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FARM AND GARDEN

Handy Home-Made Tool.
 All growers of blackberries and raspberries know that one of the most disagreeable jobs of the season is the cutting out of the old canes on the plants of these fields. The easiest way of doing this work is to use a sharp tool of some kind so arranged that the operator may stand upright and work. The tool illustrated may be readily made by any handy man, and will do the work required quite as effectually as a more expensive tool.

Take the handle from a worn-out shovel or fork and have the blacksmith attach to it the end of an old scythe blade or, if one has no blade of this kind, the blacksmith can fashion one from old scraps that he may have at small expense. Have this blade fast-



TOOL FOR BERRY GROWER.

tened to the handle in the manner shown in the cut, and when working among the canes of the berry bushes use it in the way illustrated.

This tool will be found extremely handy for this sort of pruning anywhere on the farm. It will work quite well for cutting out suckers in the orchard as in the berry row. If the canes are quite tall a straight handle may be attached to the blade so that one may have it of any desired length. Such a tool costs but little, and if one has a considerable area in berry plants it will pay to have several tools made.

Beans.
 "Beans" is the title of a recent farmers' bulletin, by Professor Corbett, the well-known horticulturist of the United States Department of Agriculture. Beans belong to one of the most important families of economic plants with which man has to deal—that of legumes. The bean furnishes food for both man and beast, and at the same time increases the fertility of the soil. It is, therefore, an important crop, both in farm rotation and in market garden work. The new bulletin treats fairly of its cultivation, care and use.

Professor Wianeko, of Purdue Experiment Station, has just issued an interesting bulletin on soy beans, cow peas and other forage crops. The culture of cow peas and soy beans is becoming important with many farmers, as they make good forage crops and at the same time add fertility to the soil. They belong to the legumes, and the cost of producing is about the same as for corn, while their food value compares very favorably with corn. Several other classes of forage plants are described in the bulletin.

Fruit from Seed.
 It is doubtful if there is any kind of fruit that will come strictly true to variety when grown from seed, as there is a tendency to deviate from the original. One may secure something superior or the fruit may revert back to some undesirable kind. It is a slow and uncertain process. Chestnuts may be grafted when 1 year old. The nuts are usually placed in the ground in rows, 6 inches deep, early in the spring or late in the fall, hilling over them in the fall, and uncovering in the spring. They are very unreliable in germinating and prefer a sandy loam. The European varieties are larger than the native. The native chestnuts vary greatly, no two trees producing nuts exactly alike in size, flavor, etc. The foreign varieties are grafted on the American stocks. Trees grown from American nuts can not be depended upon for quality of product.

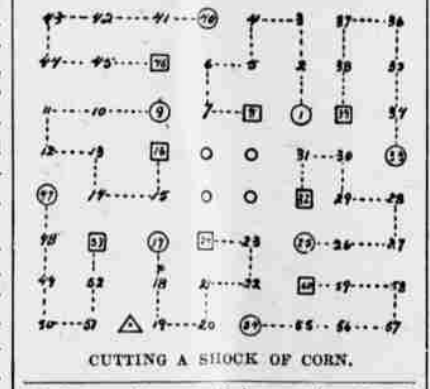
Bones and Lime for Poultry.
 Nearly all kinds of food contain lime. Oyster shells, clam shells, marble, limestone and chalk are of the same composition (carbonate of lime), bones being phosphate of lime. Fowls utilize oyster shells and other forms of lime largely as grit, while fresh bone from the butcher is an excellent food, providing both lime and nitrogen. As green bone cannot be ground, owing to its tough condition, it must be cut with a bone cutter. When bones are dry they may then be ground and can be used at all seasons.

Shredded Stover.
 For winter feeding of stock animals this makes one of the finest feeds on the farm. The modern husking and shredding machinery does excellent work, and its man-eating proclivities have been largely eliminated. An ordinary threshing machine can be made to do good shredding, but the grain is not left in the best condition. The greatest drawback in the use of both husker and thresher is that they require a large force of men and teams, hence the work is quite expensive. Perhaps the cheapest corn husking is done with the little old husking peg. But it is almost impossible to feed long stover without considerable waste, and the refuse stalks are a nuisance when it comes to handling the manure. These difficulties may be overcome by running the handhusked stover through a common cutter and shredder. This work can usually be done without employing much, if any outside help. In case everything is hired, the cost of the work, added to that of hand-husking and putting of the corn and stover in crib and mow or stack may equal or even exceed the expense of machine husking and shredding. This is a point for each to decide from his own standpoint.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Poultry.
 A careful observer of poultry needs no better sign of its condition than to watch the comb. A bright red comb shows that the hen or male is healthy and vigorous, and if a hen, she will probably be a good layer. After the egg supply has failed the comb will generally lose its color. In cold weather fowls with large combs must have extra warm quarters, as they are very easily frozen. It is frozen combs more often than anything else that makes Leghorns and Minorcas poor winter layers. As their names imply, they are natives of warm climates, as, indeed, most fowls are. They very rarely get into warm quarters in winter as they could find anywhere in the countries where they had their original home.

How to Save Steps.
 In spite of the extensive development and use of corn harvesting machinery the fact remains that much corn is still cut by hand. Therefore the accompanying sketch recently sent to the New England Homestead by a reader will prove of interest.

He has figured out that if the plan outlined is followed a sixty-four hill shock, or stook, of corn can be cut at a minimum number of steps. The circles in the center represent the four hills tied together or between which the shock is built. After the foundation for the shock is ready the man goes to No. 1 and cuts in the direction



of the numbers until he reaches No. 8. After placing his armful in the shock he begins at No. 9 and cuts to No. 16 again depositing his load and continuing the operation in the way the hills are numbered until the shock is completed. It will be noted that in addition to saving steps this plan brings the cutter near the shock with his heaviest load, or when his arm is full of corn.

A Peaceful Bee.
 Beehives on every front porch, giving each family a supply of delicious honey close at hand, while at the same time the bees will inculcate their lesson of industry, are a possibility, for the Department of Agriculture has succeeded in importing from abroad what may be termed a peaceful bee, which finds our fickle climate to its liking.

The newcomer is known as the Caucasian bee. The name is derived from its native locality, and is emphasized by habits of life which rank it distinctly as the white man's bee. It is civilized, dignified and high-toned. It rushes with reluctance into anything that smacks of warfare, having, in place of the belligerent instincts of others of its class, a predisposition to arbitration.

Stubble Fields.
 Fields that are left to stubble, or that are covered with weeds, cannot now be benefited by cultivation, where the seeds of the weeds have already been scattered, but as soon as the frost does its work and the weeds are dry, rake over the fields with a horse rake and burn all the refuse. Dead weeds form harboring places for field mice and insects, and during windy days, after the weeds are thoroughly dry, they are blown to other fields. By burning all refuse, there will be fewer weed seeds turned under next spring.

RHEUMATISM CAN NOT BE RUBBED AWAY

It is perfectly natural to rub the spot that hurts, and when the muscles, nerves, joints and bones are throbbing and twitching with the pains of Rheumatism the sufferer is apt to turn to the liniment bottle, or some other external application, in an effort to get relief from the disease, by producing counter-irritation on the flesh. Such treatment will quiet the pain temporarily, but can have no direct curative effect on the real disease because it does not reach the blood, where the cause is located. Rheumatism is more than skin deep—it is rooted and grounded in the blood and can only be reached by constitutional treatment—IT CANNOT BE RUBBED AWAY. Rheumatism is due to an excess of uric acid in the blood, brought about by the accumulation in the system of refuse matter which the natural avenues of bodily waste, the Bowels and Kidneys, have failed to carry off. This refuse matter, coming in contact with the different acids of the body, forms uric acid which is absorbed into the blood and distributed to all parts of the body, and Rheumatism gets possession of the system. The aches and pains are only symptoms, and though they may be scattered or relieved for a time by surface treatment, they will reappear at the first exposure to cold or dampness, or after an attack of indigestion or other irregularity. Rheumatism can never be permanently cured while the circulation remains saturated with irritating, pain-producing uric acid poison. The disease will shift from muscle to muscle or joint to joint, settling on the nerves, causing inflammation and swelling and such terrible pains that the nervous system is often shattered, the health undermined, and perhaps the patient becomes deformed and crippled for life. S. S. S. thoroughly cleanses the blood and renovates the circulation by neutralizing the acids and expelling all foreign matter from the system. It warms and invigorates the blood so that instead of a weak, sour stream, constantly depositing acid and corrosive matter in the muscles, nerves, joints and bones, the body is fed and nourished by rich, health-sustaining blood which completely and permanently cures Rheumatism. S. S. S. is composed of both purifying and tonic properties—just what is needed in every case of Rheumatism. It contains no potash, alkali or other mineral ingredient, but is made entirely of purifying, healing extracts and juices of roots, herbs and barks. If you are suffering from Rheumatism do not waste valuable time trying to rub a blood disease away, but begin the use of S. S. S. and write us about your case and our physicians will give you any information or advice desired free of charge and will send our special treatise on Rheumatism.

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