

## THE FARM AND HOME.

### MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

**Proper Way to Work Corn—How to Heal Wounds on Trees and Plants—Time to Kill Weeds—Success on the Farm.**

#### Working Corn.

If you are able to own or hire a good sulky cultivator you are fortunate. The saving in time and labor in working twenty-five acres of corn, potatoes and root crops will pay for the machine in a single season. Whatever implement you may use, whether single or double cultivator, keep the soil loose and mellow and free from weeds. After the corn gets a foot in height the shade of the leaves will keep down the small weeds. When the weather is hot and dry, well worked corn will grow rapidly. The editor has a field of corn planted on the 12th of May that is now over one foot in height; the field has been worked three times, and will get, if possible, two more workings. Corn requires hot weather, but if the soil is hard and baked around the stocks the corn cannot take advantage of the weather, but is burnt up with the heat. Let the earth be mellow and the ground rich. The stalk and fodder may not be so luxuriant, but the grain will be there. The same rule holds good for all cultivated crops. Work often, work shallow and work level. After the last working sow fifteen pounds of crimson clover to the acre, and crush it in with a brush harrow. The clover will prevent weed growth and loss of fertility. The last of June is the time to sow it.—Baltimore American.

#### Wounds on Trees or Plants.

The wounds made on growing plants or trees should always be protected by some application as soon as they become dry enough for it to adhere well. Common paint is better than neglect, but any cement of the character of grafting wax is better. One of the best substances, both for its neatness and its long adhesion to the surface of the wound, is the well-known shellac varnish, consisting of a strong solution of shellac in alcohol. To prevent the neglect which so often occurs because the owner has nothing of the kind on hand it is well to have such a preparation made in time.

Procure a wide-mouthed bottle and insert a brush to be used in applying it by making the cork a part of the handle. This will prevent drying up, and it will be always ready. Those who have time to attend to it may make the turpentine and resin mixture by using a half pound of resin and tallow melted together, adding a teaspoonful of turpentine when it is cool, with two ounces of alcohol and an ounce of water, heating again and stirring rapidly. This is a good application, but is not so delicate for fine plants as the shellac. If it becomes too thick add alcohol.

#### The Time to Kill Weeds.

When the thermometer is up in the 90s and the rays of the sun are bright is just the time to kill weeds. They may take root and live if the soil is cool and damp, but when they are turned up and exposed to the dry heat of a hot summer day they are destroyed as if with fire.

#### Success on the Farm.

One reason, I believe, why a young man becomes discontented with farm life is because the prevailing idea of success does not lie in that direction. Fine clothes and a well-to-do appearance are, according to the Stockman, a considerable factor in our ideas of a prosperous young man, and we, to a certain degree, drive the young man from the farm to where more of these things can be found. We must change our tactics and teach the youth that he can lead as commendable a life—one that will be fraught with more real pleasure and profit—on the farm than in the city. People generally wait until the crisis in the young man's life has arrived, and then attempt to persuade him to remain. Teach the child, and you will never have occasion to persuade the youth.

#### Breeding Off the Horns.

In '88 I had a herd of horned cows. I did not want to cut off their horns, but determined to get rid of them in some manner. I bred them to a polled bull whose mother was a horned cow, says W. L. Anderson in the Agriculturist. To my surprise, but one in ten of the calves had horns. In '91 I had a fine herd of polled heifers, having sold all my horned cattle. These polled heifers thus produced from horned mothers by a bull from a horned mother never had a horned calf, although all my bulls have been from horned mothers. This shows how easy it is to breed off horns. True it takes time, yet I think it the best way.

In my experience, I find horned cattle require as much again stable room as polls, for I herd all my young cattle in a large pen, like sheep, until they are ready to drop their first calves. All the older cattle are in another shed in the same way unless I milk them; then, for convenience, I put them in stalls. They gather at the feed troughs as thick as they can crowd, none of them being able to get to the trough. It is not one-fourth the labor to stable them, since I use no chains, stanchions or halters. None are vicious or wild, though some of their horned mothers were.

#### Deep Plowing.

It is commonly said that plowing deep is the direct means of making the soil deep. It is true that deep plowing opens a lower stratum to the action of air, but this only hastens the decomposition of vegetable matter in the soil, and if this is not replaced the soil becomes so deficient in humus that deep plowing is useless. There is no better way to deepen soil than to sow clover and

every third or fourth year use the subsoil plow as deeply as it can be run. This will enable the clover roots to penetrate the soil to a greater depth. Whenever a clover sod is plowed a considerable part of its lower roots are left in the soil as they grew. These roots rapidly decay, and they enable roots of grain and other crops to go down deeply in search of moisture. This is one reason why hoed crops on a clover ley withstand droughts better than if planted on timothy sod, whose roots are all near the surface. To make the clover grow as large as possible is all important. The larger the growth the deeper the clover roots run and the more the subsoil is benefited.—American Cultivator.

#### Value of the Bartlett Pear.

For small gardens, such as are usually seen near large cities, the pear tree is the most profitable one to plant, and the Bartlett the best of all. Pears really take but little room. Their growth is more upright than spreading. They commence to bear in four years from the graft, and never entirely miss a season having fruit. It is an error, according to the Philadelphia Press, to suppose that the plum and the apricot will not thrive as they used to do. The fruit sets as well as it ever did, but the attacks of insects are worse and cause the dropping of the fruit. Those who grow these trees largely for their fruit find it pays them to fight the pests to get a crop, but, as a rule, an amateur will not take this trouble, and, in such a case, it is useless to plant the trees.

#### Color of Egg Yolks.

Is it not the breed of the fowls more than the feed? I have Silver Compsines, and the shell of their eggs is snow-white, while the yolks of the eggs are a very pale yellow, writes M. M. Murphy to the New York Tribune. I have also Plymouth Rocks, the shells of whose eggs are a dark yellowish brown, and the yolks of their eggs are a deep yellow. These two breeds get the same feed—corn and wheat in "milk cooked food or sloppy stuff." My experience is that the eggs from the Asiatic breeds are dark, and the yolks a deep yellow; and that the Leghorns, Compsines, etc., lay a white egg, and the yolks are pale yellow. There is no feed that will make these breeds lay dark eggs, and no feed that will make the Asiatic breeds lay pure white eggs. Hence, I think, it is the breed and not the feed that causes the yolks of eggs to be pale or deep in color.

#### The Care of Fertilizer Drills.

It is a common experience of farmers that the grain drill with fertilizer attachment soon fails to work properly, and the fertilizer cannot be evenly distributed as at first. All the commercial manures have sulphuric acid or oil of vitriol in their composition. Most of this goes to dissolve the phosphate of lime, but there will always be enough free acid to rust metals with which it comes in contact. The fertilizer boxes should be cleaned thoroughly whenever the work is finished, even though it may be only a day or two before the drill has to be used again. If the drill is kept in a dry place and cleaned frequently it should be in good condition for ten to fifteen years, instead of being thrown aside after being used only two or three years.

#### Rich Ground for Tomatoes.

Too great proportion of nitrogenous plant food is not best for tomatoes. It makes a large growth of vine, but the fruit does not set well. But if there is a sufficiency of potash and phosphate the soil can hardly be made too rich. Stable manure is usually deficient in potash, and it is better to use a commercial fertilizer if it can be had, and then plant on ground that has been made rich by previous manuring. The ground should not be wet. This will make it cold and delay ripening. Tomatoes endure drought better than most plants, and through a severe drought diminishes the amount of the crop, it makes it earlier, and therefore worth as much money, though costing less to handle and to market.

#### Level Surface for Beans.

In planting beans it is best to leave the surface over them level with the soil around, according to the American Cultivator, and on no account to plant in a hollow. The bean leaf is very easily injured by contact with the soil. This is almost inevitable, when, as the young beans come up, the stem is surrounded by a higher surface. So soon as cultivation begins the soil will be thrown against the beans. The same thing will happen if violent storms cause flooding of the soil. The bean crop is very impatient of wet, except enough of moisture to germinate the seed.

#### Moss on Apple Trees.

The appearance of moss on apple trees shows that there is excess of water in the soil, and this occasions lessened vitality. Washing the trunk with water in which potash has been dissolved will remove the moss, but it will come again unless its cause is removed. The land should be drained for orchards as for other crops. It is by underdraining that the soil is deepened, so that the subsoil will hold more moisture in shape for the roots to use. Stagnant water is of no benefit, and is more often the cause of moss on trees than any other one thing.

#### Turnips for Stock.

This should be made a special crop, and the summer is the time to grow them. As late as July, so as to use the new crop of turnip seed, is the usual period of the year for planting turnips, but to excel with them the ground should be prepared now. Plow and spread well-rotted manure. Then let the weeds sprout and use the cultivator. By this plan the weeds will be killed out before the land is seeded.

## FANCIES OF FASHION.

### GREAT VARIETY IN THE STYLES FOR THIS SEASON.

**Violets, So Profusely Worn by Fashionable Women, Are Going Out of Style—Round Waist Ending Under a Belt Is Popular—Notes.**

#### Midsummer Modes.

**New York correspondence.**  
VIOLETS in the close knots that have been so abundant are going out of style, and it is a bout time, for fashionable women have now for several months been too thickly covered with them. Wee fight bunches of other small blossoms are also losing favor, and when such bloom is employed it is arranged in aigrette fashion on long stems, the flowers spreading loosely together at the foot. For this purpose violets come with stems wired with a sort of horsehair, which allows the pretty blossoms to bend and sway naturally. Little primroses are arranged in the same way, and forget-me-nots stiffened crisply are also pretty. Roses are fastened in knots of three and four, the stems tied half way up with soft ribbon. This gives some thing of a sheaf of wheat effect, but it is the required "something new."

Aigrette effects of many kinds are often seen on new hats, but they are ordinarily so placed as not to be a conspicuous portion of the trimming. For example, turn to the first picture; here there are no less than three tiny black aigrettes atop the double brimmed hat.

The silver sets are all right for ordinary use. The latest skirt waists show the cuffs fastened by three of these little studs, instead of by one pair of links. The result is a much better set and safety from the gap at the top of the cuff. Akin to this fad for studs is the fancy for dresses that are ornamented with round gold buttons, one of which is shown in the next illustration. Here the bodice is slashed four times and then buttoned together, and two rows of the buttons with imitated buttonholes appear on the bodice's box-pleat. On each side of the box-pleat rows of purple insertion appear and the sleeve caps have the same trimming. A deep black satin girdle is added.

Linen color remains the popular shade for summer gowns. It is seen in the most expensive tissues and in the simplest coarse weaves, and in no case does it miss a certain distinction. Some wise girl has discovered that dish-toweling of the heaviest kind is so nearly the same as Russian linen, except that it costs less, that she is having three dresses to one of her less clever sisters. White duck for collars, cuffs and belt makes a delightfully fresh finish for dressmakers seem to use quite as much care and quite as carefully stylish cuts, as in the most expensive fabrics they handle. Proof of this comes in the

fourth pictured gown, which is of unbleached linen, its plain skirt laid in just as precise pleats as if it were worth several dollars a yard, and the full sleeves and baggy front as distinctly fashionable as they can be. Topping all is a standing collar, with rosette finish, of black velvet, and embroidered linen bands are placed as indicated, and appear at the back only at the armholes.

Though basques are shown with skirts attached, the round waist ending under a belt is more popular and suits the average figure better than might be expected, chiefly because the flare of the skirt softens the outlines below the waist. Ripple jackets are still worn, and are often included in jaunty outing suits of the type displayed in the final sketch. Here the throat is exposed, as it was promised it would be generally this summer, and the wide revers extend into a deep sailor collar. Beneath it a loose front of the dress goods is striped with braid and finished by a turn down collar of white batiste, with tiny revers. The skirt is also braid, worked braid being used, and glace mohair being the dress goods.

Copyright, 1896.  
**What Women Are Wearing.**  
Perfumed night caps to wear when one's hair is drying is one of the latest novelties.  
Pretty bathing suits are made this summer of black alpaca trimmed with white braid.  
It is stated that the first invention patented by a woman was a corset. This was as early as 1809.  
Embroideries on Nainsook or Swiss muslin copy the open designs of the heavy lace now fashionable.

lawn, the stitching being in white, and this makes dainty trimming for linen colored embroidery, a delicate shade of silk showing beneath. Zephyr gingham in silk-like plaids are inexpensive, but the dressmaker matches the plaid and makes the gown over silk, so any woman can wear it and not feel hurt because the material was "less than nothing" a yard.

Of all the summer dresses that show a draping of filmy stuff over a bright under fabric, there is none prettier than the one the artist presents in his next contribution. Taffeta beneath and fig-

ured mousseline de soie outside are employed in it, the latter being slightly gathered all around and garnished with ribbon drawn through buttonholed slashes. The fitted bodice is draped with deep gathers at the waist and neck, and has imitated Bolero fronts of the same ribbon that pierces the slashes. The sleeves may be lined or not, as preferred, and there is a wide choice of colors, those chosen for this model being apple green figured with darker green, for the muslin, black for the silk, and black for the ribbon.

Though jewelry is little worn this summer, an exception must be noted in the case of studs, which are demanded in such numbers that it takes dozens of pairs to take a girl through. Plain small round gold ones are the best, and

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## TRAVELING IN COMFORT.

### It Was His First Ride in a Sleeper, and He Made the Best of It.

The old man had just arrived at his son's house from the country, says the Rehoboth Sunday Herald.

"Well, father," said the boy, "I hope you came through in the sleeping-car, as I told you to and had a good night's sleep."

The old man smiled a sickly, sarcastic smile. "Oh, yes," he said, "I had a good sleep, first-rate sleep; went to bed early."

"Did you wake up during the night?"

"Only twice; only went to sleep twice."

"Say, father," said the young man, "you've got two great bumps on top of your forehead. What have you been doing?"

"Them's the two times I woke up. Passen another train both times an' when I heard the big engine whizzin' by an' the bell ringin' I thought 'twas a fire an' jumped up slam ag'n the ceiling. It's lucky I was awake one time, though."

"Why, how so?"

"The high an' mighty importer that laughed when I ast to go to my room early in the evenin' was sneakin' off with my boots."

"Why, he was only going to shine them for you."

"Oh, go 'way," said the old man. "I never ast him to shine 'em. Any way, I took 'em to bed with me after that an' never slept another wink. Say, Henry, you ain't got an old pair of suspenders, have ye?"

"I guess I can find a pair for you—yes."

"Busted mine tryin' to put my pantaloons on lyin' down. Done it, though. Got all dressed layin' flat—boots, pantaloons, coat, collar, necktie—hull business."

"Why didn't you get out of the berth to put on your collar and coat?"

"Wimmin in the car. Got a handy place where I kin wash up, Henry? There was a well o' water in the car an' I pumped some; but the train was goin' so fast I couldn't stand up to the sink. Say, Henry, what time's dinner ready? I'm so hungry I bin eatin' my whiskers."

"Didn't you get breakfast in the dining-car, as I told you to?"

"Oh, yes," said the old man. "Oh, yes; but I didn't want to go to too expensive, so I told the feller I'd just take a cup of coffee an' some buckwheat cakes."

"Pretty light breakfast, that's so," said Henry.

"Yes," said the old man, "light breakfast—two pancakes."

"Well, come downstairs and we'll fix up something to eat right away. You mustn't wait for dinner."

"Charged me a dollar," continued the old man. "Feller sat next to me eatin' grapes, an' oranges an' oysters an' stowed chicken an' biled eggs an' I don't know what all. When we got back in the bed-room car I told him I calculated that breakfast he cost \$13. An' then he told me breakfast was \$1, any way, wether you et much or little. You'd orter wrote me about that, Henry."

"Well, father, a man can ride pretty comfortably now adays after he gets used to it," said Henry, as he started to lead the old gentleman to the bath-room for a wash.

"Oyes, oyes, a man can ride all right when he knows how," replied the old man, and the smiles faded until he started to wash his face from the faucets over the bath tub.

**No Appetite.**

The Korean mind seems to take great pride in the quantity of food that the digestive organs will bear. Nothing gives more satisfaction to a Korean than to be able to put his tightly stretched stomach, and with a deep sigh of relief say, "Oh, how much I have eaten!" Brought up in this fashion, it is not strange that their capacity for food is really amazing. Mr. Henry Savage-Landor tells of the delicate feasting of a guest whom he had asked to luncheon during his stay in Seoul, the capital of the country.

I watched the Korean as if fascinated while he devoured a luncheon of a size that would satisfy three average Europeans.

Yet after that, when I was anxiously expecting to see him burst, he fell up on a large dish of dried persimmons, the heaviest and most indigestible things in existence.

"They look very good," said he, as he quickly swallowed one, and with his supple fingers undid the beautiful bow of his girdle and loosened it, thus providing for more space inside.

"I shall eat one or two," he murmured, as he was swallowing the second; and in less than no time the whole of the fruit had passed from the dish into his digestive organs, and he was intently gathering up, with the tips of his licked fingers, the few grains of sugar left at the bottom of the dish.

"I was unwell and had no appetite to-day," he then innocently remarked, as he lifted his head.

"Oh, I hope you will come again when you are quite well," said I, politely. But inwardly I prayed that he might spare the table, for that did not belong to me.

**Live Without Water.**

Persons who have given natural history the allied sciences but little study have expressed much surprise upon reading of the number of animals, serpents and insects found by the Dr. Merriam Expedition in the Death Valley, the rainless and waterless district of Southern California. We cannot say as to whether any of the creatures captured or killed by the expedition mentioned above can exist wholly without water, but can cite several instances mentioned by authorities of high repute, of animals which seldom or never drink.

Blanchard, in his book on Abyssinia, says that neither the Dorens nor the Bennett gazelles was ever known to re-

sort to the springs, creeks or rivers for the purpose of drinking. Throughout Africa the expression "As dry as Sahara or an old gazelle," is very common. Darwin, in his "Voyage of a Naturalist," says that among the wild flames of Patagonia drink salt water "they must not drink at all."

All writers on natural history subjects are agreed on the point that the largest and most interesting branch of the sloth family never drink. Haynie says: "There are only one branch of the peculiar animals which never drink water."

C. B. Tartan, on page 58, vol. IX, American Notes and Queries, mentions a parrot which lived in the London Zoological Gardens fifty-two years without drinking so much as a drop of water. Somers, Williams, Christian and others doubt whether wild rabbits ever drink, but Rev. J. G. Wood questions the correctness of their suppositions. Creatures which never drink are thought to absorb moisture from their own tissues or from the surrounding atmosphere.

**Douglas Jerrold and Leigh Hunt.**

Douglas Jerrold's soul seemed to abhor every trace of study slovenliness. A cozy room was his in his home at West Lodge, Lower Putney Common, and his son's pen has given the world a welcome peep at the interior: "The furniture is simple solid oak. The desk has not a speck upon it. The marble shell upon which the instand rests has no litter in it. Various notes lie in a row between clips, on the table. The paper basket stands near the armchair, prepared for answered letters and rejected contributions. The little dog followed his master into his study and lies at his feet." And there were no books maltreated in Douglas Jerrold's study. It gave him pain to see them in any way misused. Longfellow had the same sympathies with neatness and exactitude. Method in all things was his rule. He did not care to evolve fine thoughts and poetic images at a desk fixed like the one stable rock in an ocean of middle.

But other distinguished writers have been as careless as those were careful. Carlyle gives us a curious sketch of Leigh Hunt's menage. In one room—the family apartment—a dusty table and a ragged carpet. On the door, "books, paper, eggshells, scissors, and last night, when I was there, the torn board of a half-quarter loaf." And above, in the workshop of talent—something clearer—"only two chairs, a book-case, and a writing table."—Chambers' Journal.

**Plowing with Oxen.**

There can be little doubt that the ox was the earliest beast employed for the plow. A white bull and a white cow were yoked together to draw the furrow for making the walls of Rome. Greeks and Romans employed oxen in plowing; asses only for sandy soils. When the plowman had finished his day's labor, he turned the instrument upside down, and the oxen went home dragging its tail and handle over the surface of the ground—a scene described by Horace. The yoking together of ox and ass was expressly forbidden by the law of Moses, and is made the ground of a ludicrous comparison by Plautus. Ulysses, when he feigned madness in order to avoid going on the Trojan expedition, plowed with an ox and a horse together.

In the West of England the custom of yoking oxen to the plow went out at the beginning of this century; a very few old men can remember how, as boys, they were employed with the goad to urge on the oxen; hardly any recall having held the plow to them.—Chambers' Journal.

**Sharp-Witted Cat.**

A correspondent of the London Spectator reports a clever trick of a black Persian cat by the name of Prin. One of his peculiarities is a disdroll of meats unless they are roasted. The cook undertook to break him of this foolish whim. In short, she determined to starve it out of him.

She set before him a saucer of boiled meat. Prin turned away from it in disgust. "Very well," said the cook; "it is that or nothing."

For three days the cat went hungry, the boiled meat remaining untouched. But on the fourth morning the cook found the saucer empty.

"Ah, Prin," she said, "so you have come to your meat."

That day the cat fared sumptuously on roast beef with plenty of gravy. But on Saturday, when the potboiler under the dresser was cleaned, the cook found in one of the stepsans the boiled meat which had remained three days in Prin's saucer. The cat had been too sharp for her.

"I know this story to be true," concludes the correspondent.

**Lively Expectation.**

A little boy of five years, who was very fond of stewed mushrooms, and who had the idea—which is commoner than it ought to be—that mushrooms are the work of toads, was found sitting on the lawn with his eyes fixed intently on the ground.

"What are you watching?" his mother inquired.

The little fellow raised his finger to insure silence.

"Sh!" he said, "I saw a toad hop along here, and I'm waiting to see a brasshroom spring up!"

**Australia's Burning Coal Mountain.**

One of the most remarkable sights to be seen in Australia is a burning mountain 1,820 feet in height. The mountain is supposed to be underlaid with an inexhaustible coal seam which in some way became ignited. It was burning long before the advent of white men to that part of the country.

An interesting gossip is one who says a great deal by a shrug or a certain look. When gossip goes into details and talk plain, they become debarred from