

HOUSE AND FARM NOTES.

Household Scraps.

Dryness of air in a stove-heated room may be obviated by keeping water upon the stove.

Watering ivies with a weak solution of lime water, now and then, tends to promote vigor.

Cut away the stems of chrysanthemums when the flowers have faded and transport the pots to the cellar.

Plants will require less frequent bathing if they are covered with a light cloth before sweeping the room in which they are placed.

A solution of hen manure, in the proportion of a pint of the droppings to three pints of water, is very stimulating to house plants. Apply the liquid dressing once in ten days.

The best time for showering plants is in the morning before the sun shines on them. If other ways of sprinkling have not proved satisfactory, try dipping a brush-broom in water and shaking it over the plants.

Dust and marks of children's fingers can be removed from windows by rubbing them with a sponge which has been dipped in ammonia and water. To remove finger-marks from and restore lustre to the keys of a piano, wash off with a chamois skin wet with cold water; then rub the surface with sweet oil, mixed with half its quantity of turpentine.

When oiled walnut furniture begins to grow dingy, it can be made to look as fresh as new by re-oiling. Linseed or even olive oil can be used, but pure, good kerosene oil is much the best. Rub in well with a soft woolen rag, and polish with clean, dry flannel.

Feet that perspire, and emit a bad odor should be often washed—perhaps every night. After they have been washed, a two per cent. solution of carbolic acid should be applied. In such cases the stockings should be changed daily. Boots should be worn with inner soles. These can be taken out daily and dipped in a two per cent. solution of carbolic acid, and then dry before being used again. The bad odor is due to microscopic organisms. The acid kills them.

Persons who are troubled with chapped feet should soak them before retiring, in water as hot as can be borne, using ammonia or soap freely. Then having dried them with much friction, rub them with glycerine mixed with an equal quantity of carbolic acid, the latter two per cent. strong. The next night, and for a few nights if necessary, rub them again with glycerine, or with melted mutton or beef tallow. This process repeated from time to time will keep most feet soft and healthy.

The action of steam in cleaning clothes is to increase the solvent power of soap, water and other cleansing agents used. So far as we are able to judge, steam alone does not rot the clothes. This rotting is done by caustic potash, or soda, which makes the clothes white, but injures and finally destroys their fibre. The interest of the unconscious laundress is to get the clothes clean and white, even while doing so she destroys their texture with chemicals.

I saw a woman some years since 60 years of age, with golden brown hair so abundant and beautiful that she was accused of wearing a wig; and she told me that she had used, after a severe attack of fever, in order to retain her hair, a preparation of alcohol, castor oil and sulphur, combined in such proportions that it was of the consistency of milk. She bathed the scalp with this mixture thoroughly three or four times a week for a long time. She thought it prevented her hair from turning gray and made it what it was—the admiration of all who saw her. And it had no deleterious influence upon her general health. I have also known others to use a like preparation for the sole purpose of keeping back the silver hue that age will bring.

Many a woman feels disturbed and hurt of the frequent exhibitions of selfishness manifested by husband and sons in the home and in the family relations. She may never give any vent to her feeling in words or by impatient act or look, but she is conscious that an injustice is done to her by the male members of her family. In their daily going and coming out of and into the house, things are carelessly thrown and left for her to restore to their proper places. Her comfort and convenience are often ignored in the most heedless manner, and if she does ever venture a protest, be it as mild as may be, she is immediately snubbed, and, in time, submits for peace-sake.

Agricultural Condensations.

Add "plenty of water daily" to the directions for growing tender, crisp, early radishes in sand with manure and glass shelter as Croppie advises, and there is no surer or quicker way of drawing enjoyment from a bit of garden. Nothing can be better to excite interest in gardening operations, and to make home seem the best place on earth to a child who begins to look away from it, than to occupy him or her with this quick, pleasant, easy way of contributing to the home resources and delights.

An Iowa paper, The Waverly Republican, mentioned that not a mortgage of any kind has been filed in Bremer County during the last five or six months—"a sign of hard times, for the recorders." But the State, as a whole, sends out each year millions of interest money to non-residents. Which prompts the comment that "it will be a happy day when our debts are paid and enough live stock raised to consume all the grain."

As you value cows that don't kick, do not leave the milking of heifers with their first calves to careless hands. Usually the udders of heifer mothers are tender when full of milk, and the act of milking is painful, hence a great deal of gentleness and care must be exercised, or else kicking may be encouraged. With exercising patience and kindness at the first there will be no danger of this bad habit.

Professor Henry says: "I would urge that our farmers give more oats to young stock, colts as well as calves. There is no feed so easily attainable that will so well correct acidity of the stomach and keep the whole system in good order. To those who wish to raise calves on very little milk, I would say, use oats and oil meal freely, and by studying the wants of the calves you will be able to raise fine animals on a small allowance of milk."

We believe that the table of the average city man is better supplied with vegetables and fruits than that of the average farmer with his acres. No one is to blame for this but the farmer himself. He thinks he cannot afford to "putter away" his time in the garden, hence, this important department is neglected. This is a great mistake. There may be a profit in the garden on the farm as well as elsewhere.

When you go into the barn in the morning and see the cattle lying in a pool of their own filth, which forms icicles when they get up to eat, just think how you would feel in such a condition; and then set yourself to work again till all your stock have a dry place to lie in. This keeping cattle and colts covered with filth is a relic of barbarous laziness that is a disgrace to any farmer and costs more in feed than it saves in labor.

The Boston American Cultivator observes that "it must be gratifying to farmers to know that the future business of the country admittedly depends upon them. If crops move speedily after harvest and threshing, bankers and speculators are confident of rise in stock. The large crops at home and abroad render the idea prevalent that farmers must sell early. It is a matter of fact, however, that each year farmers are better able to hold crops for advance in prices. They are less dependent than formerly."

A common way of treating paint brushes when not in use is to stand them in water. This may be all well enough for a few days, but for any time longer it is bad treatment, causing the brush to be anything but soft and pliable. As soon as a job of painting is done, wash the brushes with use of hot water and soft soap, also using a little naphtha as needed. Then dry and wrap them in paper, and lay where you can put your hand on them when needed.

Timely Hints to Girls.

The girls who have poured over the pages of the little book "Don't," are now invited by an exchange to accept advice in regard to things that they should do.

Do be natural; a poor diamond is better than a good imitation.

Do try to be accurate, not only for your own sake, but for the sake of your sex; the incapacity of the female mind for accuracy is a standard argument against the equality of the sexes.

Do be exact in money matters; every debt you incur means loss to some one, probably to some one less able than yourself to bear it.

Do answer your letters soon after they are received, and do try to reply to them with some relation to their contents; a rambling, ill-considered letter is a satire upon your education.

Do, when you talk, keep your hands still.

Do observe; the faculty of observation well cultivated makes practical men and women.

Do attach as much importance to your mind as to your body.

Do try to remember where you put your gloves and card case; keep the former mended and the latter filled.

Do recollect that your health is more important than your amusement; you can live without one, but you will die early without the other.

Do try to be sensible; it is not a particular sign of superiority to talk like a fool.

Do put your hairpins in so that they will stay; it looks slovenly to say the least, to see them half dropping out.

Do be ready in time for church; if you do not respect yourself sufficiently to be punctual, respect the feelings of other people.

Do get up in time for breakfast.

Do avoid causes of irritation in your family circle; do reflect that home is the place in which to be agreeable.

Do be reticent; the world at large has no interest in your private affairs.

Do cultivate the habit of listening to others; it will make you an invaluable member of society, to say nothing of the

advantage it will be to you when you marry; every man likes to talk about himself; a good listener makes a delightful wife.

Do be contented; "martyrs" are detestable; a cheerful, happy spirit is infectious; you can carry it about with you like a sunny atmosphere.

Do avoid whispering; it is as bad as giggling; both are to be condemned; there is no excuse for either one of them; if you have anything to say, say it; if you have not, hold your tongue altogether; silence is golden.

Do be truthful; do avoid exaggeration; if you mean a mile say a mile, not a mile and a half; if you mean one say one, and not a dozen.

Revival of the Hoopskirt.

"Hoopskirts are certainly getting more popular every year," said a manufacturer to a reporter for the New York Mail and Express, "and in the course of a few years I firmly believe that we shall have the crinoline popular again."

"What do you attribute their increased popularity to?" "For sometime the Parisian fashion papers have been speaking in high terms of their use, and the modistes have advocated their use very largely. They are much preferable to the bustle. Manufacturers of the steel hoop have now perfected that article, and it is now made as pliable as a fabric. The new hoop is very different from the old crinoline. Twenty years ago they used to be made 90 to 100 inches in circumference, and we used to laugh at any as small as 90 inches; now they are made 54 and 56 inches in circumference. I expect in the course of a year or so to have them very popular. A lady who wears a hoopskirt of say 64 inches in circumference can make a much better display of her dress than without it. The style of wearing these handsomely embroidered fronts to dresses can be much improved on by the use of the skirts, the front being held more in position and not hanging carelessly."

Wheat for May.

Cereal production is thought by a correspondent of the London Post to be "a doomed industry" in Great Britain—on account of competition with other countries—and he suggests wheat lay for stock feeding as substitute, cutting and curing the crop "when yet green, before the ear has shown any symptoms of ripening." This would not exhaust the land like maturing of seed, it makes excellent fodder, "worth in England \$35 to \$40 the ton," and so consumed the manure would return to the soil nearly all the nutritive elements that had been taken from it. He adds: "In Australia, owing to the recent drought, I have turned all my wheat crops into hay, and have realized more than \$10 per acre over wheat in grain had I allowed them to ripen. The price there is \$20 a ton, without delivery. I hear of one firm of sheep growers feeding 40,000 sheep on it, and consuming 120 tons weekly. They have had all I could spare, which was a large quantity."

Horses to Be Watered Before Fed.

From the London Field.
Bearing in mind that the stomach of a horse is small in proportion to the size of his frame, he requires feeding often, and though three times a day is sufficient, four times is better. Unlike human beings, horses should drink before they eat, because, owing to the conformation of the horse, water does not remain in the stomach, but passes through it into a large intestine called the caecum. If the horse be fed first, the water passing through the stomach would be likely to carry with it particles of the food, and thus bring about colic. Whatever a groom may say, let a horse drink just as much as he likes. If he be watered four times a day he will never take very much or too much to be good for him. A horse, it must be remembered is fed on dry food, and this, with the strong work done by a hunter, always produces a feverishness, which a sufficiency of water tends to allay.

Successful Butter Making.

Mrs. Lucy McClary, Galesburg, Mich., who received \$15 from the State Agricultural Society for "Best Butter," 25lb., made in June, was not, as appears from the local Farmer, indebted to any of the supposed modern improvements in dairying, nor even to Jersey blood. The cows are common Shorthorn grades, pastured on clover and timothy, and having free access to pure water:
"The cream was set in pans, skimmed as soon as the milk was thick, and churned every other day in a rectangular churn. The milk was drawn off when the butter was gathered, and the butter washed, in the churn, with sweet skim milk. The butter was then taken into the tray and salted at the rate of two ounces per pound. It was then allowed to stand twelve hours, then the milk and brine were thoroughly worked out and the butter packed in a crock and tightly covered."

Hedge Plants for the Cold North.

The best wind-break in our cold climate is an evergreen one. This gives protection when most needed, which deciduous trees do not. Buckthorn is hardy, but not sufficiently vigorous. Spruce, especially the White Spruce (Picea alba) makes an excellent hedge, and grows fast. So does hemlock, but hemlock in an exposed place will winter kill at temperatures lower than 20 degrees below zero. In some places Ar-

bor-vitæ is winter-killed, but not by cold as much as by damp winds. This killing is most common near the sea. In Northern Vermont Arbor-vitæ seems never to be injured, and it grows very rapidly, even in a dry, poor soil. If, when a young orchard is set, the rows are run north-east and south-west, or nearly in these directions, and an Arbor-vitæ hedge is set between every three rows, the trees will be well protected from the wind. The Arbor-vitæ does not seem to injure the soil perceptibly for the fruit trees. I have seen orchards where the hedges had become 30 feet high, and so wide at the bottom that the nearest row of fruit trees (apples and pears) seemed to spring out from the edge of the hedge, yet the trees were large, thrifty, and productive, and the fruit very fine. I think it best to have no cross hedges, as they prevent a proper circulation of air, and experience has shown that they are quite unnecessary.

Travelling Incognito.

When sovereigns pay private visits to other States they are said to travel incognito (so as not to be known). They do this in order to avoid the pompous receptions and the firing of guns, to which they would have to submit, if they journeyed under their proper titles. Chambers's Journal says: When Queen Victoria goes to the continent, she is called Duchess of Lancaster, and foreign dignitaries who approach her are expected not to address her as Your Majesty.

This rule of etiquette is not always observed; but those who think that they are doing honor to the Queen by transgressing it are quite mistaken; for to ignore a sovereign's incognito is to be guilty of a piece of rudeness which would be promptly resented if committed by any person who was supposed to be in a position to know better.

It makes an enormous difference to equestrians, ladies-in-waiting, and maids of honor, whether they are travelling with a duchess or a queen.

A queen must not be spoken to unless she first speaks, and persons ought not to speak to one another in her presence. Nobody can sit down in a room where the queen is without being requested to do so; in the open air men must remain bareheaded when addressed by her majesty, and must not come nearer than three paces to her person.

All the rules are relaxed when the queen travels in some less than august capacity, and then the ladies and gentlemen of her escort behave in her presence as they would in that of any other lady.

The man who would be perfect in the knowledge of court ways has a great deal to learn about the times and circumstances when he may or may not do this and that.

Early Man in America.

According to Prof. Brinton, of the Academy of Natural Science, many important traces of early man are to be discovered in the Mississippi Valley. Near St. Paul begins the modified glacial drift of an intermediate glacial period. Fifteen feet below the surface are found stone implements and remains of workshops. In Patagonia remains of fires, tools and implements of bone were found. These things indicate a somewhat advanced stage of civilization and were left there before the horse was extinct. From these things it is inferred that a race, with rare types and characteristics, existed here as early, if not earlier, than elsewhere on the globe. The characteristics, of the American race is color changing from copper to white; stiff hair and little of it; forehead retreating, compressed at the sides, and low; eyes straight; noses dissimilar; mouth large; chin round, small and regular; expression hard and unpleasant. The sexes are much alike in appearance when they do not wear garments fashioned for the purpose of distinguishing them. The higher the development of man, the more pronounced is the distinction between the sexes.

Fresh and Stale Bread.

In reply to an inquirer, the Christian Union makes several statements about bread, which those anxious that "good digestion wait on appetite, and health on both," should heed. It says: "Fresh bread contains a large amount of water, about forty-five per cent., much of which is in a pure or uncombined state. Within two or three days after baking, chemical changes take place in the interior of the loaf, in which the greater portion of the water enters into a combination with the starch and gluten of the grain, giving to the bread the appearance of being lighter, although if placed upon the scales it will be found that it has lost scarcely anything in weight.

"The fact can be easily demonstrated by placing a stale loaf in a closely covered vessel, and putting it in a hot oven for half an hour. On breaking open such a loaf it will be found to possess all the characteristics of a newly baked loaf, the water having been driven out from a combination with the constituents of the flour by the heat.

A portion of the inside of a freshly baked loaf, when rubbed between the fingers, or when chewed, forms sticky, pasty mass, which is permeated by the digestive fluids with difficulty.

"Pieces of stale bread treated in the same manner, separate into small particles, which are readily acted upon by the digestive fluids. It is for this

reason chiefly that stale bread is so much more wholesome and digestible than freshly baked bread. It should be added that the indigestibility of warm bread is greatly increased by the addition of butter.

A Glimpse of Tilden's Home.

New York Letter in Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

Greystone is a huge pile of gneiss rock, quarried from the neighboring hills, and is very impressive from its very size. It contains ninety-nine rooms, and has a frontage of four hundred feet. In the center is a tall square tower. Its effectiveness is in its massiveness, and Mr. Cleveland might scour the banks of the Hudson without finding its equal in this and many other respects. The edifice stands in a park of one hundred and twenty acres of magnificent slopes, broad meadows, sequestered lawns and lovely glades and glens. From the uppermost room of the tower four hundred feet above the surface of the Hudson, the scene is magnificent. To the north are the Peekskill mountains and the environment of West Point. To the west are the Palisades; to the south the upper part of New York city, and the hills of Staten Island, while to the east are the sail-flecked waters of Long Island Sound. On every hand the prospect is not less beautiful than vast. Near the house are several large silver firs, which Mr. Tilden imported from Greece. These are interspersed with a unique and beautiful collection of trees and shrubs, among which are oaks and alders, purple beeches, and evergreens from the deepest shades of green to the richest shades of gold. Chief among the latter is a beautiful specimen of Japanese arbor-vitæ.

From the rear veranda the grounds descend by a succession of six terraces to the Hudson, four hundred yards distant. Standing directly west of the mansion is an oak tree that towers above the other monarchs of the forest. It is symmetrical almost to a fault and never fails to attract attention. Mr. Cleveland asked if there was any tradition connected with it. His host smilingly informed him that he knew of none, except that it had been dubbed the "Tilden Oak." The spread of his foliage is seventy feet.

The main hall of the building extends clear across, from east to west, and is lofty and wide. On the right is the secretary's office. The secretary, as he sits at his desk, can look at portraits of William Cullen Bryant, Charles O'Connor, and Samuel J. Tilden. Next to this room is a wide stairway and next to it the dressing room. At the end of the hall is the entrance to the rear piazza, and on the left side one may enter the reception room, the dining room or the library. Mr. Tilden's sleeping apartments and the chief guest's room are on the second floor. In the latter Mr. Cleveland slept. The furniture is of satin-wood, trimmed with bamboo. The room is twenty by forty feet in size and is perfect in its appointments. Not far from this room is another, fitted up with a handsome billiard table and other requirements of the game. The third floor is entirely occupied by sleeping rooms.

Ladies in the Gallery.

Ben: Perley Poore, in one of his interesting historical sketches, tells how ladies first came to attend the sessions of Congress and to hear the oratorical efforts of the members. At first, the notion that it was almost treasonable for a lady to enter the British Parliament Houses,—a notion long since obsolete in England,—was adopted in this country. But it was abandoned even while Washington was President.

Mr. Poore says that after the famous "Jay Treaty" had been ratified by the Senate and the president, in the face of intense popular opposition, the House came near refusing to make an appropriation to carry into effect, and warm debates ensued. One night at a party, Mrs. Langdon, of New Hampshire, expressed her regret to Hon. Fisher Ames, of Massachusetts, that she could not hear the arguments, especially his speeches.

Mr. Ames replied that he knew no reason why ladies should not be permitted to hear the debates.

"Then," replied Mrs. Langdon, "if you will let me know when you next intend to speak, I will make up a party of ladies and we will go and hear you."

The notice was given, the ladies went, and since then Congressional orators have always had lady listeners.

Down on Connecticut Yankees.

Looking over some old libers in the Surrogate's office at New York a clerk recently came across the will of Lewis Morris, dated November 16, 1760. The will contained the following provisions: "It is my desire that my son, Gouverneur Morris, may have the best education that is to be had in England or America, but my express will and direction are that he be never sent for that purpose to the colony of Connecticut, lest he should imbibe in his youth the low craft and cunning so incident to the people of that country, which is so interwoven in their constitution that all their art cannot disguise it from the world, tho' many of them, under the sanctified garb of religion, have endeavored to impose themselves on the world for honest men." Gouverneur Morris accordingly was sent to King's (now Columbia) College, and not to Yale.