

POULTRY YARD.

Profits of Poultry Keeping.

The Poultry Organ in an article on the "Profits of Poultry Keeping" refers to the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture which gives the details and results of Mr. Warren Leland's 18 acre poultry farm...

Another reports a profit of \$39.96 on each \$25 invested, during the first 6 months. Mr. Palmer, of New London, Connecticut, in the same report, who has made a business of poultry keeping for many years...

The San Francisco Scientific Press of December 24th, 1870, states that an industrious laborer took up some Government land near Marysville, California, built a cabin, and purchased chickens and turkeys of the value of \$100 to start with...

In Eliot's "Agriculture of Massachusetts" for 1869, several accounts with poultry are given by citizens of that state which may be briefly summarized: One gentleman kept 8 Brahma and Hamburg hens; 1 year's yield, eggs and chicks, \$42.90; cost to feed, \$24; profit, \$18.90, or \$3.10 per fowl...

USEFUL INFORMATION.

About Bricks.

Few materials for building are in more constant use than bricks. Even where stone is the principal article used in the composition of a building, bricks are wanted for chimneys, flues, furnaces, ovens, and a number of other purposes...

Water, when stored in tanks or other closed vessels, seems to undergo a sort of fine process, by which many of its impurities are thrown down as a sediment upon the bottom of the vessel...

will find its way into the water and foul gases accumulate in the cistern. These will be absorbed by the water, and so render it unfit for both drinking and cooking.

INTERESTING AND PRETTY PARLOR EXPERIMENT.—Apply a common needle to a magnet until charged, then rub dry, poise carefully between the thumb and forefinger, lay it into a tumblerful of water; if well done it will float; if it sinks try again; you will seldom fail.

No sooner is the needle afloat untrammelled when it will wheel around and point to the north pole as accurately as any mariner's compass.

AN OLD GAS WELL.—There is a gas well on Wolfe creek, about one mile from the turnpike leading from Mercer to Butler county, which was dug in 1838. This well was dug for salt, and abandoned as a salt well in consequence of a heavy flow of gas.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

Danger of Tin Vessels for Cooking Acid Fruits and Vegetables.

In a paper addressed to the French Academy of Sciences, Dr. Fordos gives the results of some experiments on tin vessels used in laboratories and hospitals, and even in private families, for infusions and similar purposes.

Bread from Sawdust.

The chief alimentary substances employed by man may be reduced to three classes, viz: Saccharine, fatty and albuminous substances, of which sugar, butter and eggs may be taken as representatives.

The operation was as follows: Everything which was soluble in water was removed by prolonged maceration and boiling; resinous matter was extracted by alcohol; the wood was then reduced to fiber, dried in an oven, and ground as corn, when it had the smell and taste of corn flour.

Water and yeast were added, and upon being baked it had much crust and a much better taste than bread made from bran or husks of corn.

Wood flour boiled with water furnishes a nutritious jelly; Prof. Auerth ate it in the form of soup or gruel, and in dumplings or pancakes, which were palatable and wholesome.

ORANGE JELLY.—Oranges filled with jelly is a fanciful dish, which makes a pretty appearance on a supper table. Take some very fine oranges, and with the point of a very small knife cut from the top of each a round hole about the size of a silver quarter; then, with the small end of a tea or egg spoon, empty them entirely, taking great care not to break the rinds, and then throw these into cold water and make a jelly of the juice, which must be well pressed from the pulp and strained as clear as possible.

WATER, when stored in tanks or other closed vessels, seems to undergo a sort of fine process, by which many of its impurities are thrown down as a sediment upon the bottom of the vessel.

GOOD HEALTH.

Health and Culture.

We are in danger of becoming a nervous, uncomfortable, discontented, wretched race, unless we use our best thought and effort to bring the highest wisdom, and virtue, and order that are within our reach to bear upon our way of living.

The matter of health, in fact, should be made a part of the highest human culture, for, as recently remarked by a distinguished divine, Rev. Dr. Osgood—"Body and mind are practically inseparable, and we know nothing of the sound mind apart from sound blood and brain."

In this connection, we may also introduce the following remarks of Professor S. D. Gross on our sanitary deficiencies:—"As American citizens, we boast, and very justly too, of our progress in commerce, agriculture, manufactures, literature, the arts and sciences, and the general diffusion of knowledge among all classes of society, but what have we done as a nation for our sanitary condition, for those things which so vitally concern the public health, the dearest interest of every family in the land?"

A Cure for Corns.

A subscriber, "J. A. H.," writes from Virginia City, Nevada, as follows: "As a regular subscriber to the Farmer, from which I derive many valuable items of information, I wish, for the benefit of others, to speak of one which I consider has been worth more to me than the price of subscription for your paper for several years."

COLD ON THE LUNGS.—If a cold settles on the outer covering of the lungs it becomes pneumonia, inflammation of the lungs, or lung fever, which in many cases carries the strongest man to his grave within a week.

THE GRANGE ON INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.—The Masters of the State Granges for the States of Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan and Kentucky, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Executive Committee of the National Grange, have signed and sent a communication to Hon. William Windom, Chairman of the Select Senate Committee on Transportation, strongly urging Congress at the present session to devise some plan for the improvement of the mouths of the Mississippi river.

A WIDOW WORTH HAVING.—Widow Phila Lambert, of West Georgia, Va., fifty-six years old, has for fifteen years supported eight children by laying stone wall, harvesting and other heavy farm work, and has not only made her self owner of a house and a few acres of land, but has given her children a good education.

Dress Reform.

(From Pacific Rural Press.)

EDITORS PASSES:—Seeing the communication of sister C. A. C. in the RURAL, it revives the spirit of dress reform so much that I feel like offering a few words on the subject.

Ten years ago I spent five months in a school in New York, where a part of the instructions were gymnastics. The ladies could not take the gymnastic exercises wearing the ordinary cumbersome dress; so they unanimously adopted a short, convenient style—one that would admit of perfect freedom of motion, hence I have realized the benefit of a convenient style of dress.

First I will say I admire beauty and taste in dress as much as any one, but the styles go beyond the mark of consistency; are inconvenient, unhealthy, and some of them are anything but beautiful. The tight corsets and belts will not admit of perfect breathing, circulation of the blood, and thorough digestion.

What change can be made for the better? First, an underwaist of drilling or cotton flannel made to fit the form, but not so tight as to obstruct breathing; it should be made nearly as high around the neck as a dress, and extend a few inches below the hips, should have some large buttons at equal distances apart, to button drawers to. The underwaist should have long sleeves or else the dress sleeves should be lined so as to clothe the arms as warm as the body.

The drawers should be made of drilling or cotton flannel for winter. The stockings for winter should also be made of thick material, or two pair should be worn. The underwaist is a substitute for a corset and I, and the drawers may also be a substitute for a chemise. Some prefer to wear a chemise also. Next to the underwaist should be worn a skirt-supporter of strong material, and made like men's suspenders, except that where men's suspenders are buttoned on to pants, ladies' are attached to a band button which is sewed on to the band, and all the skirts worn should be suspended from the skirt supporter.

This improvement in the underclothing can be made without bringing down the censure of Madam Grundy. I have never seen a lady put on this improved rig of underclothes who did not say she felt as though she was emancipated from bondage, so great is the relief to be freed from the weight of the skirts around the waist. And corsets with stays pressing endwise upon the abdomen, as they do whenever the wearer gets into a stooping position, are the cause of more derangement, disease, and suffering than most people are aware of.

A very good general rule to adopt in dress is to not follow the style into any excess, extravagance or inconvenience. After adopting this rule, and discarding all the absurd, ridiculous styles, there is yet an endless variety left to choose from. The material for dresses should vary according to the season, the taste and the ability of the wearer. It is economy to select with a view to durability. Waterproof, compress-cloth, or other durable goods for winter, are cheaper in the end than goods that cost less. Calico and linen are both very good material for summer.

The fashion magazines are issued with a view to produce frequent and radical changes, draining the pockets of the masses and filling those of dry goods merchants, dress makers, and milliners. Now, sisters, if we co-operate in the movement we can effect a reform in dress that will not only economize our money, but, what is still better, our vitality. I hope the brothers will encourage such a movement. If there are any who will not, I suggest that they put on a woman's dress with heavy, trailing skirt and all other inconveniences, wear it one day and try to do a day's work, and see if they don't change their minds.

Mrs. N. A. PICHENS, M. D. Riverside, Cal.

SHIRT MAKING MADE EASY.—In olden time a wife's great honor was shirt-making. Now it is simply a pastime. In selecting material for shirts always get the best, either New York mills or Wamsutta—most ladies prefer Wamsutta, as it is easier washed. Buy one of Buttrick's shirt patterns for twenty-five cents, or, better still, when your husband goes into the city, have him call at a professional shirt-maker and have a pattern cut expressly for him—warranted to fit. All trouble and worry is now at an end, as all you have to do is to cut and sew according to directions. The new way of shaping the bosom saves it from the wear of suspenders, and also prevents mauling. Slope the bosom gradually from the middle to about three inches in width at the bottom; line bosom, cuffs and collars with coarse linen, as it holds starch better than cotton. The higher you lay the shirt rice vein in ironing, the longer they repel dirt and dust. Open the shirt in the back by all means, and the bosom will wear as long as the body of the shirt, thereby saving the expense and time of reboosoming old bodies.

A FEARFUL TALE.—A mother and her eight children were burned in their house, near Montreal, Canada, a few days since. The fire caught in the lower part of the house. The father, in trying to put it out, was out off from his family, and barely escaped with his life. Two of their eldest two of her children in her arms, thinking to save them and go back for the others. She might indeed have escaped with them, but the cries for help of the little ones left so overcome her, that she preferred to go back and die with all her children than to escape with a part, and she did so.

EXHIBITION OF MARINE INDUSTRIES.—It is proposed to hold, next year, in Paris, a general exhibition of all kinds of machinery, apparatus, implements, and other articles employed on board ship, in fisheries, and all other trades pursued at sea, or on fresh waters, to which it is to be added a collection of the principal articles of French exports.

THE VINEYARD.

Review of Grape Culture Correspondence.

(From Pacific Rural Press.)

EDITORS PASSES:—In your issue of Jan. 16th is an article on grape culture, by P. S. Russell, commenting on a letter on grape culture written by W. S. Sanders, Dec. 16th. He says Mr. Sanders seems to think that in planting cuttings, the more vine is buried in the ground, the more roots it will produce; I agree with Mr. Sanders. If the vine is laid horizontally and not deep, about six inches is deep enough. A cutting wants warmth and moisture. Again, Mr. Russell says, "a cutting is not a rooted vine" (we all know it up here), and one planted twelve inches deep perpendicular, will produce as many roots, as ten feet of vine buried in a trench; simply because the roots and branches must grow in the same proportion. Now, Mr. Editor, Mr. Russell, when writing the above forgot his subject, and has gone back on trees and orchard planting. Any person who has set cuttings to root knows that many will take root and not start a bud; many also will have roots from the top to the bottom and only send out one branch. Where is the proportion in such cases?

Mr. Russell says, "a cutting of grape or other wood will only send roots from bottom end of cutting, and will not root from the buds." In that proposition he is also wrong, for any person who understands the growing of grapes, in preparing cuttings, will cut the bottom end off directly below the bud; the cut being smooth, the knife is better than shears; and the wood left below the bud is apt to decay. If roots don't start from the bud joint, and only from end of cutting, why have cuttings 30 inches long and put them down in the cold ground 15 inches, when common sense would tell you they would root quicker and stronger, nearer the surface in warm rich soil; you say cuttings of wood will not send out roots only from bottom? Did you ever set a cutting of wood? If so, did you examine it after it had rooted? If not, I would ask you to try an experiment, and give us the result. I have rooted cottonwoods set for posts as large as five inches in diameter, and the roots were from top. Bottom willow will send shoots out every few inches when laid down and covered a few inches with soil. Mulberry will do the same; and right here I wish to prove your theory false by showing that when silk worm culture was at its height, there was a scarcity of mulberry leaves and trees, and propagation was done by planting the bud in sandy loam to form roots to start groves of trees for food, none would have more than two inches of wood. The bud is the natural place for the roots to start in grapes and other cuttings, although Mr. Russell has failed to see it. I have planted cuttings perpendicular by digging a hole and also by making a hole with an iron rod and running the cutting down, closing the hole with rod. This plan may succeed on rich, moist lands, but will not do on clay or cold soil. I had good success in laying them horizontally and tramping the soil firmly on the cutting, filling in with loose earth and leaving one or two buds above the ground.

Staking vines is a useless expense. Vines should be self-supporting and never more than two feet high, unless where they are subject to mildew. Low vines are better, as the wind in April and May will not break them, and the summer sun will not burn the grapes.

Pruning the Vine.

Grape growers differ in regard to pruning, and the proper time to prune. I prune when I am ready, anytime from December to March. I have failed to see any difference so far. I leave from three to five buds, and from four to twelve spurs, according to age of vine, and quality of land. Rich land will mature more grapes and cannot be hurt. I think leaving long spurs and a less number will increase the yield of grapes. Last season I left two rows of black July unpruned, expecting to graft them; they were literally covered with grapes, of full size—the best crop they ever bore.

I summer prune about the middle of May; cut them close and break off suckers. About June 1st, I summer prune again. The soil is rich, and the vines grow thrifty. I keep the plow and cultivator in until the vines shut me out. Mr. Russell's mode of leaving two buds on one half the branches for next season's fruit-wood is not practised here; and the tops of the oldest vines have not yet come together. We think we have good vineyards here, and good land to grow them, but never were so fortunate as to make them yield six pounds of grapes to the vine in two years old from cuttings. Our grape growers in this vicinity have received the highest premiums at our State fairs for the last three years, for fine display of grapes, and I think would carry it for actual yield per acre, if such a premium was offered. I do not irrigate in the summer, but at this present time my vineyard is completely soaked, having three feet of clear, crystal-like water of the American river over its surface for the last twenty-four hours. It may injure the vines; I know it has the squirrels and gophers. Excuse me for troubling you with so much matter, but I want new beginners to hear both sides, that they may be able to judge correctly what to do. Experience is an expensive teacher. I am one of her scholars, and have paid dear to learn a few things which I give for nothing; I would say something on how to plant a vineyard, but this is already too long. Give us in your next paper, what variety of vines are best for market and drying. P. H. M. Brighton, Jan. 20th, 1875.

COLD WEATHER AT THE EAST.—Last week seems to have been the cold spell of the season in the East. The cold culminated on Saturday, closing up the rivers on both sides of New York city. Large numbers of fishing vessels were ice-bound in Cape Cod bay, unable to go either in or out. The entire bay was frozen over, an occurrence never known before. A cold wave passed over Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, on Friday night, which sent the thermometer down to 36 and 33 degrees below zero. In Chicago, the thermometer on Saturday was six degrees below zero at noon. The high wind of Thursday drifted the snow badly and caused a great deal of delay on all railroad lines. Trains on seven different roads were either unable to get in or delayed several hours. Reports from all points state that great inconvenience is experienced on account of the freezing of water-courses and scarcity of water for stock.

COLORADO STATE GRANGE.—The State Grange of Colorado recently held its second annual session. Among the proceedings was a memorial praying Congress to perfect the title to railroad lands, so that they may become subject to taxation. Granting this reasonable request would right a great wrong.

MR. BEECHER AND THE N. Y. "LEDGER."—The announcement is made that Mr. Beecher writes no more for the New York Ledger. Whether it is Mr. Beecher or Mr. Bonner who has felt compelled to make this innovation will probably remain forever one of those problems against which the public mind raps itself in vain.

THE ANTI-CHINESE NATURALIZATION BILL has passed both houses of Congress and will become a law.