shorn the seaboard cities of a trade which once was large. One by one the branches which were influenced by foreign markets have emancipated them selves. The Scotch iron importations have dwindled until only those are willing to pay for the metal who cling to time-honored mixtures, or who have not learned or will not learn how to substitute American irons, Once thousands of stons of foreign Bessemer plg fron were sold in tidewater markets. Now only occasional small lots of special iron are purchased for American account. Enormous quantities of steel billets, blooms and stabs came into New York, Philadelphia and Balti-more. Now sales have become so infrequent that few importers can quote off hand. The American rod mills have captured the mar-ket for common wire rods, so that that business has also practically gone at least for the present. There is very little prospect too, that steel rails will figure prominently in the import lists, unless the de-mand for them develops in an unexpectedly extraordinary degree. The only article for which we still largely degend upon foreign extraordinary degree. The only article for which we still largely depend upon foreign makers for the greater part of our supplies are spiegeleisen and ferromanganese. In both the American production has very considera-bly increased during the past six months, more rapidly probably than the total demand. But there is, we believe, another very po-tent cause for this movement, general in its character. With the westward movement of the center of our population and our wealth, the consuming markets have moved toward the Mississippi. It is west of the Allegheny Mountains, and in the south and southwest in which the greater part of the new develop-ment is progressing. For new work the re-quirements of iron and steel are always enorquirements of iron and steel are always enormously larger than they are for simple renewals and repairs. Local productive capacity has fully kept pace with this development, and in many places has gone ahead of it. The result has been that the share which once the eastern mills had in this business has dwindled down to small propor-portions, and that at times the western works have turned the aggressors, invading the eastern markets. As soon as the demand in the west shows signs of falling off, western mills appear as low sellers in eastern markets, which recover only when their competitors find more remunerative business at home. The result has been that the leadership in the markets of the country has been assumed, and seems destined to remain in the future, with the western centers main in the future, with the western centers of production. This has, of course, been a matter of gradual growth. It has been foreseen by far-sighted men. It is no new discovery, but it has never been so emphasized as during the past year.

There is no remedy for it. It is the result of natural causes. We do not believe that it is the due except in an unimportant degree, to a lack of enterprise on the part of the trade

a lack of enterprise on the part of the trade east of the Allegheny mountains. We do not believe that the temperament of a body of men in the different sections plays a very important part, but no one will question that there is such a difference. The eastern trade is more conservative. It is less likely to be carried away by sudden revulsions of sentiment—a fact which, however, is probably due to the circumstance that fluctuations in the demand are less violent.

A Rat Strings a Wire.

The main telegraph wires in London run through the subways in which the gas pipes and sewers are placed, says the Boston Herald. The principal arteries are so large that it is easy enough for men to work in them, but the pipes through which the side wires branch off are much smaller. Some years ago men were repairing one of these latter, and carelessly omitting to attach it to a leading line by which it could be drawn to its It was thought place when mended. the whole of the lateral pipe would have to be dug up in order to get at the broken wire. But one of the men suggested that a rat should be procured, and with a fine piece of wire attached to it, sent through the pipe. This was done; but, to the dismay of the workmen, the new hand came to a stop after it had gone a few yards. A ferret was procured, however, and started on the dilatory rat's track. There was a moment of suspense before it was settled whether the rat would show fight or run away; but this was soon ended by the paying-out of the wire, and in a short time it appeared at the other end of the pipe. It was a long and laborious piece of work saved.



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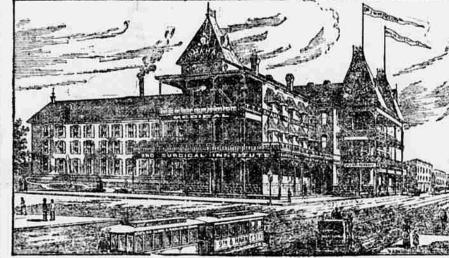
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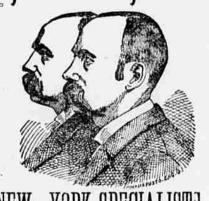


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