

HEARTH & BOUDOIR

French Fancies.
A very deep-pointed girdle of black panne velvet hooks in the back. At the top in the front, it is cut down and two shallow points at the top in the center. It is embroidered very lightly around both edges in silver, and silver medallions are applied on each side of the center front, there being three inches of the plain velvet between these silver appliques. In the back a single large medallion hooks over from side to side, concealing the joining of the belt at that point.

Still another girdle shows down the center front a row of tiny French bows of velvet, each having a tiny rhinestone buckle in its center. Another has little rosettes with silver buttons as coats.

Tailor-Made Coat and Skirt.
The tailor-made of coat and skirt, to be worn with differing fancy blouses and bodices, maintains all of its modish consideration to a remarkable degree. One shows the short Eton with just self-strappings and a deep girdle of panne velvet adds to the smart effect. The skirt is one of those extreme patterns with inverted and well-nigh invisible plaits on the hips and just overlapping rows of strapping on the hem for trimming.

Girl's Dress of Red Cloth.
The skirt is made with a narrow tabler, trimmed with straps and loops of black velvet, fastened with steel



buckles. The blouse, opening over a lace chemisette, and the short bolero, with large bertha, are both trimmed with the black velvet, the ends finished with loops and steel buckles.

The leg-o-mutton sleeves are finished with cuffs of lace headed by the velvet, and the belt is of velvet.

Colors in Harmony.
Certain browns and pinks consort most harmoniously and with much distinction, but one must choose the right shades. A pink broadcloth frock of creamy tea-rose tint, trimmed in brown velvet, worn with brown furs and a big pink tulle hat trimmed with brown plumes and a touch of fur around the big crown, excited much enthusiasm at a recent tea and the color scheme should suggest charming possibilities to any clever artist in dress. The finish of skirt is three applied bias tucks. A vest and collar of brown velvet, with a gold embroidered line, fills in front of coat and the belt around sides and back of coat is cloth piped with brown velvet. The deep-turned cuffs are similarly treated and fastened with two gold buttons.

Chicken Mexican.
One chicken, two small onions; one egg; half a green pepper; two teaspoons of salt; one teaspoon of saffron; one small clove of garlic; one teaspoon of lard; three tablespoons of flour; one teaspoon of black pepper. Remove the meat from the bones and chop very fine with the garlic, one onion, and mint. Mix the other ingredients, and roll in balls about the size of a pigeon's egg. Mince the other onion, fry it brown in a saucepan, add two quarts of boiling water, drop in, and let them boil for an hour. These may also be made of veal or lamb.

Hats for Spring.
As to colors of the hats which are being worn now and will be worn, the Millinery Trade Review's Paris correspondent says: "Variety in color is a particular feature of the new straws and hair weaves. All the leading series of shades adapted for the season are represented, but particular prominence is given to the new moss and spring greens, and to the lower-toned pinks to the orchid mauves, sky and pale hyacinth colors, to the bright light wood browns and the lightest of terra cottas."

"Individuality" in Dress.
With the wide latitude which fashion now allows in the various lines of dress, it is not a difficult matter for millini to follow individual ideas in her gowns and dress accessories. Indeed "individuality" has become the slogan of the well-dressed. Something which is not only becoming, but expresses "her"—her taste, her individuality—original ideas adapted to her particular style.

Sarah Bernhardt, with the authority of a great artist, who studies every point and with the inherent instinct of her country to please in appearance, dwells with emphasis upon the point of preserving and enhancing one's individuality. That one can do this and submit to the doctrine of imperious fashion is a paradox.

The extremes of styles are most marked at the present moment, not only in materials, but in mode of construction as well. Simplicity walks hand in hand with an elaboration of trimming which quite bewilders the eye. The short-waisted effect is conspic-

ous in Paris. Exploited originally by Paquin, this model shows a draped belt having a round, slight dip in front.

In this short-waisted class comes the new polo or pony coat, of which more anon.

Directly in contrast with the short-waisted styles are the long coats, closely fitted as a rule, and severe and revealing in their lines.

Boudoir Confidences

A belt of peacock feathers, with a silver mounted bag to match, is novel.

Have you seen those smart little braided loose coats, just reaching the hips?

It takes a murderous array of hats to keep the modern chapeau in place.

The traveling cloaks are smart enough to make any woman pine for a journey.

Many of this year's coats boast of a cozy high collar, often luxuriously lined with fur.

Babies of six months old are shod in boots of buckskin with soles as soft as a glove.

The steel-studded elastic belts are general favorites and by no means insignificant in price.

Auto hoods of rubber, lined with silk and provided with wide rain-capes, are not really horrible.

Scarves of tinted liberty silk are worn again with street suits, their long bright ends fluttering from the coat front.

Care of Street Gowns.
There's nothing which tends to lengthen the life of a good street suit so definitely as taking it off as soon as you come in, brushing it and putting it away on its hanger. Lounging, as you're bound to do in a measure in your home, plays havoc with tailored clothes. It's a temptation to sink into an easy chair when you come in, just tired enough to enjoy the prospect of idling for a little while, but those very times take the life out of the sort of cloth that tailors sell, and probably lays fine little creases which result in incorrigible mousing. It's rather a temptation, too, to hang it up and postpone brushing and putting away properly to a later time, when you're rested, but it pays to do it at the time, for dust should be got rid of before it has time to settle into the cloth and give it that dingy look which mars so many otherwise good-looking suits, and careful hanging prevents forming of bad lines.

Effective Street Costume.
Rather showy, but in good taste and delightfully effective, is a model in dark green broadcloth, and it is admirably appropriate for street costume for the debutante. Applied pieces of cloth trimmed with tiny gold buttons and set on bottom of skirt at stated intervals, making a unique foot finish. The short eton jacket is also trimmed with cloth bands and buttons, the former making the front lapels, which open over a vest of dark tan kid. The small revers at neck are green velvet.

Belts and Buckles.
Belts and buckles play an important part in the dress question this season, and certainly add greatly to the appearance of both indoor and outdoor gowns. With the princess style as popular as it is at present it might be thought belts were of no importance, but it is not the only style of gown; the empire and directorie are close rivals, and as for street gowns, belts and buckles are almost a necessity.

A broad fitted and embroidered belt is quite the feature of the newest fashions, so cut as to give a long waisted effect without so exaggerated a point in front as was fashionable last year. Short at the sides and high in the back gives a better line to a short figure.

Smart in the Extreme.
A stunning gown was worn by a well known actress noted for her smart dressing. It is deep purple chiffon broadcloth with stitched pieces of same around bottom of skirt. The chic little jacket is prettily trimmed with heavily stitched bands of violet and shaped pieces of embroidery cloth silk, which also make the chemisette and stock. Long suede gloves in violet and ermine muff and turban of violet French felt with white wings complete a most striking costume.

WINTER COSTUMES FROM PARIS.

The first illustration shows a tailor-made costume of striped cloth. The skirt is made with a group of stitched plaits on each side of the front, and is trimmed at the bottom with a shaped band of the material, the ends turned up in front and fastened with buttons. The short, half-fitting jacket is also made with a group of plaits on each side of the front, and shaped bands from the border and the odd yoke. The collar and cuffs are of Persian lamb, the latter finished at the top with little plaitings of silk matching the gown. The muff is also of Persian lamb. The other is a calling cos-



tume of violet cloth. The new and odd skirt is made with 10 gores mounted to a fitted hip-yoke, the gores ornamented at the top with points of velvet, a little darker shade than the cloth. The bolero is made and trimmed in front with passementerie brandenburghs. The knot, edge and girdle are of velvet, the first ornamented with a gold buckle. The collar and cravat are also of velvet, the chemisette of linen. The sleeves are plaited and draped and ornamented with points of velvet. They are finished with deep cuffs trimmed with bands of the material.

If there are no flowers for the table, break off a few of the finer sprays of the Boston fern, arrange loosely in a low glass bowl with water, and the delicate green sprays will last for a week and make a dainty centerpiece.

A glue which will resist the action of water is made by boiling half a pound of common glue in one quart of skimmed milk. Another method is to soak the glue till soft in cold water, and then to dissolve it on the stove in linseed oil.

Dyed to Match Skirts.
At one of the leading houses in Paris is one of the strongest features is bodices of lace or mousseline dyed to match skirts and tight-fitting boleros with which they are to be worn. These bodices are masses of dainty needlework and are caught in at the waist with wide belts. They are often cut open at the neck to show a small gimp of white lace.

Parisian Skating Costumes.
The costume at the left is of dark green cloth. The skirt is trimmed with bands of the material, forming loops at the ends fastened with buttons. The jacket, with yoke and bolero fronts, is trimmed to correspond. The revers are of light cloth, ornamented with buttons and buttonholes.



The turnover collar and cuffs are of caracul. The other costume is of ruby red cloth. The princess skirt, with narrow breadth or panel in front, is encircled at the bottom with two rows of braid. The short bolero is also trimmed with the braid and with buttons, and has little embroidered revers. The waistcoat and collar are of velvet.

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FARMER HAD QUEER RIDE

Artemus Hope of Mentone had a strange, wild ride yesterday which he does not want to have repeated very soon, if ever.

He was coming from several miles out in the country, riding in a platform buggy, and on top of this he was hauling home a neighbor's buggy that had been disabled in a runaway and was placed bottom-side up on Hope's buggy, with the wheels uppermost and firmly tied in place.

Hope was sitting on some blankets that were laid on the upturned bottom of the neighbor's buggy and riding along quietly and peacefully when, just as he had got about half way down the long hill past the Hemerick farm, the horses became frightened, sprang to one side and tipped the buggy entirely over, bottom-side up.

This maneuver brought Hope's buggy wrong-side up, but also Hope's neighbor's vehicle right-side up, and, with Hope clinging like a bat beneath the combination of vehicles, the horses ran off down the road at a high rate of speed, paying no attention whatever to the frantic calls to "whoa" which Hope shouted to them from his perilous position, with nothing but his clinging hands and feet to keep him in place.

It was hard work to hold on and his strength was just about spent when

EGGS WORTH MUCH MONEY

Rarest of all the eggs of a still existent family of birds is that laid by the condor. At the present moment there is not in existence one single dozen perfect specimens and the few there are can be seen solely in some of the wealthiest and richest collections. The condor, which is found in southern California and the Andes, is now hopelessly doomed to die out. It is also practically impossible to collect any fresh specimens of its eggs, as these rare and extremely shy birds nest thousands of feet above the plains, in the most rugged and inaccessible fastnesses of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains. Hence finding and plundering a condor's nest is regarded as a wonderful and sensational event. A prize of \$500 would not tempt any sane man to start out on the hunt for a fresh condor egg.

Still more costly are the eggs of the great auk, or garefowl, a flightless marine bird with large head, heavy body and compact plumage, the last two living specimens of which were discovered and killed in Iceland in 1844. One of these eggs is now to be seen, carefully preserved under a glass case, in the National museum at Washington. The original owner sold it in London for £22 (\$110) in 1851, whereas its present value is estimated at more than \$10,000. In 1853 two other auks' eggs were sold in London for £85 (\$425) apiece, while in 1869 Lord Caerburgh paid £74 (\$370) for a damaged specimen. A Scotchman of the name of Powell got two of these eggs in Edinburgh in 1879 for 22 shillings. A few weeks afterward he sold them for £240 (\$1,200) each.

At the present time there are only from seventy to eighty specimens known to be still in existence. Twelve of these are in the British museum. This bird died out because of its inability to fly and of the difficulty of its movements upon dry land. It used to nest in thousands on Funk island, a rocky islet opposite the coast of Newfoundland, which at one time was used as a kind of provisioning station by whalers, who used to kill these fat and palatable birds in hundreds. The birds were knocked on the head with clubs, plucked—the feathers used to fetch a good price—and salted for future consumption.

TERMS USED IN AUSTRALIA

Cockatoo is a word of varied meanings in Australia. It was originally a contemptuous nickname for the small Australian farmer, but was gradually accepted as a synonym for that class. "Cocky," says Prof. Morris, "is a common abbreviation." Anthony Trollope committed a good many blunders in his book describing his Australian tour. One of them was his definition of cockatoo: "It signifies that the man does not really till his land, but only scratches it as the bird does." A critic gives this as the true explanation: About 1860, when the great rush to the gold fields had ceased, immigrants turned to the land, swarmed all over the country, and ate up the substance of the squatters, who likened them to an invasion of devastating birds, and christened them "cockatoos." By 1867 the word had traveled to New Zealand, for Lady Barker, author of "Station Life in New Zealand," writing in that year, remarked: "I have heard a man say in answer to a question about his occupation, 'I'm a cockatoo.'"

KEPT THE RETAINING FEE

When Daniel Webster was at the zenith of his career, a gentleman waited upon him one day to engage him for the defense in an important case at law, the amount at stake in the suit being \$50,000. The gentleman asked Webster what the retaining fee would be.

"A thousand dollars."

"A thousand dollars!" exclaimed the gentleman.

"Yes. But think for a moment what I am engaged to do, sir. I do not only hold myself at your service in the matter, perhaps for a month or more, but I debar myself from accepting any offer, no matter how large, from the plaintiff."

The applicant, being satisfied with the explanation, wrote out a check for the amount and gave it to the great advocate, who, after he had put it in his pocket, said:

"I will now give you a bit of advice gratis. If you can compromise this business upon fair terms with the plaintiff, you had better do so."

The client expressed his thanks and took his leave. A few days after the gentleman called upon Webster again, and told him that a compromise had been effected and the matter satisfactorily settled. Webster duly congratulated his visitor on the result, and would have turned to other business, but the visitor seemed to have something further on his mind.

"Of course," he ventured, after a pause, "I shall not require your services, Mr. Webster."

"Certainly not, sir."

"And how about the \$1,000 I paid you?" faintly asked the gentleman, who was not quite reconciled by paying such a sum for services which were never to be rendered.

"Oh, ah!" responded Daniel, with a bland smile. "You don't seem to understand. It is very simple. That was a retaining fee—called in law a 'retainer.' By virtue of the contract I also become a retainer. What should I retain, if not my fee?"

THE SWORD OF 1812

It has his name upon it. See, the letters are not clear. For they are worn and blurred by hands that touched them year by year. But if we bend and trace them we may then decipher all. You smile? The quality of old letters spell the name of "Cuthbert Small."

A quaint old man he was—O, this was long, long years ago: His face was like the faces that the olden pictures show; A strong and earnest one, with lips that met in sturdy line. And eyes that sometimes could be stern, but always were benign.

And he was tall and soldierly; at his three score and ten His step was quick, he set the pace for many younger men; His hair was white and long, and you would look to see a queue, And to see ruffles on his shirt and buckle on each shoe.

But this old sword—he gave it him; his country, yours and mine, And set his name upon it for some sort of grateful sign. That what brave deeds he did for us were cherished at their worth, That country love and courage were far more than wealth or birth.

And how he used to tell of the war of '12 was on! His brave old eyes would glimmer with the fire of days ago; His old white head would be flung back, his shaking voice was clear. And those who heard and saw must know to him his land was dear.

Ho, Cuthbert Small, this score of years and more have been dust; But this old sword is clean and keen and fair and free from rust— And all the fine old faith that you and your sword typified Is living now in every heart that beats with country pride.

—W. D. N. in Chicago Tribune.

Just the Same.
For days and weeks before his death it was remembered, the wealthy old foundryman pattered around the molding room, over some task which he would not perform any one to help him about. Chuckling and nodding his head he kept at his work, until finally he ordered the molten iron run into an immense flat mold.

When the result had cooled off, it was seen to be a huge, thin, flat sheet of iron, bearing a lengthy inscription in raised letters, beginning: "I, John Pott Mettle, being of sound mind and body," etc.

"There," murmured the old man, with the grim smile for which he was famous, "they will see that the iron will which is characteristic of me shall be in evidence even after I have passed away."

How vain are the hopes of man! Six months after the death of John Pott Mettle the lawyers had broken his will as easily as if it had been written on ice.

POULTRY

Feeding and Watering Poultry.

In regard to keeping water before the fowls in winter I use sanitary fountains. They can be hung up out of the dirt. On very cold days I use warm water and it will not freeze during the day, and if it should freeze before I empty the fountains in the evening I pour a little hot water on the sides and pull off the bottoms and they are all ready for the next day. It must be understood the fountain is in two parts, top and bottom. I think this is the best fountain on the market. I feed corn on all cold nights. If it comes off warm then I feed oats, wheat, buckwheat, sometimes one kind, then another, sometimes mix. In summer I feed corn about one feed a week. I feed according to my own judgment, when I think a change would do good. I never use skim milk. I feed oats in a litter of scratching material, of about three or four inches deep. I throw a handful or two in each pen in the morning, when they get their mash, so as to keep them busy. All grain is thrown into the litter. In regard to green food, I use cabbages as long as I can keep them profitably. If they are kept too long they will go to waste. So I put in enough to last until the first part of January. I hang them up in the middle of the pen, so all the fowls can get a chance at them. One small head will last twelve Wyandottes a day. I think it is the best winter green food there is. The birds seem to do well on it. Sugar beet is a food I never use. But I do use mangel wurzel and fowls do enjoy them very much. I have used some turnips, but not many. The birds don't do so well on them as on mangels and the turnip is not so large. They both make a good substitute for cabbages. I feed them raw. I put them in what I call my green food racks. They are made the same style as the old-fashioned hay rack for horses. The rails are one inch apart. The rack is six inches deep at the top and one inch deep at the bottom and can be made any width.—W. H. Shute, Middlesex Co., Conn., in Farmers' Review.

City and Country Hens.

It would probably be interesting both to the farmer and the city man, to compare results as to the production of eggs in winter. It is difficult to make a comparison of the same sized flocks, as the city flocks are generally very much the smaller, but figuring on a percentage basis I believe the city man wins, and personally I think this is entirely due to the kind of feed which his hens get. One of my city friends has six Black Minorca hens and during the first part of January was getting two and three eggs a day. From a flock of about 125 Banded Plymouth Rock hens on a farm 50 miles from Chicago they were getting at the same time nine and ten eggs a day, and these hens were well taken care of, too, with a good warm henhouse and a large scratching shed. I also know of a flock of about 180 hens, White Wyandottes, Banded Rocks and a mixed lot, where, during January and February last year, they did not get sufficient eggs to use in cooking and baking. I also know of a city flock of ten hens where during the same time they were getting six and eight eggs a day, and the feed that was bought for this latter flock did not amount to over 5 cents a week. They were fed principally on table scraps, and from my observation I think it is this feed that makes the eggs in winter. I am not prepared to say just what there is to this feed that makes the eggs, but if the farmer could strike the same combination he would make a small fortune off his eggs in winter, as at 40 cents a dozen (which one of my neighbors is paying for strictly fresh eggs) the farmer ought to realize about \$2 a day for eggs from a flock of 125 or 130 hens. It would pay him to spend some money for the right kind of feed.—Aaron Kline, in Farmers' Review.

Good and Bad Eggs.

A reader asks us for some way to tell good eggs from bad ones. The method being followed in the commercial world is the one that we recommend and the only one that we believe suitable to farm work. This is the candling process. Take a box and place in it a lamp, making a hole about the size of an egg. In this box put a light, so placing the light that the gleam will strike out of the egg from the cloudy ones. The candling is done by taking this box into the gloomiest part of the room and passing the eggs between the opening in the box and the eye. A good strong light will render the egg transparent or translucent. If an electric light can be obtained, so much the better, as the inside of the egg will be that much more illuminated. The stronger the light the better can one see what is inside the egg. The good eggs will show a translucent liquid. An egg that has begun to undergo the changes noticed in incubation will be cloudy at first and later will show veins. Later it will show dark spots at certain points, as the physical system of the unborn chick develops. For common use, it is necessary only to find out of the eggs from the cloudy ones. The cloudy ones are not fresh, while the others are if they have not been undergoing incubation. If the eggs are in an incubator or under a hen and have been there some days, the fertile eggs will be showing a cloud or streaks. The infertile eggs will still be clear and should be taken out and afterwards cooked as food for the young chicks.

Planting Trees on Sod Land.

I would say to the man that has just purchased a farm and wishes to set out apple trees in sod land this spring, that he can do so easily, as he would have to prepare his ground any before planting. If I had the planting to do I would plow the ground and prepare it just as I would for corn. Then I would plant my trees, which can be done as late as the 5th of May in Illinois.

I would plant between the rows of trees such crops as onions, peas, beans, cabbages, potatoes and sweet corn of the low growing variety. Melons and cucumbers also do very well on new land. I also recommend sweet potatoes. Field corn would choke the trees more or less, and while they perhaps would grow just as well with field corn planted among them, the next spring would show them badly frozen back, because the wood will not ripen as well when shaded by the corn as when they are free to receive the light and air. But as I do not know how many acres of land the correspondent wishes to plant to trees I offer another idea:

Suppose that he wishes to plant an acre or two and that near the house.

He would do a wise thing if he did not break up the sod at all. Every farmer has chickens and I assume that this farmer has. He could skim off the sod for about four feet square (or round if he prefers) in the place where he is to set each tree. He can plant a tree in each place so prepared and afterwards allow the chickens to run there.

If your correspondent will buy only trees that are dug fresh from the field next spring, I think the loss will be small. But if he buys trees that have been stored or heeled-in over winter his loss will be great. As to whether it would be possible to perfectly prepare ground in so short a time, I will say that it depends on other things, including money and help, the latter being the most important.—Henry Dant, Macon Co., Ill.

Asbes for Fruit Trees.

I have found out by experience that wood ashes is the best fertilizer that we can put around our fruit trees. Ashes should be placed closer to the trunks of the trees than other fertilizers. The quantity of ashes to be placed around a tree depends upon the size of the tree and the strength of the ashes. About a peck of good strong ashes is enough for a tree just set in the ground, but if the ashes are leached, about again as many may be used. Older trees need more; about two bushels will do for a tree five years old. I have found that wood ashes make a better fertilizer than barnyard manure. The manure causes a more rapid growth, being more apt to winter kill, while the growth produced by the ashes is more sound and therefore can better endure the winter than the other growth. Apple trees treated with ashes yield from one-half to one-third more sound apples. The trees and vines benefited by ashes are peach, pear, apple, cherry, plum, grape, raspberry, blackberry and strawberry. Wood ashes are a common and ready source of potash. They improve the mechanical condition of most soils. The lime they contain tends to correct "sourness" and to promote the important chemical process of nitrification. Corncoke ashes are the best for potash, as they supply from 15 to 20 per cent of pure potash. It has been estimated that every one thousand pounds of hard wood ashes will give about sixty pounds of potash, and when compared with that in cobs they are worth much more in the shape of ashes.—Geo. Van Gundy, Morgan Co., Ill.

Dust Spraying.

Spraying by means of dust has been discussed in these columns quite often. So far as investigations have been made in the past the liquid spray would seem to be superior to the dust spray. Some experiments have been made in Delaware, however, that seem to show that the dust spray can be used profitably under some conditions. It was used there during the days when heavy dew prevailed, and it was estimated that the cost was about half that of the liquid spray. Apple, plum, peach, pear and cherry trees were sprayed. The codling moth and apple scab were successfully controlled by this means. The only dust spray that seems to be effective, however, is pulverized copper sulphate and hydrated lime, to which paris green or some other poison has been added.

The Hillside Orchard.

In regard to our brother farmer who is thinking of setting his hillside grass land to apple trees, I would say: Plow the land and put it in good shape as early in the spring as the ground is friable. Set the trees out in the fall for at least three years use an abundance of well-rotted barnyard manure. Each year cultivate the trees well till near the middle of July. Then sow the land to cow peas and then turn them under after the frost has killed the vines. The vines will help to keep the land from washing and will furnish food for the trees. Plenty of cultivation and food is what the trees want.—T. W. Griffith, Union Co., Ill.

AGRICULTURE

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I have found out by experience that wood ashes is the best fertilizer that we can put around our fruit trees. Ashes should be placed closer to the trunks of the trees than other fertilizers. The quantity of ashes to be placed around a tree depends upon the size of the tree and the strength of the ashes. About a peck of good strong ashes is enough for a tree just set in the ground, but if the ashes are leached, about again as many may be used. Older trees need more; about two bushels will do for a tree five years old. I have found that wood ashes make a better fertilizer than barnyard manure. The manure causes a more rapid growth, being more apt to winter kill, while the growth produced by the ashes is more sound and therefore can better endure the winter than the other growth. Apple trees treated with ashes yield from one-half to one-third more sound apples. The trees and vines benefited by ashes are peach, pear, apple, cherry, plum, grape, raspberry, blackberry and strawberry. Wood ashes are a common and ready source of potash. They improve the mechanical condition of most soils. The lime they contain tends to correct "sourness" and to promote the important chemical process of nitrification. Corncoke ashes are the best for potash, as they supply from 15 to 20 per cent of pure potash. It has been estimated that every one thousand pounds of hard wood ashes will give about sixty pounds of potash, and when compared with that in cobs they are worth much more in the shape of ashes.—Geo. Van Gundy, Morgan Co., Ill.

Dust Spraying.

Spraying by means of dust has been discussed in these columns quite often. So far as investigations have been made in the past the liquid spray would seem to be superior to the dust spray. Some experiments have been made in Delaware, however, that seem to show that the dust spray can be used profitably under some conditions. It was used there during the days when heavy dew prevailed, and it was estimated that the cost was about half that of the liquid spray. Apple, plum, peach, pear and cherry trees were sprayed. The codling moth and apple scab were successfully controlled by this means. The only dust spray that seems to be effective, however, is pulverized copper sulphate and hydrated lime, to which paris green or some other poison has been added.

The Hillside Orchard.

In regard to our brother farmer who is thinking of setting his hillside grass land to apple trees, I would say: Plow the land and put it in good shape as early in the spring as the ground is friable. Set the trees out in the fall for at least three years use an abundance of well-rotted barnyard manure. Each year cultivate the trees well till near the middle of July. Then sow the land to cow peas and then turn them under after the frost has killed the vines. The vines will help to keep the land from washing and will furnish food for the trees. Plenty of cultivation and food is what the trees want.—T. W. Griffith, Union Co., Ill.

Drags the Corn After Planting.

In the preparation for my seed crop I pay most attention to the selecting of the seed and use the seed grown by myself. We begin to prepare the corn land just as soon as possible after the oats are sown. All of my land is a clay loam, but I think that sandy land is a little earlier as a rule, as the water dries out quicker from it and it can be worked without getting lumpy. My method for putting in the corn crop is to thoroughly prepare the ground. In my operation I vary according to the seasons, but I try to have the soil as fine as dust if possible. We plant in checks three feet six inches each way and put in the corn 1 1/2 to 2 inches deep when the corn is moist, and 2 1/2 to 3 inches deep when the corn is dry. We drag the corn one or twice as it is planted.

Unsympathetic.

Boggs—I began at the bottom and worked up.

Joggs—You don't look like an elevator boy.