

the entire farm area of the south, and undoubtedly much of this land will be put to other uses than timber growing. Nevertheless, the farmers of the United States now own at least 250 billion feet of saw timber and 1 1-3 billion cords of cordwood, and this timber should produce a substantial part of their incomes. Farmers ought to make the most of their timber, and the public should be interested in this question for the reason that the vast aggregate of farm timber should be available to supplement the other sources of the general supply.

#### WHEN TO SUSPECT CHOLERA

When a disease that is contagious appears among hogs, spreading more or less rapidly, is quite uniformly fatal, and is accompanied by a high temperature, it is quite safe to assume that it is cholera, says a bulletin of the Nebraska college of agriculture.

Where cholera is suspected, it is well to get a thermometer and take the temperature of a number of those apparently well. The normal temperature is from 101 to 103 degrees in winter and about one degree higher in summer. If cholera is present, the temperatures will be found as high as 105 to 107 degrees.

Make a post mortem on a hog that has just died and examine the kidneys for small, dark red spots resembling those on a turkey egg. Look for small red spots along the small intestines and somewhat larger ones on the lungs. The lymphatic glands, which are found in the flank, along the intestines, and between the lungs, and which are a light amber color in health, will be found congested and varying from a pink to a very dark color.

Where the services of a qualified veterinarian can be obtained, he should be called to make a post mortem and to give serum.

#### CORN GRAINS IN THE TASSEL

In an effort to teach something of the history of the corn plant, members of the Corn club conducted co-operatively by the United States department of agriculture and the Nebraska college of agriculture have been asked to look for corn grains in the tassel of the cornstalks. Professor Montgomery says that the original corn plant had branches coming from the axils of the leaves. At first both male and female flowers were produced in the tassel of each branch. But the highest tassel, the one on the main stalk, was not well located to receive pollen, since the pollen would naturally be carried downward, while those on the lower branches were in a favorable position to receive pollen but not in a position to pollinate those higher up. Thus the female flowers on the upper tassel were incompletely fertilized, if fertilized at all, and due to the loss of function gradually disappeared, so that after a time only male flowers were produced. On the tassels of the lower branches, the male or pollen-producing flowers gradually lost their usefulness, and after a time only female flowers were produced on these branches.

#### THE DUST MULCH

"The crop yield and moisture content of a soil are closely related," says T. E. Keitt, chemist of the South Carolina experiment station. "The common field crops require from 300 to 500 pounds of water for each pound of dry matter grown, hence the necessity for reducing the loss of water through surface evaporation.

This can be most economically accomplished by the maintenance of a dust mulch."

Professor Keitt proceeds to explain how to get a dust mulch and how it does its work.

"A perfectly dry dust mulch," he says, "does not have to be very deep to be effective. In practice it is found that the breaking of the first two or three inches of surface soil forms an effective mulch, but sand mulches may be thinner than clay mulches. The mulch should be no deeper than is necessary for the reduction of evaporation to a minimum for the top soil is generally richer than the lower soil and the thinner a mulch can be made and maintained effectively, the greater the root range of the plants.

"The principle involved in the functioning of dust mulch is that the capillary water is drawn from soil particle to soil particle by surface tension until it reaches the surface of the soil and is evaporated. The plowing of the surface to the depth already indicated, by means of a scrape or sweep, disturbs the arrangement of the soil particles and the disarranged particles "blanket" the surface and prevent the loss of moisture to any considerable extent.

"It is necessary to renew the mulch as soon as possible after each rain, because dampening rearranges the particles in such a way that capillarity will be re-established."

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

Hepsey Burke. By Frank N. Westcott. Illustrated by Frederick R. Gruger. The H. K. Fly Company, Publishers, New York. Price \$1.35 net.

Pieces of the Game. A Modern Instance. By the Countess de Chambrun, author of "The Sonnets of William Shakespeare," etc. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. Price \$1.35.

My Land. My Country. My Home. A Novel. By Ad. Albright. C. F. Williams & Sons, Publishers, Albany, N. Y.

A Book of Common Verse. By A. L. Berry, 230 S. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. For sale by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, Ill.

Free Homestead Lands of Colorado described. A Handbook for Settlers. By George S. Clason. Published by The Clason Map Company, 1515 Tremont Place, Denver, Colo. Price \$2.00.

Shall I Drink. The Visible Effect of Alcohol on the Social Welfare. By Joseph Henry Crooker, author of The Church of Today, The Church of Tomorrow, The Supremacy of Jesus, etc., etc. The Pilgrim Press, Boston and New York. Price \$1.00 net. Postage 10 cents.

The Business Adventures of Billy Thomas. By Elmer E. Ferris. McMillan Co., New York, publishers. Price \$1.25.

"The Pearl of Psalms." Psalm XXIII. A Sermon by Rev. E. A. Wright, Birmingham, Ala. Price 25 cents.

America in Japan. A Symposium of Papers by Representative Citizens of the United States on the Relations Between Japan and America and on the Common Interests of the Two Countries. Edited by Lindsay Russell, president of the Japan society, New York, 165 Broadway. G. P. Putnam's Sons, Publishers, New York and London. Price \$1.25, net.

The Making of Christianity. An Exhibit of Hebrew and Christian Messianic Apocalyptic Philosophy and Literature. By John C. C. Clark, D. D., Alton, Ill. Price \$1.25.

#### PERSONAL LIBERTY

We confine the insane and epileptic, and isolate contagiously diseased, but permit the drunkard absolute freedom of indulgence. Yet when we suggest the rational thing to do, the saloon apologist cries out against encroachment upon personal liberty. Individual liberty of conscience, thought, and action, within certain limitations, is the priceless heritage of every American; and it is a principle that should be guarded with jealous vigilance. It is the ideal political state of man, but is subject to one other principle,—the comfort, virtue, and welfare of the community.

Absolute personal freedom is impossible. It is the dream of the anarchist only. Wherever there is a law, and law is necessary for our very existence, there are checks and limitations on personal liberty. In fact, every law of God and man restricts the liberty of the individual. We deny the right of the highwayman to take money or property by force. We deny the right of the thief to take things of value by stealth. We deny the right of the embezzler to take by deceit. We deny the right of the property owner to construct buildings of inflammable materials within the fire-limits of the city. We deny the sportsman the right of killing game out of season. We deny the right of marriage without license and prescribed ceremony. Why, then, should we not, in perfect harmony with our institutions and the fundamental principles of our government, eliminate the greatest plague-spot in our social organism? —Gov. E. M. Hay of Washington.

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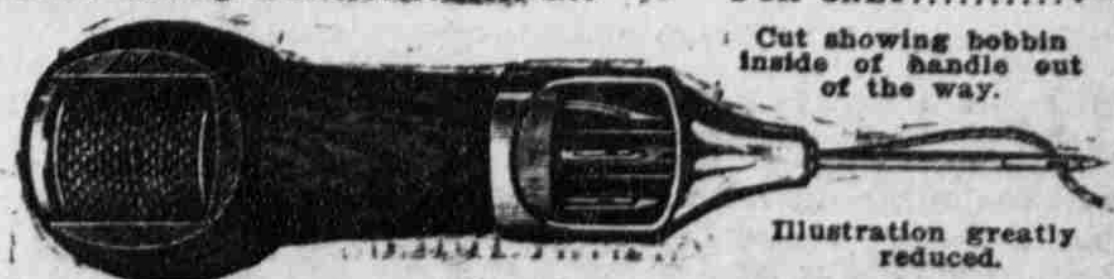
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