THE INDIVIDUAL EAR.

Stop and Consider This Easy Way to

Lose on a Corn Crop. By J. B. PETERSEN, Kansas.

What constitutes an ideal ear of corn? This question must be answered

by every corn breeder if he wishes to

succeed. He must have an ideal in

mind and work to that end. The ear of

his ideal must be determined by the

condition of the soil and climate. In

buying seed corn it is not advisable to

Seed corn should not be shelled until

near planting time, but early in the spring a germination test should be

made of each ear and the poorest ears discarded and the good cars shelled

and the corn made ready for planting.

There is perhaps no one thing that

will do as much to increase the yield

of corn on every farm as the testing

of each ear to be used for seed. The

importance of discarding the ears that

are poor in vitality is essential when

we realize that one good ear will plant

The simplest and best method of test-

ing the germination of each ear is by

using a germination box. The most

convenient box is 3 by 4 feet, with

wire stretched crosswise forming

squares large enough to hold six to

eight kernels. Fill the box with sand.

Number each one of the squares, Take

a few kernels from each ear and put

in each of these squares. Then wet

the sand and place a damp cloth over

the box, keeping the sand and cloth

moist and warm. Keep a record of

the time of germination and note the

What Eight Good Ears Will Do.

step is to prepare the corn for the

planter-by removing the mixed ker-nels, the ununiform kernels; the in-

jured or rotten kernels and the tip and

butt kernels, when the corn should be

The value of testing the vitality of

corn which is intended for seed can-

not be overestimated. It is strange

how many farmers, even today, are

willing to plant corn without the least

certalaty that the seed will garminate

and produce good, healthy plants.

There are thousands of acres that have

been planted over each year on account of the poor vitality of the seed.

I wish each farmer would stop to

consider this. Get a seed tester and

test your seed this spring. The vitali-

ty of each individual ear of corn in-

tended for planting may be determin-

keeping the good ears for seed. Some

farmers say they have not the time to

Stop and consider that it only takes

from eight to ten good ears for each

acre. Suppose you plant an ear of

low vitality. Then you are losing one-

eighth of your crop, and it takes only

Apples on Long Island.

Long Island in the past was noted

many rare foreign trees are thriving

today on its ideal soil, with its mild

climate to back it. It has developed

some of the finest apples known,

among them the Newtown Pippin, both

green and yellow; Flushing Spitzen-

burg, Long Island Russet, Long Island

Seek No Further and other varieties.

The Yellow Newtown Pippin is un-

doubtedly the most widely known of

all apples. It is unsurpassed as a des-

sert or a cooking apple, and for cider

it stands unique both in clearness and

high quality. They are known in some

sections as Albemarle Pippin, but all

came from a seedling originating at

Newtown, N. Y. Introduced into Eu-

rope by Benjamin Franklin in 1759, it

still brings two and even three times

as much as any other apple. It bears

annually; hence it is an all around

Southport Globe Onions.

Connecticut's famous Southport Globe

onions stand unsurpassed among popu-

lar American varieties of the onlon.

They are in high favor in some of the

finest commercial onlon growing dis-

tricts of Ohio and New York and dur-

ing a few years past have made a

steady advance in standing everywhere

as a highly bred, perfect onion. East-

ern onion growers use the red and

white Southport Globes to produce

the exceptionally large, solid, beauti-

fully formed bulbs that bring top

prices in the New York city markets.

Besides the two varieties named,

SOUTHPORT WHITE GLOBE.

resembles the others in shape and gen-

eral character, but is of a rich yellow

The white is one of those beautifully

white, perfectly globe shaped onions

that take the eye and bring highest

price in any market. Its skin is thin

and paperilke, the flesh fine grained,

crisp and mild flavored. Add to this

that it is a tremendous cropper, and it

represents almost an ideal product in

there is a yellow Southport Globe that

"good thing."-H. B. Fullerton,

You can discard the poor ears

After the germination test the next

kernels which fall to grow.

carefully shelled.

test the seed.

one-eighth of an acre.

secure it from a long distance.



HENHOUSE CONSTRUCTION.

When you are building that hennery remember what Uncle Pete says, "If youse k'rect, git thar." You should know how to build to make your flock comfortable, keep them healthy, make them lay and pay. The house should be substantial, presentable and not a financial embarrassment.

Have you the know-how? Better not quit kindergarten too soon. Better learn to swim doggy in the creek before you try to do broad stroke stunts in the river. You must use your think machine, but before you turn on the wheels you must not forget that you can't manufacture practical ideas unless you have practical raw material stored back to work into the finished product. This is derived from practical experience and is worked up into burnished brain. Burnished brain is not just mere brain any more than a good poultry house is an ordinary brain storm. You must build to sult your climate, to suit the lay of the land, to fit your flock, to secure the best sanitary conditions and reap all the natural advantages possible. Study

In a warm climate a cool house is necessary. The California "mushroom house" is excellent-simply a hip roof house set on thirty inch legs, open around the base, sides covered with olled sacking or board; in a temperate region simply a well ventilated house; north, stock must be protected from cold. This means larger buildings, as there is not free range in win-The usual winter house is the long scratching shed with open front and closed roost or windows, as pre-

Decide on a place for the foundation and get run of ground before you perfeet plan. May not fit. Say ground slopes from west to east and building is to be 170 by 12, composed of a two story building, 20 by 20, for engine, mills, well, grain, etc., and two seventy-five foot wings. When you've laid stone ninety-five feet you find, if continued in straight line, the foundation will be fifteen feet high at the end. a few minutes to make the germina-Not much. Just let ninetyfive feet of stone stand and run the other wing south from lower corner. You thus have a right angle with administration building on corner. A hip roof, cupola and flagstaff on the corner make a right angle picture. East wing gets morning sun; south, the long sun exposure. Small openings on wing sides, and you have three yards, one a fine protected square for hens and fruit. A drop of two feet in foundation of wings gives each wing one room nine feet high in front, seven back; the other, seven high in front

and five in back, with shed roof level. Partition wings in center to avoid drafts; eight double sash, four ventilators to a wing, with floor of ground, cement or board, two feet above surface; dead air space in walls and everything tight, and you have a good house for 500 Leghorns or 350 Rocks. To be sanitary the water should run away from building and soil should quickly absorb moisture and droppings. Sandy gravel is best. Plant fruit for shade. With windows six to twelve inches from floor and ventilators well regulated, you have a well aired, dry, sunshiny house.

The more birds the more care. Now, if your ground is watered by a silvery stream and is sufficiently large to produce the grain and you are not a kid glove pessimist, but put brain, brawn and horse sense back of the pushcart, you'll be in it.

DON'TS. Don't set any kind of a hen simply because you are auxious for early

it grows scarcer. Better buy wheat for the summer. Don't write us about your chicks

Don't forget that feed gets higher as

having indigestion if you give them no grit. That takes grit!

Don't forget to sow sunflower seed this spring. They add to the appearance of your place and add to the ra-

Don't brag when a hen lays a double yolk egg. It's a sign of overfat. The

egg has one more yolk, but you may have one less hen from apoplexy. Don't put all the eggs into one basket. Sort them into sizes and see that

your good cash customers get the big ones and a baker's dozen occasionally. Don't forget to place some straw in protected corners for your turkey nests.

The old hen will be on the lookout for a soft place, and you'll keep her near home by the trick. Don't forget that sunflower seeds

have much moisture and must be spread well to dry. The chickens and sparrows will save you the trouble if they have half a chance.

Don't send your breeding eggs to the store if you have a surplus. Put them up in water glass for family use in winter. Keep no males among your market egg layers. Germless eggs keep longer, and the fellow who buys hatching eggs at the store to steal a march on you will get left.

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What Is a "Stickit Minister?"

plied to Dominie Sampson where he is

from that of sticking or stabbing, with

which it could never possibly be con-

tish tongue. A "stibbler" was a har-

vester whose duty it was to keep in

The sense in which "stickit" is ap-

The enterprising merchants of one western town that we read of the other day have arranged to offer substantial prizes to those farmers whose land adjoins the main thoroughfares leading into the city who shall keep the section of road next their places in the best condition with the King road drag. While the move is rightly termed a public spirited one, the merchants have figured that the improved condition of the roads will tend to increase the travel into town and the business resulting therefrom sufficiently to reimburse them for the expense they may lucur in providing the prizes in question. The move is thus a piece of farsighted, wholesome selfishness.

We Americans might be a deal more nospitable than we are if we were only ontent to entertain our neighbors and friends upon a more modest and simple scale. Too often it is the case that when the company is gone the good bousewife beaves a sigh of relief, which may be usually interpreted to mean that she is pretty well tired out and right glad that the ordenl is over While it is much easier to say than do, the having of company ought to result in change and a recuperation rather than a depletion of strength and vitality. And until this order of things is brought about the largest service that we can render our friends or that can be rendered as by our friends will be impossible of realiza-

If the small grain that is to be used for seed is infected with smut, the est method of correcting the difficulty is to treat it with a formalin solution. Where regular machines for this purpose are not available very satisfactory results can be secured by spreading the grain in a pile about eight inches deep on the barn or granery floor and sprinkling it thoroughly with a solution made by mixing one saif pint of formalin with twenty-five gailons of water. After the sprinkling done the pile of grain should be shoveled over thoroughly so that each ternel of grain will be sure to get moistened. When the pile has been allowed to remain in this condition we hours, it should be shoveled over again several times and scattered out so as to dry. The treatment should be given if possible within twentyfor its trees, both fruit and foliage, and four hours of seeding.

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"WEAR

LIKE

IRON"

the wake of the reapers (in the days of the sickle) and cut or pluck and gather from the stubble what one and another had left untouched. So a probationer or a preacher without a charge, preached vicariously as he could find opportunity, and if he never received a perma- Princuitte, nent appointment in the church, but lapsed into the melancholy monotony of a dominie's tyranny, he was as one that had failed or stuck-"a stickit stibbler" or "a stickit minister."-Loudon Notes and Queries. How the Curies Found Radium. They boiled the waste pitchblende

for days and days with water and soda over a slow fire. They emptied it into barrels and allowed it to settle into a mud, says a writer in the Philadelphia North American of Mme. Slidowska Curie and her husband, the discoverers of radium. They washed the mud and washed it again. Then they a red it afresh, with carbonate of soda. They let the mud settle anew and commenc ed afresh to wash it. They treated the final sedlinent with hydrochloric acid and secured a coloriess liquid, which they subjected to a series of reactions and crystallizations, followed by refinings and rerefinings, until in the end they had several infinitely tiny flakes. And these were radium. In the course of their experiments they discovered polonium, named for Mme, Curie's native land, and actinium, as well as ra-

Walking Ruins.

"Once when I was abroad," said a New England congressman, "I met a fellow countryman in Italy who was touring the old world. What he was bound to have was ruins. 'His system craved them,' he said; 'the more ancient the better,' I fell in with him in London a few months later. He had just arrived, but he bore a disgusted countenance. As soon as he had greeted me he hailed a friendly bobby. " 'Say.' said he, 'ain't there any ruins

"'Yes, sir: plenty of them,' the bobby replied, 'but they're walkin' round

in the street, sir." "By thunder, so they are!" exclaimed my western friend, with a grin of

"And from that on," laughed the congressman, "he was perfectly satis-

A Good Retort.

Thackeray was not a vain man, and he disliked vanity in others and made it the subject of his ridicule and sarcasm. After long pleading his family induced him to have his portrait painted, and Lawrence, a famous London artist, gladly undertook the task. Soon the picture was completed Thackeray chanced to be dining at his club, when a pompous officer of the guards stopped beside the table

and said: "Haw, Thackeray, old boy, I hear Lawrence has been painting yer por-

"So he has," was the response. "Full length?"

"No. Full length portraits are for soldiers, that we may see their spurs. But the other end of the man is the principal thing with authors," said Thackeray.

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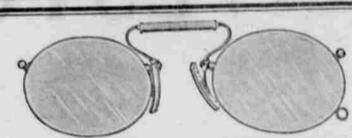
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