

Science Notes

BY WILLIAM G. HAYNES.

Feeding a Pumpkin with a Sugar Solution

By S. Leonard Bastin

Some interesting experiments have been recently carried out to prove that the growth of gourds and pumpkins may be accelerated by artificial means. It has for some time been known that many plants greedily absorb sugar solutions, but it is only recently that the idea of feeding a growing pumpkin has been developed.

The plan is carried out in the following manner. A healthy young fruit is selected for the experiment a few days after it has definitely "set". Next, a very strong sugar solution is prepared in the following way: One or more jars are taken and each of these is filled with water. Raw sugar is then stirred into the water until the liquid has absorbed all that it can take up. The sugar and water should not be boiled, as this will produce a thick mixture that will not be freely imbibed by the plant. On the other hand there is no harm in order to assist in the dissolving of the sugar if the water is slightly warmed.

The next thing is to secure some pieces of cotton through which the sugar solution will pass. Actually round cotton lamp wick answers the purpose very well. It is a good plan to use not less than a couple of jars of solution for every pumpkin. These are stood one on either side of the fruit, sunk a little into the ground, so that there will not be a danger of overturning. A connection must now be made between the pumpkin and the sugar solution. Two pieces of the wick are cut, these being measured so that they reach from the stalk of the pumpkin well down into the mixture in the jars. It is now needful to prepare the openings in the stalk so that the free ends of the wicks can be inserted into the tissue. The holes may suitably be worked out with a penknife, care being taken to avoid penetrating the stalk right through at any point. When the holes have been opened up the ends of the wicks are fitted in such a way that they are pushed well "home" into the openings. Nothing now remains save to see that the jars are well supplied with sugar solution. The contents of the jar is well stirred two or three times a day in order to prevent a large amount of sugar from settling to the bottom.

The rate of growth evidenced by the pumpkin is astonishing. It will be found that the fruit grows three or four times faster than those specimens which are not fed at all. It is easy to find out the increase in weight by placing the fruit on to a pair of scales from time to time. Care must be taken to avoid injuring the stalk in any way. Within certain limits there does not seem to be any reason why pumpkins should not be grown in this manner to almost any magnitude.—Scient. Amer.

The vaudeville entertainment given by Mrs. H. A. Chiles, Monday, May 27, for the benefit of the Ester Temple, of the S. of M. T., was well attended. Mrs. Chiles wishes to thank her friends for their co-operation.

KILLED BY STREET CAR

William Dukes, an employe of James Bell Cafe, was killed Wednesday by a west bound Dodge car at 12th and Dodge. The body will be shipped by Jones and Chiles to his home in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Only five weeks more before Free Trip Contest ends.—Vote for your favorite.—Adv.

DIED OF HEART FAILURE

Harry Coffee, living at 21st and Charles, the engineer at University Club, died of heart failure Sunday evening at his home.

AMERICAN PROVINCE HAS 71 NATIVE PREACHERS

Portugese East Africa Making Great Strides Along Educational and Religious Lines.

Southern News Bureau, June 3.—An editorial in the "Guardian," a secular paper published in Portugese East Africa, pays the following high tribute to Methodist missions in that section:

"The Methodist Episcopal Mission epitomizes its work as the training of heart, head and hand. The districts under consideration have eleven missionaries, seventy out-stations, seventy-one native pastor-preachers, 7,895 members and adherents, three training and thirty-nine elementary day schools with 1,883 pupils, sixty-eight Sunday schools with 2,270 scholars. In addition, the mission has \$30,000 worth of property, which includes a printing press, a saw mill with hydraulic turbine, and a farm of a thousand acres worked with oxen and modern machinery. Fields of waving corn appear to the natives far superior to the weeds that formerly passed as harvests. These farms are often called 'Garden of the Gods.'

"But the work does not stop here. There is a printing record of a million pamphlets a year in from four to seven languages. The girls are taught laundering, sewing, needlework, housekeeping and simple rules of hygiene.

"This mission work is bound to make its mark on the native of tomorrow. It seems remarkable that so much could be accomplished in what was untouched territory twenty-five years ago."

TESTIMONIAL DINNER TO BERT WILLIAMS

New York City, June 3.—The dinner tendered to Mr. Bert A. Williams on Saturday night, May 20, by the Citizens Club of Brooklin, was quite a notable affair, as it brought out many of Greater New York's most prominent men. The dinner was not as well attended as expected, as many places at the table were vacant. Covers were laid for at least one hundred and only about fifty were present. Nevertheless, it was a fine affair, and those who did attend spent a very enjoyable evening.

COLORED TROOPS AID FRENCH AT VERDUN

London, June 3.—Paris reports the Germans have thrown a new and formidable army into the attack on Verdun and that the violence of the assaults equals that of the first of March. The Germans report the capture of a whole system of trenches on the northern slope of Hill 304 and the capture of 40 unwounded officers and 1,280 men. The Germans declare that east of the Meuse the French are using colored soldiers in the fighting.

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