The Columbus Journal.

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PHYSICIANS' WISDOM.

WHAT CHICAGO DOCTORS SAY ABOUT "SOBERING OFF."

A Newspaper Asks for the Best Course to Be Pursued by the Victims of Confirmed Alcoholism—Various Methods Recommended.

Is there one course better than another for a man to adopt in endeavoring to break himself of the drinking habit?

The Mail has sought to obtain from those who should be best informed a practical answer to the above question. A number of leading physicians have been visited and a given set of questions put to each. The result of these interviews is here presented.

"Ah," said Dr. Charles Gilman Smith, "they never do taper off. They can't. The way to break off drinking is to stop, and stop short. In stopping short don't use bromides unless the reforming drinker can't sleep. Use the fluid extract of cocoa leaves. That's a sort of stimulant, not so dangerous as alcohol, perhaps, although its continued use impairs the heart. It is hard to lay down a general course of medication, since every case is different. A physician must prescribe for a patient what he particularly needs. As to diet, it should be generous and rich—not fatty or greasy, but strengthening. If the patient can't sleep let him take a brisk walk before bedtime, and get himself tired out. Regular exercise in a gymnasium you can rarely get a drunkard to take. The man who leaves off drinking had better stop smoking, too. Tobacco has a relaxing effect on the system. Stop both together. It will pay."

"Will a man recover his old physical and mental tone? Well, if he leaves off altogether he will practically be as good a man as he was before he began to drink."

J. Adams Allen, president of Rush Medical college, said bluffly: "If a man's going to stop he's got to stop, and there's an end of it. Don't let him try to taper off. All nonsense. But he ought never to try to quit without consulting a physician, because a steady drinker is sure to have some organic trouble of the liver or kidneys which whisky spurs up to action, and which becomes torpid when it is left. He don't want tonics and other stimulants to stay him up. A good dose of calomel to set his liver going right is worth more than them all. Yes, leave off tobacco, too. It's harder to break off than liquor drinking."

Dr. N. B. Delamater, the specialist in nervous diseases, took a decidedly different view of the propositions. He said: "Whether the would be reformed drunkard shall taper off with light wines and short rations of drinks depends entirely on the individual. He who is anxious to quit and is a man of strong will and in the habit of controlling himself in other ways, and is able to withstand the pain and suffering, can do either way. There is less suffering tapering off than stopping suddenly. A man who is not accustomed to controlling himself would either have to be put under restraint or be obliged to taper off.

"Ordinarily the man will begin to feel better in three weeks' time. The normal tone ought to be restored in a couple of months unless some organic disease has been developed. Some men can regain everything they have lost. Others cannot. It depends on the man and it depends on the amount of drinking he has indulged in. Those men of a finer quality of nervous temperament are those who are most bound by liquor and to whom the damage is most permanent. Coarse, brutal natures are not much affected. They recover as much as ever they lost."

"All habits of life are hard to break off," said Dr. E. H. Pratt. "A man who wants to stop drinking must realize that the thing can only be accomplished by a strong effort of the mind, and as long as he weakens his body by keeping up the irritation with even diminished doses of alcohol, so long will be a slave to the liquor habit. If he wants to quit, why quit. It lies more with the man himself than with the drugs. You can't reform a man unless it is a thorough reform. Therefore, in such cases I do not attempt to drive out one bad habit with a worse. I give a weak solution of cayenne pepper to relieve the burning sensation, and I give him lots of milk. Milk is, of all things, the most necessary.

"The great thing in breaking off a habit of this kind is keeping busy. Push the mind and body to the utmost activity to divert attention from the hankerings of the old habit. Concentrate the thought on some hobby and ride it at full speed. For mercy's sake don't think of trying to stop. Don't tell anybody how long it has been since you tasted a drop. Don't congratulate yourself that you have gone without liquor for six weeks or six months. Dismiss the subject from your mind as completely as if you had never heard of such a thing as whisky, and had no curiosity to learn about it. If a man asked you how long it has been since you stopped drinking change the subject of conversation without answering. The mind has the greatest part of the task at first. I should certainly say that a man who wants to quit drinking should stop smoking, too.

"How long it will be before he begins to feel as good as he did before he stopped drinking depends on how badly besotted he is. The most rapid gain will be in the case of the man who has made up his mind in dead sincerity that he has taken his last drink and that he will never look back with longing on the old habit. Six months ought to restore him to complete health if he has no organic disease."

"The notion that quitting suddenly is more dangerous or more difficult than tapering off is one of whisky's fallacies," said Dr. A. J. Baxter. "Tapering off is simply taking smaller doses of poison. A man can't quit taking poison too suddenly. As for bromides and all that sort of thing, if his physician finds he needs bromides let him prescribe them; but if they are needed it will not be because the man has quit drinking entirely, but because liquor has undermined his health and made tonics necessary to pull nature through in her efforts to restore what has been lost. No man on the top of earth can say how long it will take to make a man well again."—Chicago Mail.

A "BENDER'S" CONFESSIONS.

A Fair English Contortionist of Nineteen Tells of Her Profession.

The other day I called on a bender, a lady, not a gentleman, who is well known as a most serpentine contortionist. I wished to ask Mlle. Vonare a few questions about her art, with a view of throwing some light on the training of little boys and girls for the profession. The lady was sitting before the fire with her sister, who has abandoned bending herself, and exhibits a troupe of highly educated poodles. A huge wicker basket contained her dress and other stage habits. From its depths she produced a bundle of photographs of herself, tied and knotted into all manner of curious folds.

That is the business of a bender. The body is thrown into a score of unnatural postures, which appear to the audience to be achieved by dislocating every joint in the human frame, and to be effected at great risk to limb and life. Artists are generally enthusiastic about their callings, and I must say that Miss Vonare declared she would rather be a bender than a queen or something to that effect. She began at 4, at 5½ she was before the public, and remains a bender still. "My father saw a contortionist one night on the stage, and he asked himself why he should not teach me, aged 4. I was put into training at once, and enjoyed the fun, as a child will enjoy anything new. Was I beaten? was I starved? No. I seemed to take to it like a little duck takes to water. You see, we were a family of athletes, and, besides, I was a daughter and not an apprentice. If the father is the trainer he may not spare the rod, but he is cruel only to be kind. My experience is that less rod and more kindness is the best plan. Father used to bribe us into doing the different tricks. To be successful means years of hard work, practice and performence. I am 19 now, and my performance keeps me in capital training.

In the business of contortion the first lesson is the backward bend, first with the arms, and then without. You stand on a long mattress, so that there is no danger, and at first your teacher controls your movements with a belt. It is much the same with other forms of acrobatic work, and the cruelty often takes the form of taking away the mattress, which creates a sort of panic in the pupil's mind. If he has really tried his best and failed, he is so terrified that he is almost certain to fail unless he has a great deal of pluck. If he has only been sulking, it may bring him to his bearings. Of course, children are often stubborn, and try the patience of the teacher to its utmost limit.

"The art of contortion," continued Miss Vonare, "is learned by degrees. First the backward bend, then the 'dislocation,' then the 'splits,' and so on. What we call 'closeness' distinguishes the best bending. To the audience bending seems most difficult. I experience no discomfort or inconvenience. I was a puny child. You see me now." The lady bender was certainly most healthy and cheerful, stout in body and ruddy in complexion, and she strongly maintains that all women would be greatly benefited if they took to bending. "It is quite a mistake to think that we put our limbs out of joint, or that we suffer from the curious nature of our performance. Of course, after one or more difficult positions one may suffer a little pain, but it goes in no time. In some attitudes I can only remain for twenty seconds, as the breathing becomes difficult. But these are trifling inconveniences. I practice a few minutes every day to keep myself loose here in my room, and that is about all I need do."—Pall Mall Gazette.

Railroad Flyers in England.

"You don't know what fast traveling means in this country."

An Englishman, who had recently made a trip throughout the New England states and the west, was discussing our railroad system with a friend at a cafe.

"Now listen and I'll give you some news. In England third class passengers ride from forty to forty-five miles an hour and nobody pays extra fare on account of the speed. From New York to Albany it is 142 miles by a splendid track. There are ten express trains daily between these cities, and their average speed is twenty-nine miles an hour. Between London and Sheffield, 162 miles, the Great Northern runs nine trains daily, with an average speed of forty-five miles an hour. Between New York and Boston the average speed is thirty miles an hour, and the fastest, a train composed exclusively of sleeping cars, makes thirty-nine miles an hour. Between London and Manchester, 203 miles, there are twenty trains daily, with an average speed of forty-one miles an hour, and some trains making fifty. Between London and Glasgow, 440 miles, there are thirteen daily expresses, and their average speed is almost forty miles an hour, one train being much faster than this."

"Yes, but that is only on favored lines."

"Not at all. All over England and Scotland express trains, composed of first, second and third class carriages, make from thirty-five to fifty miles an hour, while in America a thirty-five mile train is called a stroke of lightning. The fastest regular train in America, so I am told, is on the Baltimore and Ohio, which makes the forty miles between Washington and Baltimore in fifty minutes. There are three or four fast trains between New York and Philadelphia covering forty-six miles an hour. Between Liverpool and Manchester there are fifty-two trains daily, none of them slower than forty-five miles an hour and four of them making fifty-one and a third miles an hour."—New York Mail and Express.

An Underbred Guest's Ways.

The disposition to regard a friend's home as a hotel, and the repasts served therein as free lunches, betrays the underbred guest beyond the possibility of rehabilitation. One token of this inclination is in the establishment of his contented person in the most luxurious chair he espies or lolling on the sofa. He carries forward the neat design by fingering bric-a-brac, opening and shutting books, scrutinizing wall paper, frescoes and furniture, sometimes turning up the corner of a rug, pinching draperies with haberdashery touch, and, when not prevented by intractable casters, tipping his chair on the hind legs.

Why what the indignant military critic of the Jackson statue at Washington called a "r'arin'" chair should express the extreme of ease better than one left in the normal quadrupedal position is a recondite question. It must, or it would not be brought to the front so often that a chair tipped backward might serve as the crest of the independent Yankee the world over. A further and quite indubitable evidence of quite-at-homeativeness is the subdued whistle or hum with which the guest regales himself when not talking. He can compliment his entertainers no more highly than by becoming a human kettle on the hob, and singing himself up to the bubbling point of conversation.—Marion Harland in Philadelphia Times.

Oranges in Florida.

Visitors in Florida say that besides the delight in picking oranges from the trees, they have the pleasure of oranges for breakfast, prepared in several dainty ways unknown to the north.—Chicago Herald.

PARIS NEWSPAPERS.

SIGNED EDITORIALS ARE COMMON BUT NOT UNIVERSAL.

Foreign Affairs Treated with Intelligence and Ability—Local Columns Not What They Should Be—Offices—Prices of Advertising—Copying the News.

The editorial department of the Paris papers, which is their leading feature, is often able and brilliant. The habit of signing editorial articles is common, but by no means universal. Among the exceptions are the Temps, the Debats, and La Paix. The Matin has an article daily from one of several writers, among whom are Jules Simon, Emanuel Arene, Ranc and John Lemoinne. Each writer expresses and is responsible for his own opinions only, and as they represent all shades of politics, except Socialism, what the paper says one morning is flatly contradicted by its article of the following day. What are called "general articles" by the American newspapers are almost always signed by Paris writers. They may be literary, critical, or may cover a wide variety of interesting topics. Among the best contributions of this class are those of Anatole de la France and Hughes le Roux, written for the Temps.

Foreign affairs, so far as regards the continent, are of late years treated with intelligence and ability. The domestic politics of the United States are still poorly understood by the majority of French journalists, with the exception of a few who have crossed the ocean. As to the foreign continent in general it is fairer than that of the London newspapers, which is not paying it an extravagant compliment. Probably not less than sixty members of the senate and chamber of deputies are connected with the Paris newspapers, principally as contributors. This leads to what would be considered in other countries violations of parliamentary privilege, or to occurrences that strike foreigners as somewhat indelicate, journals not hesitating sometimes to publish facts that should be kept secret, or to give speeches of their own writers in extenso with fulsome compliment.

IN THE LOCAL COLUMNS.

The local columns of a Paris newspaper are not what they should be or what their readers would be glad to have them, for want of room. The great city is a mine of sensational material, tragic, comic, grave, gay, but always interesting if properly treated. As a Paris newspaper is usually a small four-page sheet, printed in coarse type on bad paper, it is difficult to get more into it than the literary and political matter that must in any event appear, and a mere resume of local events. If the foreign news is of great importance, local matter is crowded out. If a single local event is sensational all other local matters, no matter how interesting in themselves, must make way for it. Reporters of some papers sign their names. This practice sometimes causes curious displays of egotism, the writers forgetting that which they have to narrate is their own personal experiences. The facts are obscured by their efforts to obtain them, their little deprivations, and the articles of food that composed their breakfast. The self consciousness of French newspaper writers is always noticeable, whether they sign their articles or not. The editorial "we" often appears in the editorial columns. It is hard for a correspondent in a foreign capital to give the facts in a dispatch without prefacing or interspersing them with useless personal detail. Aside from these evidences of imperfection and journalistic juvenility, the local columns are usually readable, and sometimes bright and witty. The Paris interviewer, who is a recent institution already become universal, is, if possible, more unscrupulous and imaginative than his American confrere.

A Paris newspaper office is not usually an abode of luxury. The France has a fine building, of which it uses but a small part itself. The Figaro is handsomely installed in the Rue Druot. The Petit Journal, the newspaper of the bonnes, coachmen and garcons, has comfortable quarters in the Rue Lafayette. Most of the papers of small circulation are in the upper story of some large building, where their business, editorial and composing departments are crowded into a few small, badly ventilated and poorly lighted rooms.

TOO MANY NEWSPAPERS.

There are far too many newspapers in France for the number of readers, and they cannot all be rich. The revolutionary, socialistic and some of the ultra-radical newspapers are sold at one sou. Most of the others are sold at two sous. Some are sold at three sous, with another sou added when the size is doubled, as in the case of the Saturday edition of the Figaro. A sou is sometimes added to the Paris price for purchasers in the departments. The newsboy cuts no great figure in Paris. Men, boys and women cry certain sheets in the streets, but if one wants a newspaper he has usually to go to the news stands. Prices of advertising are high, and Paris merchants do not care much about the newspapers as a means of making their goods known. The space occupied by legitimate advertising is small, therefore the newspapers have to depend for support on their circulation and on subsidies paid for their influence. These are sometimes large, and constitute their chief means of livelihood.

Paris newspapers working for the most part with an insufficient staff, the habit of copying from one another's columns is general, paragraphs being taken verbatim by the evening from the morning papers and vice versa. As these paragraphs often contain opinions and individual ideas, they read curiously when met with in succession in several different journals. Dispatches two or three days old are often seen in some of them. An important occurrence happening in some European capital, like Bismarck's speech in the reichstag, is known, as regards its general import, in San Francisco before it is in Paris. The speech in question was delivered about 2 o'clock. The Temps that appeared at 4:30 had nothing of it, and the Soir, appearing at 9 p. m., only a few words.—Paris Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.

WHAT PROTECTION HAS DONE.

How It Has Effected One Industry in This Country and Germany.

"This house," said Mr. Barbour, "the Barbour Flax company of Paterson, N. J., and the house of William Barbour Sons, of Lisburn, Ireland, are substantially one house and are controlled by myself and my two uncles, Mr. Robert Barbour and Mr. John D. Barbour. The Irish house was the parent house. My father, Mr. Thomas Barbour, and his brothers started American manufacturing soon after the war, being induced thereto by the protective tariff. We are engaged in the manufacture of linen thread.

"Ever since I can remember the Irish house has had a large trade in Germany, having agencies in Hamburg, Berlin and other places. Well, as soon as German trade increased of course our plant in Ireland increased. Naturally all of the profits of the German trade were transferred to and benefited Ireland. This went on until a few years ago, when Prince Bismarck concluded that the German people had had enough of it. The result was that there was incorporated in the German law a tariff on imported linen thread. The tariff was so high as to be practically prohibitive. Well, what was the consequence? This," said Mr. Barbour, turning to a table, whence he took a large sheet of blue paper, which he handed to The Press representative. The paper contained architect's drawings, and The Press man read on it the legend, "Plans for a factory to be built at Ottensen, Germany."

"Ottensen is near Hamburg," proceeded Mr. Barbour. "That factory is now in process of construction. This simply means that in order to preserve our German trade we have been compelled to go to Germany and make our goods, just as in 1865 we were compelled to come to America to preserve our American trade."—New York Press Interview.

Profession and Practice.

That sturdy Democratic paper The New York World presents a strong indictment of the Cleveland administration when it says that "scarcely any idea for which the Democrats contended in the election has been carried into effect." The paper freely confesses that the recent investigation by the Hale committee shows that the civil service act has been practically nullified, but that the party workers have been mollified by the placing of a few thousand henchmen and dependents of the politicians in the public service. It then says: "The war taxes are still untouched, corrupting plutocrats are unpunished, monopolies multiply and rings rule, but the grab bag is nearly emptied."

Who can deny this? And where failure in all these things is confessed, what is left to justify the support of Cleveland by anybody but the spoils seekers? Those who support him on account of his reform pledges have been cheated, and the most of them already acknowledge it. Those who supported him on the understanding that he was not a free trader, and that the platform on which he ran was not a free trade platform, have been cheated. Only the spoilsmen and the free traders have had any luck. Both these elements supported Cleveland because he was a Democrat merely, hoping that as a Democrat he would ultimately turn out to be a free trader and a leader of that good old Democratic sentiment "to the victors belong the spoils." They were not deceived. Those of the other kind who are disposed to protest are being read out of the party.—Philadelphia Press.

A Disturbing Rumor.

There is a painful rumor to the effect that Hon. S. J. Randall, of Pennsylvania, proposes to visit St. Louis during the session of the Democratic convention with a tariff plank all his own. The attempt to transfer that peculiar timber from his private pocket to the national Democratic platform is very certain to mar the brotherly feeling and harmonious proceedings of that body. As a matter of history, however, Brother Randall has always put in his best work at conventions, and the chance for a tariff double ender, with a Cleveland cast of countenance on the fore, and a Randall likeness to the aft, part of the Democratic craft, ready to forge ahead or sail backward with equal facility, may be regarded as a probability of the Democratic future.—Boston Traveller.

Beginning to See Aright.

The president's mistakes in Maryland and Indiana have been very serious. They have been based on the idea which we believe is President Cleveland's own, that the civil service ought to be reformed on a sort of local option plan—that is, that in states in which the reform sentiment was strong the spoilsmen were to be resisted, but that in states in which the reform sentiment was weak they ought to be allowed to have their way. The result has been, both in Maryland and Indiana, a most shameful demoralization of the public service.—New York Evening Post, Mug.

False Exhibits of Economy.

Secretary Fairchild asks for a special appropriation of $450,000 in order to carry on the business of his department for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The appropriation would have been made large enough in the first place, if the Democrats in Congress had not desired to make a false show of economy by cutting down the estimates in an arbitrary and senseless fashion.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Signs of Victory.

The Republicans of congress and the country are united on the tariff question, and the Democrats are hopelessly divided. Shrewd observers, in putting the two circumstances together, are apt to conclude that the result must be Democratic defeat, especially as the tariff is likely to be the principal issue before the voters of the country this year.—Norristown Herald.

Cleveland's Hypocrisy.

President Cleveland says it is impossible to give reasons for the removal of Federal officials. What Cleveland really meant was that reasons could not be given without more clearly exposing the sham and hypocrisy of the reform claims of the present administration.—Philadelphia Press.

Fifteen Hundred Foot Seaweed.

Californian big trees will have to take a second place as botanical giants now that the ocean has undertaken to beat the land in the size of its products. Capt. John Stone, of the ship Clever, picked up a seaweed on the Atlantic near the equator that was 1,500 feet long. It was an alga, and has been identified as a specimen of macroceptis pyrifera.—Philadelphia Times.

When Dudes Meet.

"Good mornin', Jones."
"Good mornin'."
"Beastly mornin'."
"Beastly."—Hatchet.

Syrup of Figs

Is Nature's own true laxative. It is the most easily taken, and the most effective remedy known to Cleanse the System when Bilious or Costive; to dispel Headaches, Colds and Fevers; to cure Habitual Constipation, Indigestion, Piles, etc. Manufactured only by the California Fig Syrup Company, San Francisco, Cal. For sale only by Dowty & Becher. 27-y

FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN

EVERY DAY SUBJECTS CONSIDERED IN A PRACTICAL MANNER.

Some Timely Statements in Regard to the Relative Merits of Barn Yard and Commercial Manures, from an Economic Point of View.

There is no subject of more vital importance to the farming interest at the present time than that of manures. How to supplement the accumulations of home made manures with least outlay of money and time and greatest benefit to the farm, is as yet an open question with some, though many farmers have accepted commercial fertilizers as an easy solution of the problem.

There are not a few cultivators who assert that the commercial manures are stimulants rather than fertilizers, and ask the very pertinent question how a few hundred pounds of these made fertilizers can cause such a large increase as has been gained, for instance with wheat, in any other way than by forcing the soil to part with some elements necessary to plant growth which it was holding in reserve after having given up all it could spare to former crops. These objectors state the case with plausibility and also with some truth, unless the use of the artificial fertilizers is alternated with substances of a grosser and more material kind, when their continued employment must be a positive advantage. The true theory of successful farming is the rotation and variety of manures as well as rotation of crops, all being useful and necessary in their turn. Where this rule is observed lands may not only be made to make remunerative returns every year in grain or grass, but also increase in general productiveness under good cultivation.

At the head of all fertilizers stands the product of the barn yard, not only on account of its general distribution, but also for the reason that as it has been wholly derived from the land it contains all the elements necessary to be returned to it. Clover in the north and cow peas in the south offer to each section ready and reliable fertilizers, valuable not only for their chemical properties, but especially for their usefulness in mechanically changing the character of hard and compact soils. Along with these are the numerous kinds of commercial manures, the trustworthy brands of which contain in fair proportions the elements found in those from the stable, with the important exception that they cannot form vegetable mold, which is just as necessary to a well constituted soil as its mineral and chemical elements.

The following formula, made by the Mapes company, indicates about the average chemical composition of many of the well known commercial brands, along with the other necessary ingredients. Ammonia, 4 to 5 per cent.; phosphoric acid, 10 to 12, and potash, 4 to 5 per cent. The analyses of scientists make it appear that a ton of average barn yard manure contains about 10 pounds nitrogen, 12 pounds potash and 5 pounds phosphoric acid. It must, however, be understood that these amounts will vary according to the condition of the manure and the food out of which it was made.

What Others Say.

Experience has not yet developed a suitable mixture or combination of grasses that will give an all the year round pasture. Rye—or barley, if the soil is rich—make a winter pasture that leaves nothing to be desired except the feature of permanency, says Southern Cultivator.

It is settled that in the hands of some men some incubators will hatch a large percentage of the fertile eggs. About this matter there can be no dispute says Poultry World.

The Spaulding plums, according to J. T. Lovett, is sure curculio proof.

W. F. Brown, in Country Gentlemen, claims that loss of ice generally is caused by one of three things: 1. Too small a bulk stored. 2. Neglect to keep it well covered and solidly packed. 3. Allowing the wet packing to accumulate until it generates heat. Other material may be as good as sawdust for packing, but I have had experience with none but sawdust.

Matthew Crawford, of Ohio, recommends shallow culture for blackberries. Some very successful plantations are never cultivated, but receive special mulchings.

The Rural New Yorker says that the system of threshing corn fodder ranks with the silo as a measure of farm economy. Corn and stalks must be perfectly dry to realize the best results. A better machine for the purpose than the ordinary threshing machine is needed.

Lime for Poultry.

It is perfectly true that all the grains used in feeding poultry contain a greater or less percentage of lime, and that if no other supply is furnished the eggs which are laid will generally be inclosed in a shell that is very largely composed of lime. It is also perfectly true, adds The Poultry World, that the universal experience as well as the general practice is to provide lime in some additional form, and that such provision pays.

The methods of giving this additional supply are to furnish ground oyster shells, granulated bone, cracked bone, bone meal, old plaster, sea shells, slaked lime allowed to cool and become crumbly, air slaked lime and the like. When cracked oyster shells, granulated bone, sea shells, old plaster and water or air slaked lime are used it is customary to provide vessels and keep the lime before them at all times. A self feeding hopper, such as is used by pigeon men for feeding their pets, is a very convenient receptacle for lime in these forms. Bone meal is usually mixed with the soft food, and its consumption in that way assured. We think the former method, however, except in the case of very young chickens, the better one, as it is but little labor to fill the hopper, and the fowls will eat all they wish and need no more. Furnish the hens with lime, and thus prevent soft shelled eggs, and, we might truthfully add, get more good eggs.

LABELS FOR TREES AND PLANTS.

Various Methods Practiced, Including Permanent and Transient Labels.

The subject for consideration at a late meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural society was, "Methods of Labeling Trees and Plants." In an essay on the subject read by Robert T. Jackson, the suggestion is made that as labor costs generally more than anything else it is economy to provide good labels—labels that will last a long time. Metals were named as best material for durability. Zinc is the metal most commonly used, as it is reasonably imperishable, cheap and readily handled. Bright, clean zinc may be written on with an aqueous solution of chloride of platinum or chloride of copper—the former is probably the better. They may be obtained of chemists or purchased under the name of chemical inks for zinc labels. A quill pen should be used in writing with them. The zinc should be prepared for them by cleaning with fine emery paper or very weak muriatic acid, the latter being preferable, as it is not so likely to be followed by extensive oxidization, so injurious to the writing. Use a rag dipped in weak acid and rinse in clean water. After writing nothing further is necessary. Zinc, when slightly roughened by oxidization, may be written upon with a soft lead pencil, and the graphite soon becomes indelibly fixed on the zinc, and is quite as permanent as chemical ink. The labels may be sufficiently oxidized by leaving them a few weeks in a damp place. This is much the quickest way of making any metal labels, and makes one of the best labels for outdoor purposes. They have been seen perfectly clear after ten years' exposure.

Zinc labels may also have the names of plants or catalogue numbers stamped with steel dies. The letters are rendered clearer by rubbing black paint into the lines after stamping. This is an extremely good and permanent method, but if the labor of stamping is to be expended it would be better to use copper or pure tin.

Iron or tinned iron is frequently used for labels especially for trees and botanic gardens. The surface is first painted a neutral color and the name is then painted in a contrasting color. This makes an expensive but very neat and attractive label where large ones are needed. Good examples may be seen on the trees on Boston common, which are painted in two shades of brown.

White pine is the wood in most common use, and is presumably the best of easily obtained woods. Probably the best way to preserve wood to be written on is to soak it in linseed oil, and then to paint on both sides, reserving a space for writing. Thin garden labels so prepared have been perfectly sound after nine years exposure in the grounds.

The active horticulturist has frequent needs for a transient label, as for hybridized flowers, seedlings to be separated out at the end of the season, etc. For such purposes paper labels, with a string looped through a perforation in the margin, such as are used in tagging goods, are very useful. They are easily attached to the plant or flower, and last perfectly well throughout the season.

Helpful Hints on Killing Weeds.

1. Plants cannot live indefinitely deprived of their leaves. Hence preventing their appearance above the surface will kill them sooner or later.

2. Plants have greater need for their leaves, and can be more easily killed in the growing season than when partially dormant.

3. Cultivation in a dry time is most injurious to weeds and beneficial to crops.

4. Avoid the introduction of weeds in manure or litter or from weedy surroundings. Some gardeners use no stable manure on grounds they desire to keep especially clean, relying on commercial fertilizers and the plowing under of green crops.

5. After a summer crop has ripened, instead of allowing the land to grow up to weeds it is often well to sow rye or some other crop to cover the ground and keep them down.

6. Give every part of the farm clean cultivation every few years either with a hoed crop or, if necessary, with a fallow.

7. It is often stated that cutting weeds while in flower will kill them. This is only reliable with biennials and with them only when done so late that much of the seed will grow.

8. If the ground is kept well occupied with other crops weeds will give much less trouble. Keep meadows and roadsides well seeded and plow land cultivated, except when shaded by crops.

Two Sides to Dehorning Cattle.

Readers are advised to consider both sides of the question of dehorning and not be carried away with the enthusiasm of its advocates. Hoard's Dairyman warns against dehorning, on the ground that dehorning is likely to impair the potency of the transmission of the butter function and to create a tendency toward the beef temperament and type. In this same journal it is told that C. E. Gordon, of Milwaukee, president of the Humane Society of Wisconsin, on being interviewed on the subject of dehorning said that "while the society is not opposing the practice, it is withholding its decision until it sees more of the immediate results of it. It will not oppose it on the ground of cruelty, as it is conservative enough to see that temporary pain for a permanent benefit is not cruelty." A year or two will decide this matter and in the meantime those who cannot afford to experiment will do well to wait for the public verdict.

Mailing Unmounted Photos.

Unmounted photographs, etc., can be sent by mail without damage by rolling them around the outside of a light cylindrical piece of wood or bamboo, when a pasteboard tube cannot be obtained.—"T. P. D. G." in Writer.

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