

HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

Carrion in a cow pasture will affect the milk of the cows.—Troy Times.

The best way to ally sunburn is to bathe the face in cold cream at night.—Exchange.

Breed well, feed well, and then sell well; there is profit in so doing, there is loss in the reverse.

A bed of parsley a yard square, though so small, is one of the most useful adjuncts to a garden.

It does pay, after raspberries have borne two or three crops, to throw a sheaf of manure around them.—Paris Farmer.

Prof. Dow, an English authority, says that boiled potatoes, mixed with oat straw or hay, may be given to horses of every kind, even when on the hardest work; and this forms a species of food both wholesome and economical.

Rosettes: Beat the yolks of three eggs very light until they thicken. Add one quart of milk and one tablespoonful of melted butter and a teaspoonful of salt. Mix three teaspoonfuls of baking powder with three cupfuls of flour, and add to the milk and eggs. When all the lumps are beaten out add the white of the eggs whipped to a stiff froth. Bake immediately in muffin pans in a quick oven.—The Householder.

To boil an egg so that it is fit to eat, drop it in boiling water and place the vessel covered, on top of the stove, on one side where the water will not boil. Let it stand eight or ten minutes. By this method the egg will be cooked through and the white will be soft, not the hard, indigestible substance it becomes by the usual method. Even if the egg is left a little too long and becomes hard, it will not be like a hard-boiled egg, as it will cook in a few minutes.—A. Y. Herald.

To clean lace draw a stocking tightly over a bottle and tie the ends. Lay the lace smoothly over the stocking and tuck it in place. Fill the bottle with cold water and put it in a kettle of cold water with shavings of soap in it, set over the fire and boil. It is necessary to change the water and repeat the process. Rinse in warm water and in cold and set away to drain and dry. Then remove the lace from the bottle, lay it between folds of paper, and press in a large book or under a weight. This washed lace may be made to look like new.—Detroit Post.

Plant Growth.

The sunbeam has been said to play the most important part in all the changes and evolutions going on in the vegetable world. It is possessed of three distinct functions or powers: i. e., besides being a source of light and heat, it has active force by which it may produce chemical decomposition and recombination. This chemical influence of the sun's rays is all-important, as upon it depends the germination of the seed and growth of the plants.

It has been conclusively shown that seeds will not germinate in the light, even when supplied with heat and moisture, if the actinic rays are shut off. As these rays are absolutely essential, the importance of not burying the seeds so deeply that they are hidden from them is evident. Of the organic constituents of plants, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon, only oxygen and nitrogen exist as such in the plants; e. g., half the dried weight of a plant is carbon, yet it does not exist as free carbon, but is found in combinations. Any one of these elements, if applied to the plant, will act as a poison. It is common to speak of plants as requiring nitrogen, but the element is presented in the form of a combination, as ammonia or nitric acid, and, to use the latter with perfect safety, it is necessary that it be associated with an alkali, as potash or soda.

The presence of nitrogen is absolutely necessary for plant growth; it is present in great quantities in the air about us, and yet is a costly element to be obtained in fertilizers. As a gas in the air about us it is not utilized by the plant and in the form of ammonia and nitrous or nitric acids, there are suggestions that it is wholly in waste. Hence the supply must come from the soil, which, as there is often a scarcity, must be assisted by the application of manures or artificial fertilizers. Carbon is supplied to the plant by the atmosphere, in the form of carbonic acid, and is taken up by the farmer as a fertilizer. Hydrogen is one of the elements of water, and can be presented to the plant only through this agency, and, entering the plant in this form, it renders the different forms of food assimilated in quantities of water in great quantities by growing plants, and it has been claimed that one gallon passes through a single plant of wheat in a season, and that the exhalation of water in the form of vapor from the disk of a sunflower amount each day to six or eight ounces. Phosphorus is an essential ingredient in plant food. It combines with oxygen, forming phosphoric acid, and as such enters the plant. The amount of this acid in the soil is frequently so small that it should be supplied artificially. It is found in animal excrement, in bones, in the plants in South Carolina; from these substances superphosphates are made, and sold for manure purposes. Potash is another very important element for the growth of plants, as an example of which it need only be stated that an acre of wheat, producing twenty-five bushels of grain and 3,000 pounds of straw, requires for its growth one and a half tons of potash; and that a crop of fifty bushels of corn to the acre will require fifty pounds of this element.—Farmers' Review.

Good Farmers May Be Poor Bee-Keepers.

My neighbor thinks if he has two or three colonies they will furnish all the honey for his own consumption, so he grows out and buys a few colonies. The next question that arises is: "Where shall they be placed? If I set them in the door-yard, they will sting everybody that goes near them, so I will place them in a fence, and I will not be troubled by them." Now, what attention do these bees receive? None whatever. When they swarm none of the family know anything about it, or if they do it is only by accident that they find it out. If you ask how his bees are getting along, the answer will be: "All right, guess I have not seen them for a week or two." Suppose this farmer has a small flock of sheep and turns them into the woods, and does not look after them any better than he does his bees, what is the result? Miserable flock, of course. I have my bees in front of my house, and I am not about the house the women see when they swarm and notify me. When I go from the house to the barn I pass between a part of the hives, and my bees are more gentle than if I did not see them so often.—Kansas Bee-Keeper.

For Invalids.

At this season of the year, when slight illnesses are more prevalent in the family than at any other season, a few recipes for the preparation of food for the ill or convalescent will, without doubt, be welcome.

One tablespoonful of gelatine, two tablespoonfuls of cold water, one-fourth of a pint of beef essence; dissolve the gelatine in the water by slowly heating it, and stirring at the same time. Warm the essence, stir it into the gelatine, and turn it into a cup to cool and harden. Serve very cold.

Another very agreeable change of food can be made as follows: Four tablespoonfuls of beef juice without salt, four tablespoonfuls of rich, sweet cream, four tablespoonfuls of sugar, and four drops of essence of vanilla. Put all the ingredients into a freezer, and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Freeze in the same manner as you would any other cream.

A pleasant, nutritious soup, to be given in cases of bowel and summer complaint, may be made as follows: One tablespoonful of browned flour, one teaspoonful of butter, half a salt-spoonful of salt, two tablespoonfuls of warm water, half a pint of boiling water, one slice of dry toast. Rub the flour, butter and salt to a smooth paste, and blend it with the warm water. Pour it slowly into the boiling water, stirring all the while to prevent lumps. Cut the toast into small squares, put them into a bowl, and pour the soup over it.

When preparing broiled birds avoid breaking the skin. After the bird has been carefully cleaned and wiped dry, rub a little grease over it and broil over a bright fire, turn frequently. Baked potatoes are to some invalids a very agreeable food, and to be thoroughly palatable, should be served immediately when removed from the oven.

To prepare poached eggs, it is a good idea to heat the eggs in a saucepan and slip them carefully into the water while it is boiling. It is not pleasant to have the eggs served with ragged edges; one way to avoid this is to place muffin rings in the boiling water and slip the eggs into the rings, this keeps them in good shape.

Grass is a favorite drink with many people, even when not counted among the invalids. Either of the following recipes will be found to make a very palatable drink: Two quarts of good wheat bran, three quarts of cold water; put the bran into a large bowl, stir the water over it, and let it stand overnight. The bran should be strained through a fine sieve, and pressed until the water is nearly all out. The white starchy-looking water thus produced contains the cereal and vegetable matter of the bran, and is a most nutritious and palatable drink. The following is a recipe for a similar drink: Two quarts of good wheat bran, three quarts of cold water; put the bran into a large bowl, stir the water over it, and let it stand overnight. The bran should be strained through a fine sieve, and pressed until the water is nearly all out. The white starchy-looking water thus produced contains the cereal and vegetable matter of the bran, and is a most nutritious and palatable drink.

When grass was allowed to decompose under a cover, it was found that the water which was evolved therefrom contained a certain amount of lactic acid, and the gas, though mainly carbonic acid, as before, was characterized by the presence of a notable percentage of hydrogen. But in other experiments, where the water was made slightly until it was nearly all dissolved, no gases at all were evolved, and a similar negative result was obtained when a tube containing grass and water was exposed to steam heat for several hours and then left to itself; when the contents were analyzed, the evolution of gas must be dependent upon the presence in the hay or grass of low forms of organic life. In confirmation of this view, the microscope always revealed numerous bacteria in the water taken from tubes in which the hay or grass was present. This water was found to contain acetic, lactic, and, probably, propionic acids. The fact enforced by these experiments that the fermentation of hay in mows will go forward in the absence of air, and that the practical result (not to say the cause) of the same is the destruction of certain chemical constituents of the hay, is calculated to throw considerable light, not only on the significance of the sweating of hay in mows, as aforesaid, but upon the question of baling hay also. It is commonly held to be quite improper to bale new-made hay, and the reason given is that the hay may be, and that, indeed, the operation of baling can not be performed with safety to the hay until after it has been allowed to lie some time in the barn. Undoubtedly, beside the gases that are evolved, various new chemical compounds are formed by the fermentation of the breaking up of matters originally contained in the hay, and some of these new products may be more useful, or less hurtful, than those in the unfermented fodder. In view of the fact that a certain degree of fermentation of green hay can hardly be avoided, and that it is desirable to avoid it, it may well be true that the doctrine taught by some skillful farmers that it is always best in curing hay to let it sweat somewhat in bunches, windrows or cocks before carrying it to the barn is a correct doctrine. It consists in allowing the hay to sweat for a certain time, at one time and another, in England, to processes of drying grass artificially in currents of air, as introduced there by several inventors. The waste of nitrogen from hay by long-continued keeping has repeatedly been noticed by agricultural chemists. It follows that although the popular belief that the new hay is bad for animals may be true enough, old hay is not necessarily good hay.—Herald New Yorker.

Most horses, in their earlier days, want to bite something in a friendly manner, just as puppies do, without any intention to hurt. It is well to encourage this disposition. If punished for so doing they are apt to misunderstand it, and in the course of the day whenever they feel inclined to bite whenever they are in a playful mood. It is stupidly, often brutally, that ruins horses which are not unnaturally vicious.—Cleveland Leader.

No garden can be expected to give satisfaction that is not filled with all the vegetables that may be required. A small space here and there, when properly utilized, will give many delicacies at times when they are most acceptable.—Field and Farm.

An English gardener advises trapping ants with bones upon which some meat has been left, and dipping occasionally in hot water. For "slugs and wireworms" he uses pieces of potato or carrot.

Permentation of New-Made Hay.

To say nothing of the "heating" of damp hay, where, under favorable conditions, the evolution of heat may even come to the point of inflammation, it is well known that new hay will "sweat" somewhat in the mow or stack after it has been stored, no matter how dry it seemed to be at the moment of storing; and it is a tenet of faith among horse-keepers that hay is not fit food for horses until after this sweating fermentation has thoroughly run its course. Many farmers believe, indeed, that this fermentation is advantageous, and not a few of them hold that it is not well to dry hay too thoroughly before storing it, lest the necessary ripening in the mow should be hindered. A couple of English chemists, Percy Frankland and Jordan, have recently experimented upon this matter with the view of ascertaining what kinds of gases are evolved during the fermentation. They find, as was to have been expected, that even at the ordinary temperature of the air a good deal of carbonic acid is given off, and that this gas is accompanied by mere traces of hydrogen and hydrocyanic acid. The evolution of the gases, during the ripening when in contact with air, and was, so to say, saturated with air, the oxygen of the air was rapidly absorbed and changed to carbonic acid. But even after the oxygen had been completely removed in this way from the confined volume of air, the fermentation continued, there was still evolution of carbonic acid from the hay, the oxygen for which must have come from some constituent of the grass. On account of the presence of nitrogen in air, it was difficult to conclude from the experiment made in the air that the evolution of the gases was due to the nitrogen in the grass during the fermentation. Hence experiments were made upon other portions of the incompletely dried grass confined, in some cases, in an atmosphere of carbonic acid, and in other instances in atmospheres of oxygen and hydrogen, and the results were as follows: The atmosphere with which the grass was surrounded had but little influence either upon the volume or the composition of the gases produced. The evolution of carbonic acid took place almost as rapidly in the artificial atmosphere as it did in the air, but was less rapid in the atmosphere of oxygen than in the atmosphere of nitrogen, was a considerable evolution of nitrogen, as well as of carbonic acid, hence the inference that nitrogen is really evolved when hay ferments in the air. The oxygen was so rapidly absorbed by the grass that, even in a few experiments with pure oxygen, the oxygen was used up in the course of a week, after which time the evolution of nitrogen from the grass practically ceased. On adding new quantities of oxygen, however, nitrogen was again liberated from the hay, though somewhat less than at first, the amount of nitrogen evolved being very considerably less, however, after the lapse of several months. The fundamental fact that even in the absence of any oxygen in the free state, considerable quantities of carbonic acid were produced at the expense of combined oxygen, and that the evolution of this gas was conspicuously enforced by these experiments in artificial atmospheres. Naturally enough the evolution of carbonic acid was more rapid at a temperature of 57 degrees than at 69 degrees.

When grass was allowed to decompose under a cover, it was found that the water which was evolved therefrom contained a certain amount of lactic acid, and the gas, though mainly carbonic acid, as before, was characterized by the presence of a notable percentage of hydrogen. But in other experiments, where the water was made slightly until it was nearly all dissolved, no gases at all were evolved, and a similar negative result was obtained when a tube containing grass and water was exposed to steam heat for several hours and then left to itself; when the contents were analyzed, the evolution of gas must be dependent upon the presence in the hay or grass of low forms of organic life. In confirmation of this view, the microscope always revealed numerous bacteria in the water taken from tubes in which the hay or grass was present. This water was found to contain acetic, lactic, and, probably, propionic acids. The fact enforced by these experiments that the fermentation of hay in mows will go forward in the absence of air, and that the practical result (not to say the cause) of the same is the destruction of certain chemical constituents of the hay, is calculated to throw considerable light, not only on the significance of the sweating of hay in mows, as aforesaid, but upon the question of baling hay also. It is commonly held to be quite improper to bale new-made hay, and the reason given is that the hay may be, and that, indeed, the operation of baling can not be performed with safety to the hay until after it has been allowed to lie some time in the barn. Undoubtedly, beside the gases that are evolved, various new chemical compounds are formed by the fermentation of the breaking up of matters originally contained in the hay, and some of these new products may be more useful, or less hurtful, than those in the unfermented fodder. In view of the fact that a certain degree of fermentation of green hay can hardly be avoided, and that it is desirable to avoid it, it may well be true that the doctrine taught by some skillful farmers that it is always best in curing hay to let it sweat somewhat in bunches, windrows or cocks before carrying it to the barn is a correct doctrine. It consists in allowing the hay to sweat for a certain time, at one time and another, in England, to processes of drying grass artificially in currents of air, as introduced there by several inventors. The waste of nitrogen from hay by long-continued keeping has repeatedly been noticed by agricultural chemists. It follows that although the popular belief that the new hay is bad for animals may be true enough, old hay is not necessarily good hay.—Herald New Yorker.

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The Rescued Arctic Explorers.

Our telegraph news gives the glad tidings that the search expedition that sailed last winter for the relief of Lieutenant Greeley and his party, who have now been absent in Lady Franklin Bay since 1882, and whose safety has been very doubtful, has been completely successful. The precious position that the Greeley party had been placed in was due to the blunders of the Navy Department last year.

In the spring of 1882 the United States Government dispatched a small party of explorers under Lieutenant Peary to maintain the depot at Etah until the autumn of 1883, to make scientific observations in accordance with the plans determined by the International Arctic Association. As is well known, the other nations succeeded in bringing relief to their respective parties last fall, and the search expedition for the American expedition only perpetrated a series of unparalleled blunders, and returned to leave Greeley to battle with his cold winter in the highest latitude ever reached by any expedition.

The popular notion is that Arctic exploration is a mere matter of endurance and physical strength, and that the men who risk their lives in going to the Arctic regions are hardly worth the risk and expense of rescue. The truth is, that these men devote themselves to the cause of science, and to the benefit of their fellow-men. They go to the Arctic regions under extreme and singular circumstances, and when fortunate enough to return they give most valuable knowledge to the world. By practical scientists the great value and importance of scientific observations in the Arctic regions have long been recognized. Nothing is more necessary for us to thoroughly understand in a country which, like ours, stretches over such an extent of latitude than meteorology. This can not be thoroughly understood, or its laws defined, until we obtain a more extensive knowledge of the physical conditions of the Arctic basin. The unsolved problems of electricity and magnetism are also of world-wide interest. Hence all geographical societies and scientific bodies have paid special attention to the scientific equipment of all the recent Arctic expeditions; and while much light has been thrown on the geographical questions, important results have also been obtained in various departments of physical science.

Hitherto, however, these results have been too isolated and scattered to admit of comprehensive generalization. Each expedition has worked on its own particular lines, without reference to any common system by which alone the key to the interpretation of the phenomena could be obtained. To remedy this state of things the lamented Lieutenant Weyrich, the discoverer of Joseph Land, suggested that the money spent in fitting out expeditions for the purpose of discovery should be more usefully applied in making a thorough physical investigation, on the basis of a common plan, of the lands already discovered. He further proposed that, to obtain this object, a common system of observations, the North Pole should be established in the Antarctic Sea. Mr. William Lee Howard, the Arctic voyager, strongly pushed this matter at the International Geographical Congress, and was a strong advocate of Lieutenant Weyrich's plan. It was finally recognized by Count Wiczak, a well-known and munificent patron of Arctic enterprise, and to his generous support and active co-operation the fulfillment of the scheme is largely due. The plan was submitted to the meteorological congress at London, and there met with most favorable consideration, and was referred to an International Polar Conference, which was held at Hamburg, the States represented being France, Holland, Germany, Austria, Russia, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

The scheme was at last put into force by the promise of the United States to establish two stations, and it was then announced that the eight stations required were secured. By July, 1881, the final arrangements were completed. It was determined that the observations should be commenced at all the stations in the polar regions, as well as those in the temperate zones, as soon as possible after August 1, 1882, and that they should be continued, as far as practicable, until September 1, 1883.

Denmark was established at Godthaab; America sent Greeley to Lady Franklin Bay, in Smith Sound (the northernmost of all the stations); Germany, under the command of Cumberland Sound, on the west side of Davis Strait, and England at Fort Rae, in the heart of the Hudson's Bay Territory, near the Great Slave Lake. The United States also had a station at Point Barrow; Russia took up her stand at the mouth of the Lena, on the east coast of Siberia; the French occupied the Russian branch station being at Moller Bay, Nova Zembla. Norway took an easy station at Boskop, in the Alton Fjord; Sweden selected Spitzbergen, and Austria carried Jan Mayen Island, the most Arctic of the group, and the only one a volcano rising directly out of the Arctic Ocean, and when not entirely surrounded by ice is enveloped in a thick, cold fog.

France went far a-field, establishing a station at Cape Horn, while Germany—ever foremost in scientific research—established a third station on one of the islands of the group, in 54 degrees 30 min. south latitude, 41 degrees 21 min. 15 sec. west longitude, some eleven hundred miles east of Cape Horn. The object in establishing stations in the antarctic regions was to enable some scientific data to be obtained upon the correspondence or divergences between arctic and antarctic phenomena, and to co-operate with the observations of Cape Town and Melbourne. Thus we had during the years '82 and '83 no less than fifteen expeditions carrying out the full programme of the International Polar Conference, and on the 1st and 15th of each month, magnetic and meteorological observations were taken at various permanent observatories, as well as on board numerous ships of war and merchant vessels. Materials for comparison on an extended scale and in the course of the day of the world, and with the exercises of the Dutch expedition, which failed on account of the ice to reach its destination and the United States expedition which has now been rescued, we have the full reports from all the stations. Not only so, but the score of men who have been in the service of the International Arctic Association has been rescued, but the scientific world has been anxiously waiting for problems to be solved, which can only be done when it has the important facts that it was expected that Greeley would obtain.—Boston Transcript.

The Drop Curtain of the Buffalo.

One cold day last fall, while in the Northern Pacific cities, I saw a box car standing on a side track, and a man busy unloading something from a wagon into the car. From a distance I could not make out what kind of merchandise was being handled, so went up to the wagon to satisfy my curiosity. Fancy my amazement when I found the "merchandise" nothing more nor less than bones. Having found out what it was, I at once proceeded with the illegal but altogether natural query, "What the dickens is that?" "It is that stuff," with a deliberation about his reply almost equal to that so often shown by a shy fair one when called upon to answer the question, the source of my information pulled off his mittens, investigated his pipe, and finding it empty, proceeded to fill it. "You're a tenderfoot, I guess," I pleaded guilty. "It is that stuff," with a deliberation about his reply almost equal to that so often shown by a shy fair one when called upon to answer the question, the source of my information pulled off his mittens, investigated his pipe, and finding it empty, proceeded to fill it. "You're a tenderfoot, I guess," I pleaded guilty. "It is that stuff," with a deliberation about his reply almost equal to that so often shown by a shy fair one when called upon to answer the question, the source of my information pulled off his mittens, investigated his pipe, and finding it empty, proceeded to fill it. "You're a tenderfoot, I guess," I pleaded guilty. "It is that stuff," with a deliberation about his reply almost equal to that so often shown by a shy fair one when called upon to answer the question, the source of my information pulled off his mittens, investigated his pipe, and finding it empty, proceeded to fill it. "You're a tenderfoot, I guess," I pleaded guilty. 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