

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

THE WATER HEMLOCK.

This Plant, Commonly Known as Wild Parsnips, is Fatal to Men and Animals.

Every year the newspapers tell us of children being poisoned by eating wild parsnips. On investigation it is found that the "wild parsnips" eaten were not wild parsnips at all, but water hemlock, known botanically as *Cicuta maculata*. This plant is known by a variety of names, dependent on the locality where found. Some of these names are, wild hemlock, spotted parsley, snake-weed, beaver poison, musquash root, muskrat weed, cowbane, spotted cowbane, children's bane. It is a smooth,



WATER HEMLOCK.

erect perennial, three to eight feet high, with a rigid, hollow stem, numerous branches, finely-dissected leaves, white flowers, and a cluster of spindle-shaped roots, which vary in length from one and one-half to three inches, and are very characteristic of the plant. It grows commonly in swamps and damp soils from the Atlantic states to Iowa and Minnesota, and less commonly in Nebraska and New Mexico.

This is one of the most poisonous plants in the United States, being rapidly fatal to both man and animals. The roots are especially dangerous, because the taste, being aromatic and to some people suggestive of horseradish, parsnips, artichokes, or sweet cicely, lead children to eat them. Cattle sometimes eat the tubers when they are washed out of the ground by freshets. The loss to stock from eating this plant is quite considerable. The prominent symptoms of the poisoning are colicky pains, vomiting, staggering, unconsciousness and frightful convulsions, ending in death.—Farmer's Review.

CATCHY ADVERTISING.

Suggestions for Farmers and Breeders Who Have Learned to Value Publicity.

Farmers and breeders are rapidly becoming advertisers on the same scale as merchants and manufacturers. They are learning that where they have surplus products to throw upon the market the best way to get the right customer is through the use of advertising space in reputable papers that circulate among the people they wish to reach. In fact, the farmer and stock raiser is as much of a manufacturer as the builder of self-binders and as much of a merchant as the storekeeper who sells him his clothes. The same elements of success enter into agriculture as in commerce, although possibly in varying degrees, and one of these elements is advertising.

The farmer and breeder, however, are still new at advertising. They have yet to learn by experience that the best advertising is that which produces the best results, and that results are gauged, first, by the circulation of the paper, and, second, by the attractive character of the advertisement. The farmer who is placing advertising should insist on knowing what he is paying for—how many copies of his advertisement are to be distributed. He should, furthermore, follow the example of the merchant in the makeup of his announcement. He should have something to sell, and tell what it is in unmistakable language. He should picture how his advertisement will look in print, so as to make it attractive in every way, and write the copy just as he wants it printed. The publishers are always eager to help their patrons make their announcements attractive and effective, both for the sake of the advertiser and for the improvement of the paper. Farmers who are advertisers will do well to remember these suggestions.—Twentieth Century Farmer.

To renew the vitality of a flock it is not necessary to cross-breed and make them mongrels. Better get males of a different strain or family of the same variety.—Farm Journal.

BABY BEEF PRODUCTION.

Gain Largely Depends on Age of the Animal and the Way in Which It Is Fed.

Feeders of baby beef, who keep their animals up to their work, are known to make a gain of over two pounds daily for 12 months. This gain depends upon the age of the animal and the manner in which it is fed. A matter that should not be overlooked by the farmer is the appropriate food for each animal; he should aim to increase the weight by making the animal as fat as possible, as fat is more easily produced on an animal than either lean meat or bone. It has been shown that to increase the excess of either fat or lean on an animal depends upon the age. The natural inclination of a yearling animal is growth, and the system demands materials containing but a small portion of fat producing qualities, but as growth adds to weight, the more rapid the growth the greater the increase in weight, which, of course, accounts for the quick gains made by young animals as compared with those approaching maturity, and which fact gives rise to the claim that baby beef is the cheaper form of the two. To know the breeds and how to use them; to be aware of the fact that some breeds assimilate more food and give off less waste than others, and to learn how to convert food into a salable product quickly and economically is what each one must study out for himself. Have a pair of scales, weigh frequently and note the ratio of increase in weight. By so doing one can cover the causes of failure and correct mistakes. The time is coming when the farmer will not be satisfied with less than a pound a day from birth for his farrows and wethers up to one year old. In approaching maturity gains are not so great, but previous to that animals for the block should be pushed. Finally, breeds that gain weight in the high-priced portions of the carcass must be given preference, and feeders must know that they are breeding for definite results. Baby beef must have the fat in the right place.—Agricultural Epitomist.

GOOD TONICS FOR HOGS.

The Kind of Mixture That Should Be Accessible to Them All the Year Around.

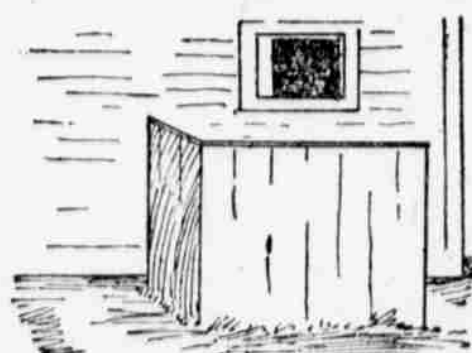
It is necessary to keep constantly accessible to all hogs, both pigs and old hogs, some material that supplies lime and salt to aid in bone-building, as an appetizer, and to remove intestinal parasites. This mixture should be kept in a strong box protected from rain and quantity and frequency with which pigs will visit and eat of the mixture will often be surprising. The following is the mixture that we use:

Charcoal, one and one-half bushels.
Common salt, four pounds.
Hard wood ashes, ten pounds.
Slacked lime, four pounds.
Another thing which is good for the pig is a variety of feeds. Pigs do better on a variety than on any single feed. This fact is scarcely ever disputed by the farmer, but is often enough ignored to give it some emphasis. Just how much better the pig will do if fed a variety, we will let the pig himself testify; for whatever other mean thing a pig will do he will not tell a lie about his feed.
Fresh water, shade in summer, grain food when on grass, and dry bed free from dust, shelter in winter, and above all, when confined, have the area sufficiently large so that it will not become foul with droppings and mud bugs. These are essential for successful hog-raising.—Arkansas Bulletin.

HIDING MANURE PILE.

Simple and Inexpensive Way of Hiding Objectionable Sights of Any Kind from View.

The manure from the horse or cow must be thrown out in a pile beneath the stable window, often to be an eye-



SCREEN FOR MANURE PILE.

sore to the owner, neighbors or passer-by. A way to hide the small manure heap is here illustrated. A tight fence of boards on two sides, the boards painted like the stable, and the unsightly manure heap is hidden from view.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Much time is wasted on farms in winter by the men folks that might be made profitable by caring for the poultry and producing winter eggs.

Litter in which there is tough, wiry hay is not safe to put on the scratching floor. If eaten it causes crop-bound conditions.

UNCLE JOE'S WAGES.

What Is the Speaker to Do with His Odd Seventeen Dollars a Month—His Board Bill.

If Uncle Sam was a private employer, and could hear what his men in the house of representatives are saying about their inadequate compensation, he would expect to see them out on a strike before long. The trouble here is that neither "union" wants to take the responsibility of ordering one.

"I should like to congratulate the member of congress quoted in your columns recently as having a hotel bill less than his salary," remarked a New York representative to a Boston Transcript correspondent. "I pay at the hotel for my family," continued the New Yorker, "\$600 a month under contract. I draw from the government \$417. You see where the profit comes in. Nobody wants to make election to congress a financial prize, but many of us do think the salary should be sufficient to support a man in Washington according to his station. No senator or representative should be expected to go to an alley boarding house."

The story is told of Mr. Cannon's purpose to go to a better hotel on his election to the speakership than he has formerly lived in. He accordingly was conducted by the clerk of one of the more fashionable establishments to such a small suite of rooms as his actual needs required. "How much is it?" asked the speaker.

"We would let you have it for \$400 a month."

As the speaker hesitated, fingering his cigar in a nervous way, the solicitous clerk inquired: "That is not too much, is it, Mr. Speaker?"

"Oh, no; not at all," responded Mr. Cannon, gravely. "I was merely puzzling my brain to think what I could do with my other \$17."

RELICS OF BYGONE DAYS.

New Methods Responsible for Deserted Homes and Villages in Parts of New Jersey.

In driving through certain portions of the townships of Washington and Bass river, says a Mount Holly (N. J.) dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean, one is struck by the number of deserted homes that line the main thoroughfare, through the pines. In some circumstances small villages that were once prosperous communities, are uninhabited and rapidly falling to decay.

In years gone by in the pine district there was considerable manufacturing going on, shipbuilding was an active industry, and the lumber trade occupied a large share of attention. The manufacture of iron from bog ore was also carried on. Now this is all changed. New methods have been responsible for it. The old furnace at Martha, where large quantities of iron were made, is a heap of ruins.

Near Hampton Gate is a church in which the colored people used to worship, and it, too, shows the marks of time. "King" Lewis Armstrong, deceased, of Mount Holly, was wont to come in years gone by and stir the brethren to fresh deeds of spiritual valor.

Another historic place is Washington tavern. Years ago it was a popular resort and favorite stopping place for teamsters carrying merchandise from the shore to Mount Holly. Today the building is tottering, the fences have the vertigo, while all along the road are to be found abandoned and dismantled homes.

THE GENERAL MARKETS.

Kansas City, Dec. 29.	
CATTLE—Beef steers	33 50 @ 4 00
Native heifers	2 25 @ 4 00
Western steers	2 50 @ 4 00
HOGS	3 60 @ 4 75
SHEEP	3 00 @ 3 50
WHEAT—No. 2 hard	70 @ 71 1/2
No. 2 red	82 @ 83 1/2
CORN—No. 2 mixed	35 @ 38
OATS—No. 2 mixed	24 @ 34 1/2
RYE	47
FLOUR—Hard winter pat.	53 @ 3 13
Soft winter patents	3 70 @ 4 00
HAY—Timothy	6 00 @ 6 50
Prairie	2 50 @ 2 75
BRAN	21
BUTTER—Fancy to extra	19 @ 21
EGGS	25
CHEESE—Full cream	10 @ 11 1/2
POTATOES—Home grown	69 @ 70
ST. LOUIS.	
CATTLE—Beef steers	3 75 @ 5 45
Texas steers	2 45 @ 4 20
HOGS—Packers	4 50 @ 4 70
SHEEP—Natives	3 25 @ 4 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red	92 @ 92 1/2
CORN—No. 2	37 1/2
OATS—No. 2	34 1/2
FLOUR—Red winter pat.	4 25 @ 4 35
BUTTER—Creamery	18 @ 25
EGGS	27
LARD	6 55
BACON	7 25 @ 7 75
CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Steers	3 25 @ 5 75
HOGS—Mixed and butchers	4 40 @ 4 95
SHEEP—Western	3 10 @ 4 40
WHEAT—No. 2 red	90
CORN—No. 2	42 1/2 @ 43
OATS—No. 2	34 1/2
RYE—December	52 1/2
EGGS	26 @ 27 1/2
LARD—January	6 70 @ 6 80
PORK—January	12 20 @ 12 27 1/2
NEW YORK.	
CATTLE—Native steers	3 80 @ 5 20
HOGS	5 25 @ 5 40
SHEEP	2 50 @ 2 75
WHEAT—No. 2	91 1/2 @ 92 1/2
CORN—No. 2	52 1/2 @ 54 1/2
OATS—No. 2	42 1/2

ARE YOUR KIDNEYS WEAK?

Thousands Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It.

To Prove What the Great Kidney Remedy, Swamp-Root, Will Do for YOU, Every Reader of Our Paper May Have a Sample Bottle Sent Absolutely Free by Mail.

It used to be considered that only urinary and bladder troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but now modern science proves that nearly all diseases have their beginning in the disorder of these most important organs.

Therefore, when your kidneys are weak or out of order, you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected, and how every organ seems to fail to do its duty.

If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking the great kidney remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, because as soon as your kidneys are well they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince anyone.

I was a constant sufferer for a number of years with weakness of the kidneys and back and frequent desire to urinate, but after using Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, I am entirely cured and cheerfully recommend this wonderful remedy to any who may suffer from these common complaints.

Most truly yours,
B. H. CHALKER, Chief of Police,
Ozark, Ala.

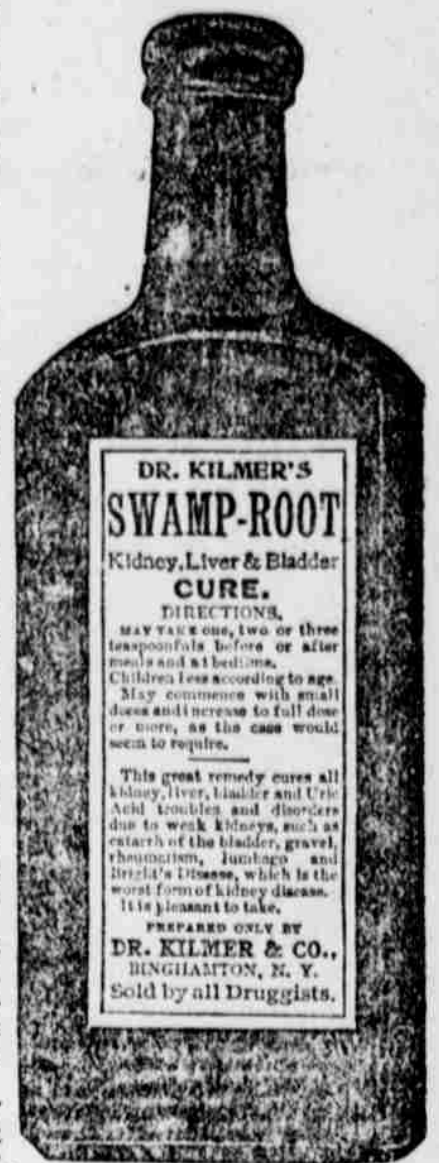
Weak and unhealthy kidneys are responsible for many kinds of diseases, and if permitted to continue much suffering with fatal results are sure to follow. Kidney trouble irritates the nerves, makes you dizzy, restless, sleepless and irritable. Makes you pass water often during the day and obliges you to get up many times during the night. Unhealthy kidneys cause rheumatism, gravel, catarrh of the bladder, pain or dull ache in the back, joints and muscles; makes your head ache and back ache, causes indigestion, stomach and liver trouble, you get a sallow, yellow complexion, makes you feel as though you had heart trouble; you may have plenty of ambition, but no strength; get weak and waste away.

The cure for these troubles is Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the world-famous kidney remedy. In taking Swamp-Root you afford natural help to Nature, for Swamp-Root is the most perfect healer and gentle aid to the kidneys that has ever been discovered.

If there is any doubt in your mind as to your condition, take from your urine on rising about four ounces, place it in a glass or bottle and let it stand twenty-four hours. If on examination it is milky or cloudy, if there is a brick-dust settling, or if small particles float about in it, your kidneys are in need of immediate attention.

Swamp-Root is pleasant to take and is used in the leading hospitals, recommended by physicians in their private practice, and is taken by doctors themselves who have kidney ailments, because they recognize in it the greatest and most successful remedy for kidney, liver and bladder troubles.

EDITORIAL NOTE—You may have a sample bottle of this wonderful remedy, Swamp-Root, sent absolutely free by mail, also a book telling all about Swamp-Root, and containing many of the thousands upon thousands of testimonial letters received from men and women who owe their good health, in fact their very lives, to its wonderful curative properties. In writing to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure to say you read this generous offer in this paper.

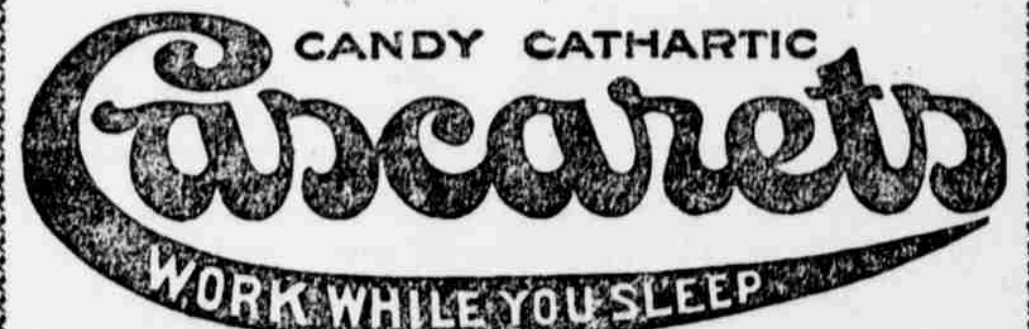


(Swamp-Root is pleasant to take.)

You can purchase the regular fifty-cent and one dollar size bottles at the drug stores everywhere. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

Cure Colds

by keeping your bowels open. CASCARETS will do it without grip or gripe and drive the cold right out of you. Just as soon as you "feel like taking cold" take a CASCARET—there is NOTHING SO GOOD.



A sweet bit of candy medicine, purely vegetable, absolutely harmless, never grip nor gripe. A sale of over TEN MILLION boxes a year—10c, 25c, 50c—proves their great merit. Be sure you get CASCARETS, the only original, genuine Candy Cathartic.

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