

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

Farming Notes.

Mr. N. J. Shepherd is satisfied that a man could raise a good pig each year on what it costs to keep a useless dog.

Remember that 75 bushels of corn grown on an acre is cheaper than 100 bushels on two acres.

Do not work the boys too hard. They have been going to school and must get hardened by degrees.

An Indiana Farmer correspondent "learned the worst case of self-milking cow" by inserting in her nose a ring of two and a half or three inch diameter.

Plant and sow what you can raise the best on your farm and let the neighbors say and do what they please. Do not be afraid to make a new departure on your own judgment. Better trust your own than your neighbors.

Rhubarb. This plant, being among the first to furnish material for pies and sauce, should be among the first in the spring to receive our attention. If well prepared last autumn as it should have been, by a liberal cover of manure, there will be but little to do this spring but to fork in the manure and remove the old stalks.

No tree is equal to the Russian Mulberry for a wind-break, yet it makes a very rapid and, at the same time, low, bushy growth, that makes a complete barrier against the wind. The Gray Willow also grows fast on low, rich, moist land, and is a good wind-break.

An Indiana Farmer correspondent "leaves weeds far in the rear" by soaking Asparagus Seed in tepid water twenty-four hours, then putting it in a bag of thin muslin, burying in moist earth, and when sprouted planting in the bed prepared for it.

Vitality Of Seeds.

The farmer or gardener should run no risk in preparing for a crop. Reliable seed stores never sell at random, nor will they sell seeds after they have lost their vitality by age. Such stores frequently have large surplus of seeds left over, some of which are just as good at two, three, or even ten years of age as when fresh. But there are a majority of seeds though they may make a limited and feeble growth, have not the strength and vigor to produce strong shoots or crops. So we say, don't buy old seeds. And a large portion of those placed at stores and groceries to be sold on commission are of the lots saved over from last year, or from some seed raiser who sells without testing his seeds after the winter is passed. Prof. Beal, of the Michigan Agricultural College, tried the seeds sold at country stores on commission, obtaining lots from various places. He found that from twenty-two to forty-five per cent. of the seeds grew with the best of planting and careful attention so that thereafter the college bought no more garden seeds which are sold on commission. Lately we have heard men claiming that they had seed corn three years old just as good as it was two years ago. It is true seed corn two years old will grow if it had extra care, but not as certainly nor near as vigorous as the first spring after it is gathered. And we would discourage the planting of two years' old seed, if any good seed could be had for three or four dollars per bushel.—Des Moines Register.

Fern and Moss Trimmings.

Many useful articles can be ornamented with real ferns, mosses and flowers. Cut out in white cardboard a set of toilet mats, draw a scallop round them, taking half that circumference of cotton reel as a guide. Cut the scallops out with a sharp pair of scissors, and punch a hole in the center of each with a shoemaker's punch, a quarter of an inch across. The ferns, mosses, small flowers, &c., must now be prepared by pressing them with a hot iron, first covering them with one or two sheets of blotting paper. Now with a small brush cover all the underside of each leaf or flower with hot gelatine and water (half an ounce of gelatine to half a pint of water will be about the proportion), and lay it on the mat very carefully in the position you wish it to be, pressing firmly with a soft cloth on and off for a few minutes, till it is firmly fixed. Brush over both sides and the edges with hot gelatine. It is better to give it two coats before varnishing. These mats will wash with a little soap and water if they have been thoroughly gelatinized and varnished. The "stamped out" designs can be used in making these kind of mats, instead of ferns, &c.

How to Be a Good Wife.

Marriage with a worthy man is woman's privilege, and her best and highest development, mental and physical, can be attained in this state. Men and women were made for each other, and a very old, but nevertheless a true truism, is, that a happy marriage is the very garden of Eden. An unhappy marriage is the reverse, and the greatest of all calamities that can befall a pure, affectionate, and noble woman. Faith in God, and a strong resolve to do every duty, can alone keep such a one from absolute despair. Miss "Bradford" says, "a good woman who does not love her husband makes the best wife." If this is true, it is because she is controlled by duty, instead of the changing caprices of affection. "Trouble in the flesh" will come to every married couple. Why not expect it? The most married married

people I have ever known, were always quite willing, and even eager, to see their children settled for life in marriage, knowing that they would find shelter and protection thereby, if not in the affection at least by the law, which compels the husband to support the wife—a support perhaps meagre enough and grudgingly bestowed. Look around on all your friends, married or single, and ask yourselves the question, which is the preferable lot? If you are strong enough to fight alone the battle of life, to earn your own bread and butter, you are just in the condition to gain the respect at least of a husband, and having a hearty genuine respect, admiration and love are not far distant. The truth is, dear girls, too many enter this holy condition hoping to find in it only ease, adulation and pleasure. Such persons will find the reverse of what they seek. Read Tennyson's "Princess." Had not he the true conception of happiness in this condition?

A man must be bad, indeed, that can treat with disrespect a woman who respects herself! As a rule, a good woman will make a good home—we know exceptions to this; however. But if you have made up your minds to follow the bent of your own wills, and pave a way for yourselves, you may do well; but to those who intend to enter the married state, should a good opportunity come to them, I have only to say, see to it that you individually understand what is required of you as a wife. Be willing to make concession at any time if in the wrong, and, above all things, don't find fault with your husband before others.

Hard-Wood Floors.

The Decorator and Furnisher makes a very sensible protest against the use of very hard drying varnish for hard wood floors. Such fine hard finish "must and will scratch up with the nails in boots, every mark being permanent—at least it stays until the floor is again varnished, which those who have had experience know to be quite a job. Therefore the finish must be something that is soft without being sticky, so that whatever marks occur on the surface can easily be removed with a brush or cloth—something, in fact, that will work like the old-fashioned beeswax, without the excessive work necessary to apply and polish it, and yet be free from the stickiness attending the use of that article." There is a wax finish which is said to answer these conditions. With a new floor "the first thing to do after the floors are smoothed and sanded is to fill the grain of the wood thoroughly with some good patent filler, and the grain of the wood is brought out much better by using a dark filler, which fills in the soft porous parts of the wood, and when it is wiped off, the close, hard portions make a very pretty shading, and contrast with the darker portions." The lighter woods, oak, ash and yellow pine keep their good looks longer, under proper varnish, than the darker floors.

Methods of Watermelon Culture.

Either of the following methods seem to promise a good supply of melons for home consumption:

A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker describes the following method by which an extraordinary crop of watermelons was raised: Holes were dug ten feet apart each way, eighteen inches square and fifteen inches deep. These holes were filled with well rotted manure, which was thoroughly incorporated with the soil. A low, flat hill was then made and seed planted. When the vines were large enough to run the whole surface was covered to the depth of a foot or fifteen inches with wheat straw. The straw was placed close up around the vines. No cultivation whatever was given afterward; no weeds or grass grew. The vines spread over the straw, and the melons matured clean and nice. The yield was abundant and the experiment an entire success.

The editor of the Journal of Agriculture says:

We have a plan practiced in our own garden, but only for the purpose of producing some very fine specimens for our own use. A barrel, old and leaky, was set on the ground, a bank thrown up around it to within a foot of the top, and extending out say eight feet from it. In this bank, two feet from the barrel, was placed a sufficient number of seeds. The barrel was filled with well rotted manure, not so old of course as to have lost its strength. About every second day a few buckets of water, or as much as the barrel would hold, were thrown in on the manure, from which it would seep out through the cracks into the bank, and any person can imagine the effect. We had a crop of magnificent melons. Lest the watering might be neglected the barrel should be placed close to a pond or other water supply.

Raising Turkeys.

No surer crop can be raised, so far as the sale is concerned, than that of Turkeys. If a farmer has reasonable "luck"—that is, if he has as good luck as generally comes of intelligent care—he can make 1,000 pounds of Turkey meat for \$100 easily, and sell the same for \$200. This allows a high estimate for grain; for a flock of 100, \$65 would cover the grain fed. If they are killed before Thanksgiving they ought to average twelve pounds each which makes 1,200 in all. They will market at 20 cents per pound three years out of five, giving a net of \$240. Allowing \$40 for loss or lower prices there is still a comfortable margin of \$135 to pay for the trouble. In raising them afford every facility for the sitting of the turkeys as early as possible. Early turkeys are

twice as likely to live as late ones. When the young comes off, put them in little board pens in a warm place for a week or more, feeding them six or eight times a day with coarse meal and chopped hard-boiled eggs mixed with water, or, what is better, sour milk. As soon as they are strong enough, give them a pasture range at first, then turn them into a meadow, but by all means feed them at noon, and to this end drive them up to the house. This will get them accustomed to coming up for their dinner, and so they will not go far from home. See that they are always fully fed and safely housed at night, so that foxes and skunks will not and cannot destroy them. Make it a matter of thought to see that your turkeys are safe all summer. Begin to fatten in September and kill for Thanksgiving, and you will be able to put a few dollars in some near savings bank which you may honestly call pay for your care and work and profit on the grain fed. This business is not likely to be overdone, and therein lies the profit.

Simple Tests for the Purity of Water.

In suspected potable water for persons who cannot command chemical analysis, the following tests are recommended as being generally available and reliable.

Color.—Fill a bottle made of colorless glass with the water; look through the water at some black object; the water should appear perfectly colorless and free from suspended matter. A muddy or turbid appearance indicates the presence of soluble organic matter, or of soluble matter in suspension. It should be "clear as crystal."

Odor.—Empty out some of the water, leaving the bottle half full; cork up the bottle and place it for a few hours in a warm place; shake up the water, remove the cork and critically smell the air contained in the bottle. If it has any smell, and especially if the odor is in the least repulsive, the water should be rejected for domestic use. By heating the water to boiling, an odor is evolved sometimes that otherwise does not appear.

Taste.—Water fresh from the well is usually tasteless, even though it may contain a large amount of putrescible organic matter. Water for domestic use should be perfectly tasteless, and remain so even after it has been warmed, since warming often develops a taste in water which is tasteless when cold. If the water, at any time, has a repulsive or even disagreeable taste, it should be rejected.

Heisch's Test for Sewage Contamination.—The delicacy of the sense of smell or taste varies greatly in different individuals; one person may fail to detect the foul contamination of a given water, which would be very evident to a person of finer organization. But if the cause of bad smell or taste exists in water, the injurious effect on health will remain the same, whether recognized or not. Moreover, some water of very dangerous quality will fail to give any indication by smell or taste. For these reasons I attach special importance to Heisch's test for sewage contamination or the presence of putrescible organic matter. The test is so simple that any one can use it. Fill a clean pint bottle three-fourths full of the water to be tested, and dissolve in the water a teaspoonful of the purest sugar—loaf or granulated sugar will answer—cork the bottle and place it in a warm place for two days. If in twenty-four to forty-eight hours the water becomes cloudy or muddy, it is unfit for domestic use. If it remains perfectly clear it is probably safe to use.

Stopped His Paper.

This anecdote has been reprinted before, in point and substance, but we do not remember seeing the whole related in detail as a reminiscence of Mr. Greeley. It illustrates one of the traits which gave the great editor of the Tribune the title of "philosopher."

Passing down Newspaper Row, in New York City, one morning he met one of his readers, who exclaimed, "Mr. Greeley, after the article you published this morning, I intend to stop your paper!"

"Oh, no!" said Mr. Greeley don't do that.

"Yes, sir, my mind is made up, and I shall stop the paper." The angry subscriber was not to be appeased, and they separated. Late in the afternoon the two met again, when Mr. Greeley said,

"Mr. Thompson, I am very glad you did not carry out your threat this morning."

"What do you mean?"

"Why, you said you were going to stop my paper."

"And so I did. I went to the office and had your paper stopped."

"You are surely mistaken. I have just come from there, and the press was running and business booming."

"Sir," said Thomson, very pompously, "I meant I intended to stop my subscription to your paper."

"O!" rejoined Greeley; "I thought you were going to stop the running of my paper and knock me out of business. My friend, let me tell you something. One man is just a drop of water in the ocean. You did not set the machinery of this world in motion, and you can't stop it; and when you are underneath the ground, things upon the surface will wag on just the same as ever."—Yonkers Gazette.

Gen. Grant is expected to return to Washington in a few weeks to continue his treatment under Prof. Nissey, who uses the Swedish massage cure.

Artificial Legs and Arms.

"How many legs and arms do I turn out a year?" said a leading maker of artificial limbs, repeating a reporter's query. "About one limb a day, and I am only one of over fifty manufacturers in the country! Surprised at the demand? But think a moment. The late war caused over 22,000 cripples, about equally divided between the blue and the gray. Many of these exchanged their 'peg-legs' as soon as possible for the regular trade article, (Congress allows cripples on the Union side, rank and file, of the land or naval force a new limb, free of cost to them.) and these artificial limbs have to be renewed occasionally—the Union cripples being allowed a new article every five years.

"But this is not all. Let me tell you that my experience goes to show—and I have made over 7,000 limbs—that the railroad catastrophes and other kinds of accidents prevalent kept up a strong demand; such accidents cause three cripples where the war did one, or, to put it another way, that the railroads cause each year as many cripples as any year of the war caused. A 100,000 would be too small a figure to include all of the 'maimed and the halt' among us. But the streets would seem to show a different story, you say? Because, my dear fellow, the science of manufacture has greatly reduced the evidence of a person's wearing artificial limbs. The old leg, with its complicated machinery in the shape of cogged wheels, steel springs, &c., caused a rattling noise that gave notice to those in the vicinity that a 'game leg' was abroad. Now all this is changed. Could anything be simpler in construction than this shapely limb here, the knee-joint worked by a mere T-joint, and what is more important, the uncertain ankle-joint, and thumping wooden foot supplanted by a plastic, noiseless rubber foot fastened firmly to the leg? Or, look at this rubber hand fastened by a spring to the wooden arm—its fingers have annealed wire running through them, so that they can be put into different positions, and thus avoid that stiff sameness of appearance so common in artificial hands. In the palm, too, is a screw socket, into which can quickly be fitted a knife and fork for eating, a hand-brush for washing, a hook for lifting and carrying, &c., and even writing may be done, if the elbow-joint remains by a firm grasp of a pen or pencil which the thumb and first finger afford. All these improvements tend to draw attention away from cripples, and thus the apparently smaller number of such unfortunate is accounted for."

"Is not the use of the artificial leg extremely limited?" asked the reporter.

"A glance at these letters would probably surprise you on that point. Farmers, builders, express messengers, oystermen—in fact, all kinds of persons doing work that is heavy or that requires one to be much on his feet, apparently hold their own on wooden legs. Boys wearing them play ball, ride horseback, skate, etc.; girls dance with them, and, in short, there seems to be hardly any end to their practical usefulness. Did you know that there are quite a number of persons having both legs artificial, and that they go about freely? Tommy!" called the manufacturer at this point, "show us how you walk."

A young man of about 20 appeared, and with a slightly "cranky" motion walked, without a cane, rapidly up and down the room. "That boy," resumed the manufacturer, "had both his legs amputated—one above the knee and the other just below. He has walked a half-mile in nine minutes on his artificial legs."

"Will you tell me something of the material used, of prices, &c.?"

"Of course, the body of the leg is hollow. All sorts of material have been used—leather, German silver, papier-mache, and even corrugated iron! Paper to be light must be very thin, (paper as thick as wood is heavier, you know,) and this is fatal, because a stump is likely to change from time to time, and the alterations in the artificial leg thus made necessary may cause the thin paper to be whittled away in no time. Yellow willow is the material preferred, as it is both light and tough. It is molded to the shape of the leg, and then covered with thin buckskin having an enamel coating of the flesh tint. The soft finish of this is decidedly attractive. Of course, stockings or socks are worn, and the foot is properly 'booted.' The leg can be adjusted in a minute or two. The 'cork leg?' I'm afraid that is a bit of a myth, for I have been in this business over 25 years, and I have yet to see a single artificial leg made of cork. Prices are generally \$100 for a leg (and it should last about eight years on the average) and from \$50 to \$75 for an arm. True, that is about the same rate as just after the war, but every order is separate and individual; only once in my experience have two legs been exactly alike."

"How soon after amputation should an artificial limb be applied?"

"Now you raise a point in dispute between some surgeons and the artificial limb makers. There are surgeons who hold that a year should intervene. Others confirm my own belief that the delay should be only until the stump has thoroughly healed; for, after that point, the stump begins to deposit at its extremity a large amount of adipose tissue; its disuse begets weakness in the muscles—and these muscles are required to operate the artificial leg—and the art of locomotion on artificial legs being quite different from that with crutches, is picked up with considerable difficulty after a long experience with the latter."

Glittering Generalities.

Military authorities say that 1,000 of the best English soldiers with the improved arms can do ten times the execution that was done twenty years ago.

Chicago has now 3,098 saloons.

The Isle of Man is notoriously a resort for women. In 1881 the House of Eys passed a bill which conferred the same electoral privileges on men as on women. But, enlightened as it is in other respects, Man still groans under an upper Chamber; and that body refused to pass the bill in its entirety, and only allowed a £4 ownership qualification to give the vote to women.

Up to the present time the Sault St. Marie Canal has cost \$3,000,000.

The English House of Commons, by a vote of 149 to 79, rejected the bill to license cremation, on the ground that public sentiment is opposed to that process of disposing of the dead.

A sensation has been created in India by one of the leading journals advocating the remarriage of widows, a thing positively forbidden by their religious creed. A number of parents who have had one or more widows thrown on to their hands are strongly in favor of the change, but the strict religionists threaten to mob the paper and its supporters.

Friction matches of certain popular brands are selling here at \$2.70 and \$1.35 per case. A year ago the former, going at 144 boxes per case, sold at \$8.25, and the latter, 100 boxes to the case, at \$3.85. This little reduction of 50 to 60 per cent. in value is a consequence of the abolition of the stamp tax of about one cent per 100 matches.

In the middle ages child marriages were the regular thing among the royalty and nobility of Europe. In 1477, Richard, Duke of York, second son of Edward IV., was married to Anne Mowbray, Duchess of Norfolk in her own right. The bridegroom was not 5 years old, and the bride scarcely 3. They were very pretty children, and the ceremony is described as most affecting and beautiful. About a year later the child bride died, and at the age of 9 the boy bridegroom was smothered in the tower by the uncle for whom he had been named.

The officers of the British bark St. Lawrence, at Philadelphia, from Damerara, report a remarkable experience during the voyage. When about five hundred miles off Cape Hatteras the air suddenly became very dense, and great difficulty was experienced in breathing. A strong odor as of burning pine timber was also perceptible. The misty mass is described as of light bluish tint, forming a zone extending from the horizon toward the zenith about fifteen degrees. Within the radius of a mile the water was inky black.

Statistics of suicide compiled by the Insurance Chronicle show that 1,409 self-murders occurred in the United States during 1883. The compiler carefully classifies the returns under four heads, as "Number of Suicides" in the "Spring," "Summer," "Autumn" and "Winter," and confirms by his figures the accepted impression that people are most in danger from themselves in hot weather. The suicides of the Spring season of 1883 numbered 311, those of Summer 475, of Autumn 347, and of Winter 276. The propensity of men to suicide is decidedly marked as compared with women, the former numbering 1,083 of the 1,409.

Carlyle's Discourtesy.

Carlyle's power in the better days of his career was due to the fact that he appealed to man's faith in the infinite and eternal. He taught reverence for truth, justice and nobleness. When he descended to inculcate the worship of mere sincerity and force, and to exalt the self-willed, ambitious Frederick the Great as a hero, many of his disciples ceased to admire him. Those who visited him discovered that the man had become dogmatic, overbearing and even brutal.

An English writer tells an anecdote which exhibits the coarseness of Carlyle's nature. Leigh Hunt, the essayist and poet, was a chronic borrower, and Carlyle was among the friends from whom he occasionally sought pecuniary assistance.

Carlyle used to keep on his mantelpiece three sovereigns in a small package. He would call the attention of his visitors to them, remarking that they were "Leigh Hunt's sovereigns," because whenever the poet applied for a small loan these were intended for him. "Hunt," says the writer, "would have lent him three thousand sovereigns had he possessed them, and never disclosed the circumstance."

A foreign correspondent of the Boston Journal tells an anecdote which exhibits Carlyle's conduct to people he did not like.

W. H. Mallock, an English essayist and novelist, one day called upon Carlyle. Mr. Mallock, as was Carlyle, is a great talker, and on that evening, it is said, he left his host no opportunity to engage in the conversation, except as a listener. Carlyle invited Mallock to stay to tea, and afterwards had him in the library to smoke. When the guest took his leave, Carlyle accompanied him to the door, and said,—

"Well, good-by! I've received ye kindly, because I knew your mother; but I never want to set eyes on ye again!"—Youth's Companion.