

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

USEFUL AND INSTRUCTIVE READING FOR THE FARMER.

Wheat Experiments—Cheese and Butter Auctions—Ammonia in Manure—How to Cure and Store Onions.

Wheat Experiments.

Experiments in various methods of seeding wheat have been conducted for a series of years at the Ohio experiment station, with the following results:

In the average of four years' experiment, wheat covered one inch or less has produced at the rate of 34 bushels per acre; that covered two inches has produced 35 bushels, and that covered three inches 34 bushels.

Judging from a smaller number of experiments it does not seem advisable to sow deeper than three inches.

In the average of six years, wheat sown with the roller-drill has yielded about eight per cent more than that sown with the ordinary drill. More or less increase has followed the roller-drill in almost every season, but a single trial has given results unfavorable to the use of the common roller after seeding.

Broadcast wheat has this year yielded about the same as that drilled; but in the average of five years the product from broadcast seed is considerably smaller than from the same quantity of seed drilled.

The results of seven years' experiments point clearly to the latter part of September or first of October as the most favorable season for sowing wheat on this farm.

A single experiment, made this year, fails to show any advantage in favor of cross drilling over sowing the same quantity of seed in the ordinary manner.

No larger crop has been produced this year from mixed seed of two varieties sown separately.

The land upon which these experiments were made lies in the valley of the Olatangy, one of the largest branches of the Scioto. The soil is a yellow loam, part first and part second bottom. It is either naturally undrained with gravel or artificially drained with tile, and its average yield of wheat for thirteen years has been over twenty-six bushels per acre, or an annual acreage of about thirty acres.

Cheese and Butter Auctions.

The latest suggestion for helping dairy farmers to dispose of their produce on good terms and to bring it into prominent competition with foreign goods is to establish auction marts in London and all the great manufacturing towns, for the purpose of holding weekly or daily sales of consignments of cheese and butter from our dairy districts. It is contended that in this way one of the advantages which foreign dairy produce possesses over our own, viz., that retailers always know where to go for a supply in any quantity, will to some extent be removed, and that if farmers only support these places properly, and are willing to make a little sacrifice at the onset in the shape of insufficient returns until the marts get thoroughly established, and retailers begin regularly to resort to them, an opening would be made for their goods which would be of the greatest service to them. Perhaps the advantage of such auctions to butter makers would be greater than in the case of cheese, for the sale of which there are means already available. At the same time, if the thing answered for the sale of butter, it could not fail to be of some service to the cheesemaker also, who might try with small lots first, and the same buyers who went there for butter would also, from the nature of their business, be buyers of cheese.—Chester Courant, England.

Ammonia in Manure, a Mistaken Prevalent Opinion.

The prevalent idea that manure contains much ammonia is, according to Bell's Messenger, England, without any foundation. Manure contains the elements of which ammonia is formed during decomposition, viz., nitrogen and hydrogen; but as decomposition is a very slow process, the ammonia is only very slowly evolved. As it is produced, it is in the form of gas, which is dissolved in the water existing in the manure or it combines with the abundant carbonic acid evolved during the decomposition and forms carbonate of ammonia. It is very rare that ammonia can be detected escaping from a manure heap. The fetid odor of a manure pile is not caused by ammonia, but by compounds of sulphur and carbon, the same as those evolved by decaying eggs and rotting cabbages. The ammonia of manure is very slowly dissolved, requiring a year or more before it is all produced and evolved, and as the soil absorbs it freely, there is scarcely any danger of any loss of this valuable part of the manure as it is commonly used. The pungent odor of a horse stable is caused by the escaping ammonia, and farmers lose more of this element of manure in this way than from any other source. A pound of ammonia in manure is worth in England 17 cents, and a ton of manure produces only 12 lbs of it.

How to Cure and Store Onions.

"Joseph," in Farm and Fireside, has the following to say in regard to curing onions and storing them for the winter: Pull the onions just as soon as the majority of the tops have fallen over and begin to waste away. Leave on the ground in windrows until the tops have all dried down, or if rain should threaten, take to an airy loft or barn floor and spread thinly, until fully cured. Then sort, removing all remnants of tops, etc., and try to sell them at an early opportunity, which is much better than to attempt keeping them over winter and running the risk of losing part of the crop by sprouting, rotting, or freezing. But if you are bound to try wintering, you should have a storage room that can be kept at a temperature near the freezing point—say from 35 degrees to 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Put the bulbs in rather open crates, and keep well aired and dry. Onions can also be stored in pits, like potatoes, only guard against heating. It is better to have them freezing than to get too warm. The question of "best" commercial fertilizer for onions can only be answered in a relative manner. When ground is very rich and abundantly supplied with minerals (potash and phosphorus), nitrate of soda alone may be the best and cheapest fertilizer. In other cases ashes and nitrate of soda may be the best; and a good, high-grade, complete manure, such as our leading fertilizer manufacturers offer under the name of special potato or special onion, or general vegetable manure, is usually safe to apply even in pretty large doses—say a ton or more per acre.

A Change for the Better.

Scrub farmer, feeding nothing but hay and straw in a cold barn, what have you to say to the facts given by Mr. J. D. Smith, of Delaware, county, N. Y., who, by changing his system of farming, made the same farm produce 8,304 pounds of butter, when 2,250 pounds was the extent when he lived—as many are living yet—in the "dark ages." As a rule, too, the men who have cows that produce for them 250 pounds of farm butter per annum, don't get more than a "York shilling" per pound for it; when by the time he learns how to make a cow yield 250 or 300 pounds per annum, has also learned to get two "York shillings" per pound for it—largely because he makes the most of it, when butter is scarce and high.

Milk in a Paper Bag.

A merry-hearted lad, who is often sent on errands of household needs and necessities, discovers a new method of "bringing home groceries and such." "Here are two pounds of chops, good scant weight," said the grocer to the young man of the family who had brought in an order from his wife; "now for your milk—where's your can?" The young man of the family protested that he hadn't read the order, and had not been equipped with a can. "Never mind," said the grocer; "here, hold on to it," and he dexterously slipped one paper bag inside of another and filled the corners into place. The two quarts of milk were poured into the inner bag. "The grease in the milk prevents its going through the paper as water would," explained the grocer. "I had hard work to get people to believe that milk could carry milk in a bag at first, and let it go at my own risk. I've sent it so half a mile by slow transit; still, I'd advise you not to stop to tell long stories on the way home."

Milk as Human Food.

Milk is one of the most valuable and economical articles for human food. Estimated at twelve pounds per cow daily, the United States produce the bewildering amount of one hundred and fifty billions of pounds of milk per year. And as three pounds of milk are equivalent to one pound of beef in food elements, each inhabitant has in milk one and a half beefes annually. Whereas, in beef, each inhabitant has only four-fifths of one beef per capita. That, as a rule, our people not engaged in severe manual labor consume too much meat, there can be no doubt. Milk, then, will here prove an article of healthful nourishment, a lack of which predisposes to the harmful use of spirits, in the form of beer, wine, rum, or whisky.—American Agriculturist.

Indirect Fertilizers.

There are substances that in themselves do not furnish the plant any needed ingredient for growth, but when applied to the soil assist materially in augmenting the crop. One of the best illustrations of this class of fertilizers is common salt. Lime is another substance rarely lacking in the soil, but when added assists in setting free other substances that are much needed by the growing plants, that otherwise would not have become available for the crop. Water is added in irrigation not as a fertilizer but because it is the great solvent in nature and the vehicle of transfer of the various substances that go to build up a plant when entering it from the soil water.

A Few Hints.

When duck eggs are set under a hen it is best to make the nest on the ground. Ducks grow faster than chickens, are free from vermin and less liable to disease.

Always have the nests so that the hens can walk into them rather than jump down.

Feed for growth or for eggs and not merely for subsistence if poultry is to pay profit.

Buy your dairy stock of honorable breeders and then hold them responsible for their representations.

The heifer calf from a good cow is worth keeping until it can be determined whether or not the dam has transmitted her good qualities.

If the men do the milking it is a good thing to impress upon them the fact that water is better than milk to wash their hands in. Cleanliness is next to godliness.

Many farmers would make their dairies much more profitable if they would give some hard study to the nature of different grasses, with a view to improving their pastures.

During the first year the feeding of the heifer should be such as would tend toward development of frame rather than to the laying on of flesh. Grass and roots and bulky forage will be of more value than grain or other rich concentrated foods.

FOR YOUNG AMERICANS.

INSTRUCTIVE READING FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

Walter's Bravery—Catching Terrapin—Handling a Gun—A Mirror Joke—Yaws and Sharpies.

Walter's Bravery.

When they moved into the country, Lill's mother said: "It will be perfectly safe for Lill to run about without Annie here. Walter is so manly. He can take good care of his little sister."

Then Walter, who was nine, drew himself up to his full height, and said, condescendingly, to four-year-old Lill, "Now, Lill, you are to mind everything I say."

"Oh ess, Wallie," answered Lill, sweetly.

Behind the barn a little brook ran, and across it was a small bridge, from which Walter was fond of fishing, although he never caught anything. Lill liked to fish too. Cowslip, the cow, crossed the bridge morning and night to spend the day in the next field. Here was also kept a small flock of sheep, in which Mr. Mason took great pride. In the brook the geese paddled, led by a dignified old gander, and followed by fourteen pretty yellow goslings.

While the children fished, if Cowslip came too near, Lill would tremble and cling to Walter. And Walter would say, proudly:

"Don't be afraid, Lill. Wild animals can't hurt you while you are with me."

And dear little Lill would reply, "Oh ess, Wallie."

One morning the children had fished two hours. There was a fish in the brook. Walter had seen one. But he never could catch the cunning swimmer. It began to grow dark. The trees rustled. Little puffs of wind blew off Walter's hat and tossed Lill's curls.

"I believe it's going to rain, Lill. Let's go home."

Lill was willing. Cowslip saw the clouds too. Perhaps she thought night was coming. She left her favorite patch of pink clover and walked slowly toward the bridge.

"I'm afraid, Wallie," said Lill. "Now, Lill, I've got to get these lines up. Don't be silly! Ain't I here?"

Cowslip came nearer, and looked steadily at the children. The sheep started across the meadow too. They always followed Cowslip. The geese waddled up the bank with loud squawks. Walter gave Lill a switch, and got one for himself. "We'll have these and keep off the foe," he said.

Lill stood at the end of the bridge, and waved her branch bravely. But when Cowslip looked at Walter with her big round eyes she suddenly sat down by Lill's side and let Lill do the waving. Cowslip took no notice. She walked over the bridge, quietly switching her tail.

Walter stood up firmly and shook his switch after her. "Go home, you foolish creature, you!" he shouted.

Some more of the enemy advanced.

The old ram seeing some one in the way who was not much taller than himself promptly knocked Walter down and jumped over him. The sheep followed, as sheep will, and one after the other jumped over the screaming boy. Walter picked himself up after they had gone by, and found he was more frightened than hurt. Little Lill looked on in astonishment, branch in hand.

"How dared they do it? Walter exclaimed, indignantly. I will serve them well for this!"

He shook his branch fiercely at the sheep who were already running around the corner of the barn.

"Wallie! See see!" called Lill, excitedly.

Walter turned about. No; he tried to turn, but the old gander was too quick for him. The old gander objected to such a noisy obstacle in his path. He caught Walter by the back of his jacket, threw him on the ground, and standing over him, beat him savagely with his wings.

Poor Walter! The gander was worse than the cow, and the sheep too. Lill thought she ought to interfere, and running after the flock of geese, drove them down the bank with her switch. "Shoo! shoo! shoo-oo!"

The old gander, seeing the geese go down the hill, jumped and flew as fast as he could after them.

Poor Walter! Dirty, bruised, and sobbing, he rose from the ground, his broken switch in his hand.

"Lill," he said, humbly, "let's go home."

"Ess, Wallie!" responded Lill cheerfully.—Harper's Young People.

Catching Terrapin.

In the shoal waters along the coast south of Cape Henlopen, terrapin are caught in various ways. Dredges dragged along in the wake of a sailing vessel pick them up. Nets stretched across some narrow arm of river bay entangle the feet of any straying terrapin in their meshes; but these require the constant attendance of the fisherman to save the catch from drowning. In the winter, in the deeper water, the terrapin rise from their muddy quarters on mild sunny days and crawl along the bottom. They are taken by tongs, their whereabouts being often betrayed by bubbles.

The method spoken of here is resorted to only in the spring, and in water not over a foot or two deep. Terrapin will rise at any noise, and usually the fisherman only claps his hands, though each hunter has his own way of attracting the terrapin. One hunter whom I saw uttered a queer guttural noise that seemed to rise from his boots.

Whatever the noise, all turtles with in hearing—whether terrapin or "snapper"—will put their heads above water. Both are welcome and are quickly sold to the market-men. The snapper slowly appears and disappears, leaving scarcely a ripple; and the hunter cautiously approaching usually takes him by the tail. The terrapin, on the contrary, is quick, and will descend in an oblique direction, so that a hand-net is needed unless he happens to come near by. If he is near enough the man jumps for him. The hunting is done either in the hour at either sunrise or sunset.—September St. Nicholas.

Handling a Gun.

Having been asked by friends frequently for advice for their boys in

handling guns, I send you a digest of some, says a correspondent of the Forest and Stream. Perhaps, as the shooting season will now be on you, you might think them worth publication:

1. Empty or loaded, never point a gun toward yourself or any other person.

2. When a field, carry your gun at the half-cock. If in cover, let your hand shield the hammers from whipping twigs.

3. When riding from one shooting ground to another, or whenever you have your gun in any conveyance, remove the cartridges, if a breech-loader, and keep them in a safe place to replace them. If a muzzle loader, remove the caps, brush off the nipples, and place a wad on nipple, letting down the hammers on wads—simply removing caps sometimes leaves a little fulminate on the nipple, and a blow of the hammer when down discharges it.

4. Never draw a gun toward you by the barrels.

5. More care is necessary in the use of a gun in a boat than elsewhere; the limited space, confined action and uncertain motion making it dangerous at the best. If possible, no more than two persons should occupy a boat. Hammerless guns are a constant danger to persons boating.

6. Always clean your gun thoroughly as soon as you return from a day's sport, no matter how tired you feel; the consequence of its always being ready for service is ample return for the few minutes' irksome labor.

Yaws and Sharpies.

The centerboard sloop is by most thought the fastest kind of yacht; and very many successful racers, from the big "Volunteer" to the little twenty-foot winners of yacht club regattas, have been sloop-boats. But the sloop-rig is not by any means the safest and handiest for comfortable cruising. The yawl and sharpie are much safer and handier than the catboat and sloop.

The yawl has an extra sail set at the stern. This is called a "driver," "mizen," "jigger," or "dandy"; and it is a veritable friend in need at all times, requiring no care, and being always ready to save you from a capsize and to help you in a maneuver. Its position is such that it always tends to luff the boat. If a squall strikes a yawl, she may right herself because of the pressure on this little driver; if a severe blow comes on, you can sail in safety with jib and driver alone, the mainsail being furled; in fact the yawl, with her mainsail down, is perfectly manageable, and as safe as a safe can be. No reefing is necessary; just lower the mainsail, and your yawl is "reefed" at once for the worst kind of weather. There is always plenty of driving-sail behind, and with the jib in front to balance this your boat is under full control. No sloop possesses such attributes of handiness and safety.—F. W. Pangborn, in September St. Nicholas.

A Mirror Joke.

The painters have just given the last touch to the apartment they have been "doing up," but they do not wish to leave without having played their favorite joke of the "broken mirror" on the maid.

Judge of the fright of the poor girl when she thinks she sees one or more cracks in the corner of the new mirror! "What wall dammy say?" And then those harmless painters laugh until their sides ache!

After having enjoyed the fright produced by their trick, they now propose to repair the mischief, and so as not to prolong the misery of their victim, one of the painters passes a wet rag over the broken corner of the mirror—O magic! The cracks have disappeared by the wonderful power of the wet rag, and Marie can hardly believe her eyes—surely she must be dealing with sorcerers! But there is no sorcery connected with it, dear children, and if you want to mystify some of your family or friends, trace with a piece of dark soap on the surface of the mirror which is to appear broken some fine lines to represent cracks; the reflection in the glass will give, on account of its thickness, the appearance of being broken, and a simple washing with water will restore everything in order in a few minutes.

Making It Clear.

The spectator tells a funny story of a definition given by a well-known public speaker, in an address to children.

"Now, children," he said, "I propose to give you on the present occasion an epitome of the life of St. Paul. Perhaps you come of you too young to understand what the word 'epitome' means. 'Epitome' children, is, in its signification, synonymous with synopsis."

Having made this simple and clear explanation to the children, the speaker went on with his story.

Animals Afraid of Thunder.

The editor of the Brunswick Telegraph, who makes chums of all his animals and birds, has noticed that they are often afraid during thunder storms. "One of my horses," he says, "would be sometimes awfully frightened during such storms, but would calm down a good deal if I got out of the carriage and stood by her head. The canary one week during a heavy shower was allowed to leave his cage. Some time after he could not be found. Closer search was made and it was found that the little fellow had crept into the bed and hidden under the pillow. He was invited out, came, played around for a while, and as the second shower was on-ward the first—again disappeared in his hiding place under the pillow." This famed canary is a dainty bird and prefers to eat his food from a tiny china plate with which his cage is supplied. The other day, when a strawberry was tied with a string to the wires of the cage the bird went for the string tugging away until it was broken and the strawberry dropped to the bottom. Then he pulled the berry and placed it in the plate which he ate it.—Lewiston Journal.

Beware of the Breath.

Dr. W. D. Miller, of Berlin, says: "During the last few years the conviction has grown continually stronger, among physicians as well as dentists, that the human mouth, as a gathering place and incubator of diverse pathogenic germs, performs a most significant role in the production of many of the disorders of the body; and that many diseases whose origin is enveloped in mystery, if they could be traced to their source, would be found to have originated in the oral cavity."—London Lancet.

Under False Colors.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the Farmers' Alliance is not protected from several abuses of its name by unauthorized parties, sometimes as an advertising dodge, and sometimes with intent to make a cloak for malicious publications. A flagrant instance of the latter kind is revealed in the circular sent out by the Globe Press Association, of New York, advertising newspaper publications of its matter. One paragraph reads: Farmers' Alliance page, edited by W. C. Crum, general manager of the New York bureau of the National Farmers' Alliance and Reform Press Association. Price in plates, \$1.20 per page.

Accompanying this circular is a sheet of plates by which the publisher addressed is expected to order. For the benefit of the press at large, it is here made known that the order has authorized no New York bureau, and the reform press association organized at Ocala knows nothing of the matter disclosed in the circular. All publications from whatever source claiming such authority from the Alliance are false, and in this instance the intention seems to be to inject into the columns of papers favorable to the reform movement matter designed to sow discord in the Alliance and weaken its efforts, and possibly destroy the order in the end. Such a scheme will be futile, but it is best that the reform press be put on its guard.—National Economist.

The End and the Remedy.

The great end which the Farmers' Alliance seeks to compass—the redress of the grievances from which farmers, in common with the laboring classes generally, suffer—will be attained by bringing government—national, state, county and municipal—back to the principle that no money is to be taken from the people except to support honest government, economically administered; by abolishing all special privileges; by ceasing to bestow favors upon the few to the detriment of the many; by stopping all partial and class legislation, and by providing the country with currency ample enough to meet its steadily increasing demands; so that the blessings of government shall fall alike on the millionaire and the beggar, and that government shall exercise the narrowest limit of power consistent with efficiency, and confer the broadest liberty upon the citizen consistent with peace, order and justice.

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