

The Department of Agriculture has come to the relief of the grosbeak. He is a very much maligned bird, this high authority avers, and instead of being destructive to crops, is of great benefit to the farmer.

TALES OF GOTHAM AND OTHER CITIES

Organize a Ball Team for Weak Minded



NEW YORK.—The urgent need of an appropriation of \$500,000 from the legislature for Letchworth Village, the new state institution for the feeble-minded at West Haverstraw, was discussed at a meeting of the board of managers at the office of Frank A. Vanderlip, the president, at the National City Bank.

teams and a suit of armor for the umpire," explained Dr. Little to the managers. "We expect to organize a league within the institution. A state league, taking in teams from the institution for the feeble-minded at Rome and Sonoma, is not an impossible idea."

"Dr. Little said he didn't want it understood that play was to be the only thing in Letchworth Village, because much of the work of building up the institution and running it after it is built is to be done by the inmates."

"Only those who are able to work will be required to do so," said Dr. Little. "The boys the first day worked in the garden until 10 o'clock, then went swimming in the creek that flows through the village and in the afternoon went back to the garden."

"Do you think the feeble-minded boys can be made to understand the intricacies of baseball?" some one asked. "I do not hope to develop any Hal Chase or Ty Cobbs," replied Dr. Little, "but I think we could turn out a good grade of umpires if all I read in the sporting papers is true."

Chinese Masons Have a Weird Funeral

NEW ORLEANS, LA.—The most spectacular funeral ever held in New Orleans took place the other day when the body of Ching Sing, secretary of the Chinese Masonic lodge here and one of the wealthiest Chinamen in the south, was taken to the Firemen's cemetery.



Grand Master Charley Foo opened the ceremonies. Waving his hands, he advanced to the coffin, making an address. The other Chinese bowed in reverence. Chin Bak On, the assistant grand master of the order, followed Foo. Gee Toi Sing followed.

Arrayed in the robes of their offices, Chinese high in rank of the local order of Masons participated in the ceremonies, which included the placing of a cooked chicken, of rice, tea, and other foodstuffs, favorites of the Chinaman, at the grave, the beating of tom-toms, to drive away the evil spirits, the chanting of Chinese hymns, the burning of incense, and joss sticks.

Gowned in a brownish costume and wearing a black cap, the body was in an elaborate coffin. At the head was a picture of the dead man and on each side of the coffin were long white banners, which gave a brief sketch of the dead man. Chinese guards in quaint costumes, peculiar to Chinese Masons, stood around. Chinese banners were hung about the room. At the feet of the dead man was erected an altar, before which hymns were chanted and prayers read.

At the cemetery Chin Bak On, assistant grand master of the lodge, led the procession into the tomb, where, with a few waves of his hands, he drove the evil spirits from the place. The foodstuffs that had been placed at the feet of the corpse in the undertaking establishment were placed in front of the grave. A grate in the tomb contained a fire, in which incense was thrown. Then there was more chanting, the cover was fastened upon the casket, and the ceremony was over. The body will be shipped to China.

Dog's Caress Brings Death to Child



WINFIELD, L. I.—Martha Quis, 4 years old, and Toto, a little terrier that for a year had been the child's inseparable companion, were frolicking in the yard of the Quis home in this city one morning about a fortnight ago as a neighbor's dog stunk past. With frantic yelps Toto started in pursuit, though Martha called in pleading tones for him to come back. It was the first time Toto had disobeyed his little mistress and she was heartbroken.

strate his affections he would lick her hands. The family smiled at the strong bond of attachment between the child and her pet.

Then one morning Martha went to the rear yard to get Toto, as was her custom. The doghouse was empty and its tenant was nowhere to be found. Martha was inconsolable. She cried half the day and called continually for Toto to come back to her. Search was made for the missing pet, but it was unsuccessful. Martha became ill. At first it was supposed that it was the heat and the faithlessness of her little playmate that affected her.

The other dog attacked Toto fiercely and in a few moments Martha's play-fellow limped back to her whimpering from a dozen wounds. Taking the dog in her arms she washed the smarting dust from the cuts, which soon healed under the tender ministrations of the little nurse.

Martha was suffering from heat rash, which caused her great discomfort. She scratched the heat sores till she drew the blood. In pain himself from his wounds, Toto seemingly sympathized with Martha, and to demonstrate his affections he would lick her hands.

Soon, however, the child became delirious. Always she called for Toto, appealing to him to come back to her and not make her cry by being so "bad." Her pitiful pleas wrung the hearts of those at her bedside. A doctor was summoned, and after one glance at Martha he called in consultation a fellow practitioner. They both agreed that Martha had hydrophobia. They examined the child for traces of a dog bite, but all they could discover were the scars from the rash.

Everything was done to combat the disease, but soon Martha was beyond any human aid. Chloroform was administered and the child was kept under its influence till death ended her suffering.

Boston Orders Police to "Swat" Flies

BOSTON.—The Boston police have added to their duties the job of killing flies. It is claimed that they have already demolished or otherwise put out of active business some 150,000 or 200,000 and that before the end of the season the busy bobbies of the Athens of America will have sent 500,000 of the biting and tickling diptera to fly heaven.



Just what the police are up against may be inferred from the following figures: A female house fly which has hibernated in a dwelling house, or elsewhere, writes Prof. F. L. Washburn, may produce in the spring, at the lowest estimate, 120 eggs. Assuming that one-half of these hatch as females and allowing that the breeding goes on without check for four months, we have as the descendants of a single hibernating individual enough flies to make quite a broad belt around the earth at the equator, placing close together.

Why is this army of flies? It invades, it attacks, it is more fearless and elusive than any other army known to the thing called life. Each unit of that army is a threat of disease, the buzzing of it the initial thrumming of the cataclysm that is to swell into the horror of the crack of doom.

Each unit comes from places so disgusting that the very thought of it aighting on the nose or on any part of the body sends a shiver up and down the spine that is like the rigor mortis. It is a knell of disease and death on a billion wings in every city and town in the world, dreadful as the scourge of Egypt.

COMBINE TWO PLANS

Irrigating Farmer Must Also Know Dry Farm Principles.

Soil Mulch is as Important With Irrigation as With Any Other Method of Agriculture—Moisture is Wasted.

It is well known that the irrigating farmer must be a dry land farmer, too, and it is because of the neglect of this fact that so many of the irrigating farmers either fail or make a partial success where a complete success ought to be brought about. The principle in the soil mulch is just as applicable in irrigation as it is in dry land methods of farming, writes W. R. Waldron in the Farm, Stock and Home.

If it is important that the irrigating farmer learn the principles of dry land farming, it is equally important that the dry land farmer adopt irrigating methods wherever possible. This may seem like an absurd thing to say if the farmer does not live near a steady stream of water, but it is applicable just the same. The dry land farmer probably would not be able to irrigate every season, otherwise we would call him an irrigating farmer, but it is generally possible for him to irrigate a small tract of land at least during the spring months.

It is one of the common features in the dry land areas to see in the spring time gullies full of water rushing off with fertility and needed moisture to the great rivers that empty finally into the sea. In nearly all cases this water passes away unheeded, and the farmer in too many cases is glad to see it go for it allows him to get into his fields that much quicker. It is an easy matter if a ravine or draw runs through one's farm to dam a portion of this up, saving the water for immediate or future use. A garden may be selected, lying at or near the draw, below the dam, and the dammed waters can be conducted to the garden. If the garden spot is thoroughly soaked in the springtime, the kitchen garden supply will be insured for the coming season. Occasionally the ground may be frozen when the snow is melting, and in that case it will be necessary to store the water until such time as the ground thaws enough to allow irrigation.

The heavy rains of a growing season can generally be utilized in a similar manner. Too frequently the heavy rains do much damage by the heavy washing they bring about. A portion of this damage can easily be repaired if the waters are impounded and made to serve a useful turn. One must not forget that the muddy waters, as they rush away from our farms, are carrying quantities of rich, fertile ingredients, which, to that farm, are lost forever, and which will never come back.

A well supplied kitchen garden is of the greatest assistance in any season, and especially in a year like 1910 its presence is twice welcome. Four or five good cows, 100 good chickens and a first-class kitchen garden would go a long way in providing a living for a small family. If the waters cannot be dammed for irrigation, in many cases a windmill can furnish water to irrigate a small area, and in irrigated areas, crops can be grown much more intensively than would be otherwise possible. The accompanying cut shows a temporary dam built in a garden to stop the waters of the melting snow. By means of this trifling affair, many barrels of water were conducted to the garden spot, and soaked into the soil, that otherwise would have been lost with their burden of fertility.

CAUSE FOR FEATHER PULLING

Fowls Engage in That Occupation Because They Have Nothing Else to Do and Lack Food.

Fowls pluck feathers from the heads and necks of other fowls for the reason that they are idle and they lack an element of food that is necessary and for which they crave, viz, albumen, such as is found in bran, middlings and cut bone and the like. Keep the fowls busy and keep them scratching for their food and do not allow them to become idle, always keeping them a little hungry. Usually in a flock you will find that one or two are the real feather pluckers. If possible, detect them by watching them when they do not see you, and removing them to a place by themselves until they forget the habit. An effective preventive is to bathe the heads and necks with whisky and aloes, equal parts. This is distasteful to them and will cause them to desist from the habit.

Plant Food for Kaffir Corn. Kaffir corn removes a smaller quantity of the important plant foods from the soil than corn, as shown by the analysis of the ash of both grains shown under similar conditions.

Killing Lice. Do not let up in your warfare against the destructive louse army. Lice are working havoc, and too severe measures cannot be adopted to destroy them.

ALFALFA PLANT NEEDS LIME

Soils That Have Been Irrigated for Several Years May Be Expected to Be Found Deficient.

Western soils have in a general way been classed as soils containing a sufficiency of lime, which is true of most of them in their original state.

Consulting chemists on this point in regard to alfalfa usually lead to very much qualified, if not diverse opinions, and leaves the farmer without much enlightenment.

Of late years the climatic conditions have been adverse to alfalfa, late frosts and laying down alfalfa for short periods having had something to do with short crops, but there are probably some other reasons as well. A soil deficient in organic matter will not, it is known, furnish a proper medium for the development of the bacteria that are necessary for the alfalfa's best growth. So that if the soil is deficient in this the condition should be remedied as a first step.

If thereafter the alfalfa fails to thrive and yield as heavy crops as it used to, we must seek the reason. A soil that has been irrigated for ten or twenty years and in which the water has been carrying the more soluble elements downward during that period may be expected to be deficient in such characteristics as lime near the surface and when wells or dugouts are dug it will be evident that this is no theory, but fact. Hardpan will be encountered of more or less density at considerable depths, in fact, in many cases they will not be reached in a visible condition except where a railroad cut or heavy excavation is made. Our present practice of leaving alfalfa down about two years and irrigating plentifully does not lead to it's boring very deeply in search of moisture and as the lime sinks deeper year by year, it becomes more and more inaccessible to the plants. The remedy is not so simple as it seems, because in the worst affected districts it is hard to maintain a paying stand of alfalfa until it reaches the depth of the lime deposit even where a stratum of gravel or permanent water does not arrest the root growth and allow the lime to pass entirely beyond its reach.

So little has been done in the west in working out this problem that analogous cases in the east perhaps furnish as much light as our own conditions. In that case lime has made alfalfa to thrive where it would not grow before, and there seems no reason why it should not be so in the west. Experimentation along this line need not be costly, as there are thousands of tons of lime lying around the beet factories which can be used, and a small experiment will prove the truth of its value, or the reverse, so long as the soil has a sufficient humus content otherwise it will not. A load of thirty hundred weight on a quarter of an acre is enough, with lime in such a free condition, as this is to test the matter, as five tons to the acre is an ample application.

Thereafter much lighter dressings at frequent intervals of two to three years should be in line with the best agricultural practice and ground limestone substituted for slaked lime, which, though somewhat slower in its action, has proved more economical.

POULTRY NOTES.

Remember the hen when laying needs about twice as much food as she would when not laying.

Too many hens with one male bird means infertile eggs. Keep plenty of cockerels and produce fertile eggs.

Change the coops to new ground every few days, unless there are floors in the coops, then sweep out daily.

Eggs tested as infertile from the incubator may be hard boiled and fed to chicks. They are not spoiled. Doubtful eggs should never be marketed under any conditions, for one bad egg may lose one's best customer.

Scatter lime around the premises and use lime and carbolic acid water wash in the coops and houses each week or two.

Experiments have proved that eggs produced by hens fed a dry mash were more fertile than those laid by hens fed a wet mash.

Well-fatted Barred Rock 1-year-old dressed fowls sell for 1 1/2 cents per pound more than any other breed in the northern markets.

Growing geese requires large quantities of grass, which they will obtain if allowed their range, and which will cut down the feed bill at least one-half.

A basket of weeds pulled and thrown into the park will keep hens busy for an hour and is one of the helps that make poultry raising profitable.

Cull out the worthless members of the flock and save your profits. Then be kind to the biddies and they will be kind to you in filling your egg basket.

Remove nesting to a safe place and burn, thoroughly clean the boxes or other nesting places with smoke or lime-wash, and refill with clean dry nesting.

Have a separate run for the later hatchings, or, if this is impossible, place the coops as far as possible from the other chicks and have a separate feed coop.

During warm weather greater care is needed in conquering the lice. Dust the mother hens frequently with fresh lice powder, and see that a dusting place is always handy.

Red Cabbage.

It is not desirable to plant much red cabbage unless you are assured of a market. It is used mainly for pickling, but the demand is very limited.

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NEVER IDLE.



Wife—You're always intimating that woman has too much idle curiosity.

Hubby—Idle curiosity! Idle! Nonsense. It's the most active thing about her!

Pat Was More Than Willing. A very pretty girl who recently returned from Ireland tells of an encounter with an Irish caddy in Dublin. She had started out from the hotel to do some shopping, but decided instead to make a tour of the city on a jaunting car. Arriving at the first car stand, and having selected the smartest looking vehicle, she told the driver that she "wanted to engage him for the day." Pat, never backward in paying homage to beauty, earnestly replied: "Begorra, ma'am you are welcome. I only wish it was for life!"

A Sandwich Filling. A delicious filling for sandwiches or crackers is made by mixing equal parts of cream cheese and snappy cheese with French dressing to a smooth paste, then stirring in it chopped red peppers or chopped olives. This paste should be very creamy and put on thickly, at least a quarter of an inch. It is nice between salted waters or on thin rounds of brown or rye bread.

The Man In Front. "Who is it funny man standin' up in front of the band wavin' a stick?" "That, my dear, is the conductor." "Does he make the music go?" "Yes, my child." "Well, then, why don't they call him the motorman?"—Judge.

FOUND RIGHT PATH After a False Start. "In 1890 I began to drink coffee. At that time I was healthy and enjoyed life. At first I noticed no bad effects from the indulgence but in course of time found that various troubles were coming upon me. "Palpitation of the heart took unto itself sick and nervous headaches, kidney troubles followed and eventually my stomach became so deranged that even a light meal caused me serious distress. "Our physician's prescriptions failed to help me and then I dosed myself with patent medicines till I was thoroughly disgusted and hopeless. "Finally I began to suspect that coffee was the cause of my troubles. I experimented by leaving it off, except for one small cup at breakfast. This helped some but did not altogether relieve my distress. It satisfied me, however, that I was on the right track. "So I gave up coffee altogether and began to use Postum. In ten days I found myself greatly improved, my nerves steady, my head clear, my kidneys working better and better, my appetite improved and the ability to eat a hearty meal without subsequent suffering restored to me. And this condition remains. "Leaving off coffee and using Postum did this, with no help from drugs, as I abandoned the use of medicines when I began to use the food drink." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. "There's a reason," and it is explained in the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in plga. Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.