CARE OF INVALIDS.

Hints for Nurses and Others Having Charge of Sick-Rooms.

A large, sunny room should be selected for the invalid; if without a carpet, so much the better. Sunshine as a disinfectant is worth bushels of chloride of lime.

The bed linen should be changed at least once in three days; the blankets once a week, those that have been removed being hung in the open air for a few hours, then thoroughly aired in a warm room.

The room should be kept thoroughly ventilated, and a temperature not lower than 68° nor higher than 70°. If the patient is kept warm, air may be freely admitted without the least danger.

The carpet of a sick-room should be lightly brushed once a day with a wetted broom. The furniture and woodwork should be wiped with a damp cloth. Dry dusters and feather brushes are worse than useless.

The cross-sheet should invariably be kept free from crumbs and wrinkles, as these are a frequent cause of bed-sores. Whenever the least redness shows on the patient's body the skin must be at once bathed with alcohol, thoroughly dried and dusted with powdered oxide of zinc.

A sheet folded lengthwise, laid across the bed, with the upper edge just touching the pillows and the ends lightly tucked under the mattresses, will be found to add greatly to the patient's comfort. It does not wrinkle like a single sheet, and crumbs may be readily brushed off it.

The nurse's dress should invariably be neat, tasteful and pretty. Slippers or boots of felt should be worn. To be continually smoothing the bed, pestering the patient with sympathy, and saying a dozen times an hour: "How do you feel now?" is enough to drive a sick man wild.

Meals for invalids should look as tempting as possible. The tray should be covered with the whitest napkin, and the silver, glass and china should shine with cleanliness. The patient should not be disgusted by a display of too much food, and should not be consulted beforehand as to what he will eat or drink.

In bathing the invalid never uncover too large a surface at once. Pin a blanket round the shoulders, fastening it behind, and remove the night dress under that. Put the hand under the blanket and sponge the skin, a small portion at a time. A woman's hair should be combed every day if she is able to bear the fatigue. If it has become tangled a little sweet oil will loosen it.

Household troubles should be kept far from the sick room. Above all, an invalid or an apparent convalescent should be saved from his friends. One garrulous acquaintance may in half an hour undo the good of a week of tender nursing. In long illness a small bed table will be found indispensable. Every cup, glass, spoon and utensil used should be taken out of the room and washed as speedily as possible. As to walking on tiptoe and whispering, nothing can disturb a nervous person more.—Home Topics.

AMONG THE POULTRY.

A Breeder Tells How to Care for Fowls of Every Description.

Sulphur is not good to give the young chickens.

Kerosene and lard make a good ointment for scaly legs.

After the chickens are two or three weeks old they can be fed on cracked wheat.

If the eggs are to be hatched keep a drake for every five ducks in order to be sure.

Never keep a slop hole where the poultry can help themselves if you expect to maintain health.

One advantage with ducks is that they do not harbor lice. They have too much oil.

One advantage with Pekin ducks is that only a low fence is needed to confine or keep them out.

On the farm the laying of five dozen eggs ought to pay for keeping a hen a year. All above this is profit. On the farm it will nearly always pay to plant a few rows of sunflower seed especially for the poultry. Geese are fond of weeds, especially of purslane, and will often do good service in killing out and destroying weeds. Very often a few drops of turpentine put in the drinking water at this time will prevent the gapes. If the chicks are already affected, a drop or two on a small piece of bread will cure. As a rule guineas should be hatched under hens near the house. They are naturally rather wild, and this will aid materially in making them gentle, if the young guineas are kept near the house.

Milk is much better food for poultry during the summer than corn. Corn is heating and fattening, two conditions that, as a rule, ought to be avoided, unless feeding for the market.

The value of the manure should always be considered in keeping poultry properly managed. It is one of the best fertilizers that can be had and is well worth the trouble of gathering up and storing until ready to use.

Care must be taken that the nests are kept as free from lice as possible. One way of doing this will be to clean out occasionally and substitute fresh, clean material, burning up the old and using kerosene, carbolic acid or sulphur to clean out the nests.

As the weather becomes warmer it is necessary to provide good ventilation and the more thoroughly this is done the more comfortable the poultry can be kept. Direct drafts should, however, be avoided, and yet at night, during the summer time, care should be taken to have as cool as possible.—St. Louis Republic.

—The American Sunday-School Union has organized, during the past year, 1,758 Sunday-schools in thirty-one States and Territories, in places hitherto destitute of religious privileges. It also gave aid to other needy schools in 6,438 instances. In many cases the schools have developed into churches of different denominations. It also distributed, by sale and gift, 8,588 Bibles and 11,663 Testaments, and made 40,041 visits to families. In the winter its missionaries conducted evangelistic work, and gathered many hundred souls into the churches.

THE LOTUS IN AMERICA.

An Oriental Plant Brought Hither in Prehistoric Times.

Seeing how forcibly this wonderful flower of the lotus impressed itself upon the minds of the ancient Egyptians and the East generally, how prominently it figures in Eastern religions—"all idols of Buddha are made to rest upon opened lotus flowers"—it is safe to conclude that when familiar to all, even in this utilitarian age, it will not be merely ranked as one of many flowering plants; it is of too commanding an appearance for this, and to literature will prove a boon. Asters, golden-rods and buttercups can have a well-earned rest.

Years ago the cultivation of the American species proved a failure, and those who are now best capable of judging still record the curious fact that the native lotus is much more difficult to establish in our waters than the Eastern, and does not grow with quite the same luxuriance. Its introduction by aborigines along our Eastern sea-board has been mentioned; perhaps it has lost vigor since it lost their care, and has disappeared excepting where its environment was peculiarly favorable. And the question arises, after all, is it in the strict sense a native? May it not, indeed, have been brought hither in prehistoric times? The question of a superlatively ancient communication between the continents is a tempting subject for study, and how appropriate when resting in the shade of the Eastern lotus! Such a train of thought need not stir up any ghost of a mythical lost Atlantis. Still the American form has certain marked peculiarities. The mature torus has a decided constriction some distance from the insertion of the stem, wanting in the foreign species, and the seeds of the former are globular instead of distinctly oval. Whatever the history of the American form, that of the Eastern, or Egyptian, as it is usually called, is too well known to need repeating, however briefly, and yet the plant is still wrapt in mystery. A word, however, concerning the term Egyptian in connection with it. At present it is a plant of India, of China and Japan, Australia, the Malay Archipelago and the Caspian sea—an enormous range; but it is no longer found in the valley of the Nile. The use of the name rests upon the fact that it was there, not only a cultivated plant, but held sacred by the people of that country, as it is by the Hindoos. Egyptologists, however, are not of one mind as to the relation of the lotus to the antiquities of the Nile region, some questioning the matter altogether, and considering the sculpturing to represent the lily of the Nile, one of the grandest of the white nymphæas. Quite recently, too, it has been ably argued to be the renowned rose of Sharon. "Of such a kingly flower Solomon might well have said, 'I am the rose of Sharon.'"—Dr. Charles C. Abbott, in Harper's Magazine.

THE CROWN OF THORNS.

A Popular Error Which Has Been Sanctioned by Artists.

I know the masters of painting from Giotto in his wonderful "Ecce Homo" down to the present time have depicted the crown that rested upon the head of our crucified Saviour as a twisted branch of bare thorns, and that is, so far as I know, universally accepted as the true crown.

Some years ago an incident that occurred in the Holy Land caused me to think that this popular belief may be a mistake. A party of us who were journeying toward Jerusalem at this season of the year, which is identical with the passion and death of the master, had stopped to rest and lunch just after entering the hill country, some miles beyond Ramleh, when a lady of the party who was gathering the beautiful flowers that covered the landscape on all sides wreathed an exquisite spray, and holding it up exclaimed: "The crown of thorns!"

Our party were delighted with the wreath and upon examining it we found that long sharp thorns were concealed by the lovely pink flowers. We were convinced that this was the true crown, and as we advanced toward Jerusalem we saw that the whole country, even to the walls of the city, was covered with this flowering thorn.

The plant and flower are very similar to what we commonly call the flowering almond, with the addition of the thorn. The bloom is very thick, so that by merely entwining a branch a wreath is made, while the long, sharp thorns set out at right angles about an inch apart make it a very painful crown to wear upon the human brow.

When we remember that the soldiers who dressed our Saviour with the purple robe and crown did it as a mockery, it is reasonable to believe that they chose this plant, which was so accessible and would make a beautiful appearance, while at the same time wounding his holy brow.

Many who have visited Palestine at this season of the year have doubtless had this suggested to them, yet I have never seen comments upon it in any book of travels.—Letter in N. Y. Herald.

—Miss Fussanfeathers—Mr. Bacon always does the right thing at the right time. Mrs. Yeast—How so? "Why he proposed for my hand on Sunday." "And was Sunday any more appropriate than any other time?" "Why, certainly; don't you know it was Palm Sunday?"

—A man who bought a lot of Havana cigars recently, on being asked what he was carrying, replied that they were tickets to a course of lectures to be given by his wife.

—A very valuable insulating material, as it is regarded, is described in a French journal. It is composed of one part Greek pitch and two parts burned plaster, by weight, the latter being pure gypsum raised to a high temperature and plunged in water. This mixture, when hot, is a homogeneous viscous paste, and can be applied by a brush or cast in molds. It is amber colored, possesses the insulating properties of ebonite, and can be turned and polished. A peculiar advantage it possesses is the endurance of great heat and moisture without any injury to its insulating properties.

RESTORING FERTILITY.

The Farmer who Sows Clover Seed Can Hardly Make a Mistake.

Thrugh a larger part of the country than the advocates of the great West will admit, the means of improving worn-out or impoverished land are the most practical questions in farming. It is almost certain that in large portions of Dakota, even before it is admitted to Statehood, successive wheat cropping has seriously diminished the yield. In Minnesota this failure of the soil occurred several years ago, and so suddenly that it is recognized as an era by farmers and other business men. Talking with a farmer recently from that State, he remarked that it was a common thing to hear events dated from the year of the wheat failure. It was at the time thought to be a temporary affair, the result of bad season, drought and insects, but experience has shown that the diminution in the wheat yield then experienced was due to more serious causes, as it has continued ever since. This condition of affairs is not an unmixed evil. It makes impossible the spendthrift extravagance of fertility which has marked Western farming and has put the Eastern farmers at so great a disadvantage. The greatly improved machinery for harvesting grain crops has not only enabled Western farmers to exhaust their farms more rapidly, but has also obliged farmers in the East to pursue the same system. Less stock has been kept in localities where grain can be grown, and the deficiency in barnyard manure has been made up by the purchase of commercial fertilizers, good in themselves, but not furnishing a lasting manure for the improvement of the soil. The unsymmetrical character of much modern farming is shown by the smaller proportion of land devoted to grass and hay. These do not give the immediate profit that grain crops do to average farmers, but they are better for the permanence of the business. If a farm is plowed every year, and the product sold at low prices, as it has been of late years, it is scarcely possible for the farmer to avoid financial ruin. The fertility of his land, which is his capital, is being exhausted, and when that is gone he has no way to easily replace it. The best of all restoratives of fertility is clover. The farmer who sows clover seed liberally can hardly make a mistake. On the great majority of farms the distance from market is so great that clover hay does not pay at the comparatively low price it brings to draw away. If fed on the farm it makes a valuable manure, and at the same time the hay crop is growing the clover roots are deepening the soil for future crops. The farmer who grows clover largely can afford to try the commercial fertilizers, for the clover roots fasten the mineral fertility in the soil, instead of allowing it to become inert and worthless.—American Cultivator.

POULTRY ON FARMS.

Systematic Rules Summed Up in Seventeen Brief Paragraphs.

In raising poultry or stock of any kind it should be the aim of every one to keep it healthy and improve it. You can do it very easily by adopting some systematic rules. These may be summed up in brief as follows:

1. Construct your house good and warm so as to avoid damp floors and afford a flood of sunshine. Sunshine is better than medicine.

2. Provide a dusting and scratching place where you can bury wheat and corn, and thus induce the fowls to take the needful exercise.

3. Provide yourself with some good, healthy chickens, never to be over three or four years old, giving one cock to every twelve hens.

4. Give plenty of fresh air at all times, especially in summer.

5. Give plenty of fresh water daily, and never allow the fowls to go thirsty.

6. Feed them systematically two or three times a day; scatter the food, so they can't eat it too fast or without proper exercise. Do not feed more than they will eat up clean, or they will get tired of that kind of feed.

7. Give them a variety of both dry and cooked feed; a mixture of cooked meat and vegetables is an excellent thing for their morning meal.

8. Give soft feed in the morning and the whole grain at night, except a little wheat and cracked corn placed in the scratching places to give them exercise during the day.

9. Above all things keep the house clean and well ventilated.

10. Do not crowd too many into one house; if you do look out for disease.

11. Use carbolic powder occasionally in the dusting bins to destroy lice.

12. Wash your roosts and bottom of laying nests and whitewash once a week in summer and once a month in winter.

13. Let the old and young have as large a range as possible, the larger the better.

14. Don't breed too many kinds of fowls at the same time, unless you are going into the business. Three or four will give you your hands full.

15. Introduce new blood into your stock every year or so by either buying a cockerel or settings of eggs from some reliable breeder.

16. In buying birds or eggs go to some reliable breeder who has his reputation at stake. You may have to pay a little more for birds, but you can depend on what you get. Culls are not cheap at any price.

17. Save the best birds for next year's breeding and send the others to market. In shipping fancy poultry to market send it dressed.—Maisey's Illustrated Monthly.

—Fourteen thousand tons of beets were crushed in the beet sugar factory of Claus Spreckels in California last season. The sugar from these beets weighed 1,640 tons. The farmers who entered upon beet culture netted an average of $35 an acre. Next season the production of beet sugar will be much larger.

—In the city of New York there are upward of fifty able Methodist preachers who are paid less than $500 per year.

A Mosque in the Sahara.

A discovery of much archæological interest was recently made in the Algerian Sahara. M. Tarry, who has been carrying on work in connection with the proposed Transsahara railroad, having noticed a mound of sand in the neighborhood of Wargal, had it dug up, and discovered the top of a dome. This naturally aroused his interest and, getting his Arabs to dig still deeper, he found underneath the dome a square tower, then a platform of masonry, and finally a complete mosque. Continuing the excavations M. Tarry soon unearthed seven houses in perfect preservation and came upon a subterranean water-course. At the last news nine houses had been disinterred and M. Tarry was getting additional assistance to clear out the precious water-course, which he describes as sufficient to irrigate a small forest of palms. It is well known that the Sahara was at one time much more populated than it is now and its trade much more extensive, but no one seems to have supposed that cities had been buried under its sands, at least so recently as since the introduction of Mohammedanism.—N. Y. Star.

—"How is it you have had so few deaths on your hands, doctor?" "That's easy enough. When I find I have a bad case I order the patient to take a trip abroad."—Judge.

—Photographs of the flight and explosion of dynamite cartridges are among the achievements of the instantaneous method of photography. How our grandfathers would have wondered at such pictures!

—The Electrician reports a rumor from Berlin to the effect that a means has been discovered of using electricity for ascertaining the true north, instead of the magnetic needle; that, in short, the new means will be superior to the compass and is likely to supercede it.

White Elephant of Siam, Lion of England, Dragon of China, Cross of Switzerland, Banner of Persia, Crescent of Egypt, Double Eagle of Russia, Star of Chili, The Circle of Japan, Harp of Erin.

To get these buy a box of the genuine DR. C. MCLANE'S CELEBRATED LIVER PILLS, price 25 cents, and mail us the outside wrapper with your address, plainly written, and 4 cents in stamps. We will then mail you the above list with an elegant package of oleographic and chromatic cards.

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Judge Coffinbury, Cleveland, O., Says: "I have found by experience that Dr. William's Indian Pile Ointment gives immediate relief."

Do not suffer an instant longer. Sold by Williamson's Manufacturing Co., Props., Cleveland, Ohio. 50c and $1.

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Consumption Surely Cured.

TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and postoffice address. Respectfully,

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There is no article made, that purity is as important in as soap. Thousands, however, buy cheap adulterated soaps, to save a few cents and lose dollars in rotted clothing. Dobbins' Electric Soap, perfectly pure, *saves dollars.*

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Dr. Pierce's Pellets—gently laxative or actively cathartic according to dose. 25 cents.

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A disease in one part of the body will eventually fill the whole body with disease. Every year or two some part of the system grows weak and begins to decay. Such part should be removed at once, and new matter be allowed to take its place. There's no need of cutting it out with the surgeon's scalpel. Purge away the old, diseased and wornout parts with BRANDRETH'S PILLS. Then the new body will take care of itself.

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Happy Recovery.

There is nothing I now enjoy that I do not owe to having used Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, of Roundout, N. Y., at a time when I was suffering all that a human being could endure. My troubles began in my kidneys, from which I never expected to recover. My physician said I had Bright's disease. Later I had a bad attack of gravel. Six years ago last June—how well I remember that day—I saw Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy advertised in our paper. After using three bottles I was well. I have never had a return of the disease, and though I am over sixty years of age I am vigorous and strong, as I was in my prime. What physicians and the many remedies I had taken could not do, Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy did; it stayed the disease and made me a well woman.—Mrs. Emiline P. Mizner, Burg Hill, O.

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Swift's Specific cured me of Cancer, which was hereditary, for my father died of Cancer. My case resisted all other treatment, in fact grew worse all the time. I left off all other remedies, and took S. S. S. which forced out the poison until my system was cleansed, when the Cancer healed, not even leaving a sign. My health since has been excellent.

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