TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

THE FRENCH authorities showed a commendable spirit in dealing with the anti-Italian demonstrations.

WHAT South Carolina stands greatly in need of is a temperance revival of immense persistence and versatility.

FOUR men were injured in a sham battle in South Dakota the other day. We may next expect to hear of a fatal French duel.

ONE inhabitant in every 180 in this country owns a bicycle, and has lots of fun keeping the other 179 dodging for dear life.

THE woman biceclist has come to stay. Yet her vigorous health, fresh complexion, and loose-fitting costume show that she doesn't stay.

A MARYLAND farmer marketed in one day 12,000 pounds of green gooseberries. The sugar trust ought to grant that man a big subsidy.

NATURE has her immutable laws. If a man does not exercise his blood becomes sluggish. Neglect to advertise has the same effect on trade.

THERE are British warships in Boston harbor for the first time since the revolutionary war, but they have very little tea on board and no trouble is feared.

IN order to prevent the mind from dwelling too much on the state of the country it might be mentioned that Rudyard Kipling has four new books in preparation.

IT costs an American $200 to die at a hotel in Paris. We shall next hear that the rapacious landlords sue their deceased guests' estates to recover damages for loss of prospective profits.

IT has been asserted that more money is spent in newspaper advertising in Australia in proportion to its population—which is four million—than in any other country in the world.

HEREAFTER the steamship companies will be required to pay for the feeding of detained immigrants at Ellis Island. Greater carefulness on the part of the companies will be the result.

THE lawyers in convention at Saratoga decided that corrupt legislators are the curse of the country. Meanwhile they make fortunes by defending the legislators in question when they get caught.

JAPAN did not issue a declaration of war until after she had been fighting with China for a week. This is an improvement on the custom of European nations of bluffing each other for several years before fighting.

A CABLE correspondent is astonished that monkeys in a European zoological garden have been taught to smoke cigarettes. That's nothing. You may see young monkeys doing the same thing here every day in the week.

DEPRIVED of his yellow jacket and his blue silk overskirt at the outset of a big campaign Li Hung Chang had trouble enough for one Chinaman, but now it appears that the Japs have captured the viceroy's favorite dispatch boat and propose to keep it. War is a horrible thing.

OF course, not every man who advertises succeeds, but it is a general rule that all successful men are advertisers. Nothing equals advertising as a business increaser. Nine times in ten a good advertisement will bring more than enough in direct profit to pay for itself, leaving its great cumulative value clear gain.

A BROOKLYN druggist was awakened by two burglars in his store. He slipped to his ammonia bottle, dashed a dose squarely in the face of one and he dropped as if shot. The second got it only on the neck and succeeded in getting away. The druggist says the ammonia bottle is a long way ahead of the revolver for burglars.

A HORSE was brought into the parlor at a recent social gathering and a lady forced to ride it. She did not profess to be a horsewoman, but she could shoot some, and when she had dismounted she shot the two gentlemen who had annoyed her and cared them. This pleasant incident occurred in Pennsylvania, not far from Philadelphia, and thus gains an interest that in a rude, uncultured cowboy country it might lack.

CANADIAN newspapers are felicitating themselves upon the large American immigration to the Northwest provinces. They are glad to see a liberal infusion of an element that boils over with energy directed by advanced progressive ideas. Americans are as well pleased as our Canadian neighbors. By the same process Texas was Americanized while it belonged to Mexico, and thus fitted to glitter as a bright star in the galaxy of American states.

A old, old man, who has almost touched the century limit, reached by so few mortals, and who fought under the great Napoleon, wandering homeless in the streets of New York! It has a touch of pathos in it—the misfortune of this ancient waif from the glittering epoch of the little corporal's military glory. The Napoleons and their empires are dust and ashes, but still this old veteran drags out his life in a new generation, which scarcely knows the names of the battles in which he got his scars.

THERE are more amateurs in the firebug business than in any other branch of crime. What is the madness which leads men, and women, too, who have had all the advantages of respectable surroundings, suddenly to enter upon a career of incendiarism? Who will explain the mysterious and blind rage for destruction which prompts such wholesale firing of buildings as that just traced to a young man of good family, in a country town not far from New York? Often the motive of gain in these crimes is not at all apparent. Is there a craze for destroying what wealth and economy have laboriously built up as on one there was a madness for breaking and defacing the statues which were the outcome of the beautiful religious art of the Old World?

CHICAGO has a broker's office conducted by a woman for the benefit of women speculators. It is in an office building that is a near neighbor to the Board of Trade, and is fitted up comfortably with a carpet on the floor and a rocking chair or two in addition to the usual stiff-backed office chairs. Two big blackboards, a desk, a safe, and two tickers give a business-like aspect to the place, while their asperity is in turn softened by the appliances for making tea hidden away in the corner, which help more than anything else in the room to set the seal of femininity upon it. The office has been established only a short time, but it already has a number of regular customers. The hours between the opening and closing of the Board of Trade finds them watching the tickers or the blackboards and giving their orders quietly. At noon tea is made and biscuit served with it.

THE frolicsome tramp invariably takes a waggish view of life, death, and the grave and hereafter. To him existence is a joke, and organized society a delusion and a snare. Men are made to be gulled, and he is never happier than when gulling them. Note the amusing ingenuity of the trio of tramps in Brooklyn, who, despairing of "making the ghost walk" in any legitimate manner, decided to make his promenade literally in such a way as to pay their rent. So they took possession of a deserted mansion, and to keep the curious from intruding on them, they nightly promenaded before the windows clad in (relatively) white garments, uttering blood-curdling groans, and moving lights to and fro. But a cold and cruel world, which declines to believe in ghosts, found them out and expelled them, and they went their ways, chuckling over their joke just as much as if it had succeeded.

Use Dogs in Fishing

"One of the most unique methods of fishing I ever saw or heard of," said Thomas Barclay, an old-time sea captain, who was at Lacede last night, "is that employed by the natives of the South Sea Islands in which their dogs takes the most prominent part. I happened to touch at one of these islands several years ago to take on a supply of fresh water, and was just in time to witness the operations of a large fishing party, which interested me not a little. The party was divided into two groups, each of which consisted of about fifty men and thirty dogs. These groups were stationed on the beach about 200 yards apart. At a given signal the dogs were started from their respective points, and swam straight out seaward in single file in two columns. A sharp cry from one of the men on the beach, the right column wheeled to the left and the left column wheeled right, until the head of each column met. Then another signal was given, at which they all turned and swam abreast for the shore. As soon as the dogs neared the beach increasing numbers of fish appeared in the shallow water, frightened forward by the column of dogs, which, as soon as their feet touched the bottom, pounced upon the fish and carried them to their masters. The fishes' heads were at once cut off and each dog given the head of the fish he had secured as his share of the catch. The dog who caught nothing got nothing"—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

PEOPLE are more apt to believe what they read than what they hear.

CARRIAGE COSTUME. WINDMILL SLEEVES.

FANCIES OF FASHION.

GREAT VARIETY IN THE STYLES FOR THIS SEASON.

No Relaxation in the Search for Novelties in Dress—The High Appreciation Which Oddities Receive—House Dresses Daintily Adorned—Colors in Great Variety.

Dame Fashion's Doings.

New York correspondence:

EVERY possible means which can be utilized to give distinctive character to a costume is welcomed by the designers of all dresses. While cool weather has necessarily shelved many of the sorts of ornamentation which prevailed during the summer, there is no relaxation in the eager search for novelties. The gauzy notions of August are replaced by others which are suited to the approaching cold weather, but unusualness is as valued in the latter as in the former, and the danger of overdoing the oddity of any one feature of the whole of a costume is as slight as it was before.

As an example of the high appreciation which oddities receive, the house dress pictured in the initial illustration, for I was consulted by its designer as nothing short of a work of high art. Of its novelty there can be no doubt; of its beauty there may be different opinions, but that is the point the stranger is welcome because he is a stranger, and without much regard for his appearance. A simple gray woollen suiting is used for this dress, and its pretty skirt is three and a half yards wide and is lined with alpaca. The back is laid in plaits facing each other. Lining and stuff are cut in equal length and width for the bodice. It has a tidy basque and a full plastron which hangs down below the waist line, coming inside the buttoned extra fronts, which are sewed into the side seam, and is finished with a narrow black lace ruche. A deep collar comes across the shoulders, with the ends tucked into the loose part in front. A plain standing collar and narrow sleeves complete the costume.

House dresses of the negligee order have never been definitely adopted, and when one can be constructed which combines desirable study and new sorts of garniture, the result is especially pleasing. The costume next shown does this and is well worth copying. As sketched it is made from white cashmere and mousseline chiffon. The back breadths are gathered in the waist and flare out drapery in the skirt portion. At the top they are gathered to a round yoke. The front breadths hook beneath the draped part, which is left loose to show the pleated panel of mousseline. A draped length of white cashmere comes over the shoulders and is fastened with jeweled ribbon, from which three strings of paste pearl beads tied to the shoulder, where they fasten with a rhinestone buckle. Jewel embroidery also borders the drapery. The sleeves are of pleated chiffon, and a white cashmere ruching shows at the neck. If reproduction of this dress is attempted, and a great many stuffs are well suited to it, the ewed ornamentation might be omitted. In the original this trimming looked well, but there is so much danger in the use of such things of cheapening the effect of the whole by a profusion of mock gems, that the amateur needs beware.

Collars and neck fixings are in great variety, because they are so generally used. Stocks threaten to be all the rage and so will the poor short-necked folk who have to go into them. The easiest way to accomplish a stock at home is to make high standing folded collar with stiffenings which fastens in the back. To its edges at the back are attached soft scarf pieces. After the stiff collar is adjusted the scarf pieces cross each other, come to the front and there tie, the stock part appearing above the bow. These stocks are every bit as becoming and correct as the expensive ones from the stores, and they can be made of leftover gauze, crepe, chiffon, taffeta, satin, moire, etc. So it is best to save these leavings of the summer wardrobe. Having had a good season's wear out of a chiffon dress, you are really so much ahead if out of the whole gown

IN FIGURED WHITE MUSLIN

you can get the necessary two yards to make a stock. The very swelling collar will be black moire, a modification of the dress bow that captured everyone last season, and the old bow can be utilized for the scarf pieces of the new stock. On a black stock, moire may be used in the stock part, and black gauze, chiffon or crepe may form the scarf, but so far there is no encouragement for the woman who would like to make her stock of one color and the tie of another.

For those who do not like the stock there is the pretty folded collar, which seems likely to be popular forever. This style of collar now fastens at the back, where a spreading bow is added, so wide in "wing and wing" fashion that from the front the tips of the loops show prettily, with a good deal the same effect that is produced by side loops.

No dressier indoor wear than either of the costumes already described is that of the third illustration. Composed of white linen muslin figured with delicately tinted flowers, it is trimmed with plain and embroidered tulle. The skirt has a slight train and is edged with a narrow tulle ruche around the bottom. Figured muslin is used for the bodice, and it has separate fronts set into the side seams, which are caught just above the bust. There is a short basque of embroidered tulle and a long fichu and sleeve frills of the same. The front of the bodice is of the tulle, the back of the figured goods.

No daintier shoulder trimming could be devised than that seen in the negligee of the next sketch. Here the stuff is pink and white striped linen batiste and the garment has long basques and a yoke imitated by the lace bertha which runs down the front in a cascade. The fullness is taken in the waist in back and the sleeves are finished by lace frills. Either pink or white China silk may be used as lining, and a bow of the same shade of ribbon ties the standing collar in

A BRAND NEW NEGLIGE.

DAINTY SHOULDER FIXINGS.

front. The jacket hooks invisibly in front.

THE Duke of Parma, father of the Princess of Bulgaria, is the prince who can boast of the most children among the princes of Europe. He has fifteen, viz., ten daughters and five sons, all of whom are living.

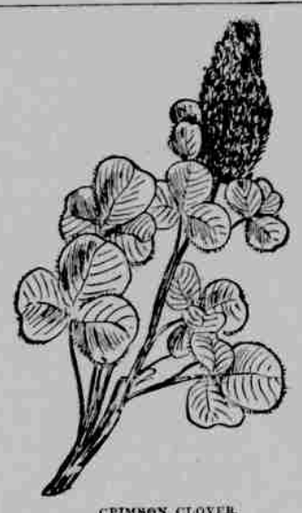
HOME AND THE FARM.

A DEPARTMENT MADE UP FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Value of Crimson Clover as Pasture and as a Soiling Crop—Three Good Gate Latches—The Use of Fertilizers—To Fatten Hogs.

Crimson Clover.

Crimson or scarlet clover is a comparatively new plant which has been steadily growing in popular favor during the last five years. It is an annual variety of special value as an extra crop, both for feed and for improving the soil. It is not a substitute for red clover. The best results thus far obtained indicate the latter part of the summer as the best time for seeding. This will give an early spring crop for pasture forage or for green manuring. Crimson clover may be sown in orchards, berry patches, with corn, tobacco, tomatoes, etc., and upon raw ground following potatoes, melons or other early harvested crops. It is not adapted for seeding with wheat or rye. Twelve pounds of seed should be allowed to



CRIMSON CLOVER.

the acre. Experience shows that the seed takes better when lightly covered. Failure to secure a good stand results generally from heavy rains just after seeding or from hot, dry weather after sprouting has commenced. American seed is superior to foreign.

Crimson clover in common with other plants requires good soil for the best development, though it is well adapted for light lands. It will catch readily and grow well where red clover will not thrive and is also more hardy. Crimson lover provides a good pasture before other crops are available. An acre of it when six inches high contains sufficient digestible food to properly nourish twelve cows for one week. The roots are equal to three tons of city manure. As a soiling crop it is excellent both for quantity and quality. There are many farmers who well understand the value of growing a crop to be turned under to enrich the land, but dislike to miss a corn crop for this purpose. It is here that the value of crimson clover comes in. After the corn has been cultivated the last time the seed may be sown through the field and farmers who have tried it claim that it helps instead of injuring the crop of corn.

A number of Western farmers tried the plan of sowing crimson clover with oats. This clover makes a good growth with the grain and is very valuable to those who want to secure the greatest amount of fodder from an acre with the least labor. The oats could be cut for grain hay; then the clover will make a good crop and after cutting it the ground may be plowed for rye or wheat.

Clean Water for Poultry.

A very simple arrangement for keeping a dish of clean water near the fowls is illustrated in Farm and Home. For keeping the water clean it is not necessary that the pan should be set in a frame attached to a fence, but a box with the four sides removed and strips nailed on may be

WATER-PAN FOR POULTRY.

set in any part of the chicken coop, thus providing water that is clean and wholesome. It is convenient, however, to keep the water high enough so that ants and insects may not crawl into it readily. For this purpose a small section in the fence may be removed and the head and bottom of the box nailed to the opening above the ground. Small slats of wood can then be nailed as shown in cut, being set far enough apart so that the poultry can get it easily.

Most Profitable Stock.

Men who are breeding and feeding pigs have the advantage of their fellow farmers who are breeding sheep, cattle, horses or mules. Pigs come in the spring, and before the Christmas holidays have eaten themselves fat, weigh two hundred to three hundred pounds, and are sold and out of the way at a better market price than any other live stock. This is the situation in a nutshell. The men who buy and carefully breed and judiciously feed hogs have a first-class market all the year round, and the top of the market, too, so far as prices are concerned. True, it doesn't do to breed any too many in a bunch, and it pays to give them the best of care so far as food and other surroundings are concerned; but these being cared for, the business is as safe as banking and as profitable.

Using Fertilizers.

Does it pay to use fertilizers? This question is often discussed at the farmers' meeting with a wealth of words, that, after all, prove nothing but the opinions of persons who enter into this discussion. But there are some facts that speak louder than words in this regard that may be mentioned. The farmers of the United States buy and use and pay for not less than [illegible],000,000 tons of fertilizers every year, and this enormous quantity costs them fully $50,000,000. To form an idea of the great bulk of this quantity let us say that it will fill 150,000 freight cars which, extended in two vast trains properly coupled together, will occupy an air-line railroad with double tracks from Washington to Chicago. Is it reasonable to think that the farmers would continue to use this quantity of fertilizers and keep on increasing their purchases and consumption steadily every year, if this use of them did not pay?

But, taking the statistics of the crops and the yields of them, we find that they show large increase during the last few years and since the use of fertilizers has become so common; and also that the culture of fruits and market crops for which this kind of plant food is mostly used has increased enormously, so that wide districts, where once not an acre of such products was cultivated, are now covered with prosperous gardens and plantations, and are occupied by thrifty, if not wealthy, farmers.

Three Good Gate Fastenings.

The form of the gate latch or fastening is an important part of the structure, and care should be exercised in its construction. The form shown in Fig. 1 is very simple and effective. The latch, A, is of hard tough wood, eighteen inches in length, three-quarters of an inch thick, and one and a half inches wide. Through the inner end a wooden pin holds it in position. When the gate is closed the outer projecting end rests in a notch cut

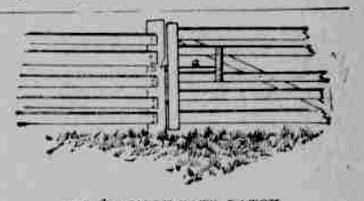


FIG. 1 SIMPLE GATE LATCH.

in the post, as at S. All the plans shown admit of the gate opening either way if desired. In Fig. 2 a swinging latch is used, which should be about the size of that in Fig. 1. It is suspended by a wire at S. Two wooden pins prevent it from being moved too far in either direction. The plan in Fig. is quite similar to the others, and is clearly shown. The latch, E, is shown in an enlarged form. A notch is cut in the lower

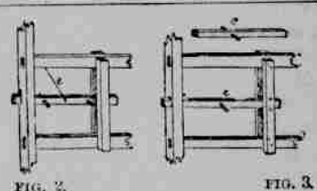


FIG. 2. FIG. 3.

side, which rests on a pin when the gate is closed, the weight of the latch keeping it in position. Next in importance to the hinges of a gate are the fastenings, which should invariably be made of the very best material.

Good Butter.

If you would make good butter, the first point is to make a good keeping butter. This keeping property of butter depends upon not leaving too much casine or water in it. The latter is the chief difficulty. If a large quantity of water is left in the butter the latter will never keep. The butter grains must be drained so as to get the water out of them as much as possible and the air in between them, so as to sweeten and freshen the grains and promote the growth of the beneficent bacteria which produces good flavor. Afterwards, of course, the air must be pressed out and then excluded. In packing butter use nothing but the best salt, and be sure to soak the tubs beforehand, as otherwise the wood will draw the moisture from the butter to the detriment of the latter. Oak tubs are the most desirable, as that kind of wood has little natural odor for the butter to absorb. If the butter has been carefully made and packed, covered with parchment paper and then with brine, and placed in a cool, dry, odorless place, it should keep well for months.

Farm Notes.

IN preparing for an apple orchard select a choice plot, one containing clover sod preferred turn the sod under and set out the young trees in the spring.

BE slow to cut off large limbs from fruit trees, prune the young sprouts with the thumb. The less severe the pruning to which a tree is subjected the more likely it is to be of long life.

THE best pork, as well as the cheapest, says an experienced hog raiser, is that made from hogs that have never been wintered. Quick growth and early maturity are essential in securing the largest profit.

THE fall is an excellent time to use lime. Plow the land, run the cultivator over it crosswise, and apply from thirty to fifty bushels of lime per acre. It may be left on the surface, no harrowing being required, as it will be carried down by the rains.