

LEAF BLIGHT.

It Frequently Causes Much Damage to the Strawberry Crop.

Strawberry leaf blight frequently causes great damage to the strawberry crop, as explained by a grower in Rural New Yorker, who says that it makes its appearance about the time the fruit sets and begins its destructive ravages as the berries begin to ripen. It first manifests itself by turning the leaves a brownish red; it will then attack the fruit stems and buds, cutting off the supply of nourishment from the berries; the calyx begins to wither and dry up, and the berries become soft and insipid and are of little value.

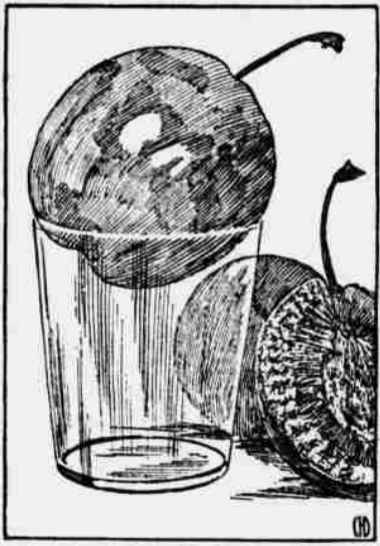
As the Berry Season Advances. It usually grows more destructive as the berry season advances. The conditions conducive to the development of the disease appear to be a general weakness of the plants. This may be brought about from various causes, such as old and worn-out beds, impoverished soil, plants with a heavy set of fruit with insufficient nourishment, plants exposed during winter without protection or unmulched beds during hot, dry weather. Any one of these conditions will have a tendency to weaken the constitution of the plants, making them an easy prey to rust, blight and other diseases.

Kinds Susceptible to Blight. During the time we have been engaged in growing strawberries we have found some varieties so constitutionally strong in their vegetative parts and so vigorous in their fruit organs that they will do well almost anywhere, while other sorts are constitutionally weak in foliage, yet strong in fruit bearing propensities. They set a great quantity of berries with little or no vitality to mature the fruit. Such varieties are very susceptible to blight and should not be cultivated except by those who are well acquainted with their natural requirements. It requires a healthy, vigorous foliage to digest the various plant foods found in the different soils, and probably the safest method of protecting the plants from blight and other fungous diseases is to conserve moisture by thorough cultivation while the plants are growing, protecting them well during the winter with a liberal mulch of horse manure. This material if left on the plant during the summer prevents the escape of moisture at a time it is most needed, and it keeps the soil cool—in fact, it is to the bearing bed what the cultivation is to the newly planted field.

THE LINCOLN PLUM.

A Variety of Rare Beauty and Excellent For Market.

The Lincoln plum here shown is described by the Ohio experiment station as being a variety of rare beauty and excellent for market, one of the best second early plums; quite free from rot in some seasons; first blossoms May 7, full bloom May 10, last blossoms May 15; in full fruitage Aug. 15. Fruit large to very large, roundish oblong, blunt at apex, slightly necked;



THE LINCOLN PLUM.

stem long and strong and set at an angle; suture distinct, slightly depressed; color light greenish yellow, over-spread with a beautiful shade of crimson; dots many, very minute and indistinct; bloom, thin lilac; flesh light yellow, firm; pit rather large, free; quality only fair; tree only a moderate grower, but healthy, and forms a round, shapely head; foliage very luxuriant; leaves large; quite prolific, but not so much so as to require thinning of the fruit.

Rough Feeds. Rough feeds, including pasture, are usually so plentiful that frequently we feed them without any idea as to what and how much will produce the desired results. Much rough feed is wasted in careless feeding. The cow will eat the best of her menu first and if given too much will pick the most desirable morsels, leaving what might be called passably good, which too frequently is treated as waste and thrown underfoot. No more hay should be given an animal than it will eat up clean. This refers to first class quality, however, as we could not expect a cow to eat up clean a poor quality of hay.

Poultry Products and Wheat. The values of poultry products now reach an annual figure of half a billion dollars or more, or an amount about equal to the value of the wheat crop. The price of eggs has been high and growing higher for several years, because consumers have wanted more eggs than have been produced. The exports are not worth mentioning. Apparently there is no limit to the consumption of fresh eggs at a moderate price.—G. K. Holmes.

ALL OVER THE HOUSE.

Kerosene Useful in Various Ways in Domestic Economy.

Kerosene oil is a great help to loosen dirt, used in various ways. It is good for cleaning an iron sink. If the children's hands are stuck up with balsam or wagon grease, try rubbing them with a rag wet in kerosene before applying soap and water. If they get wagon grease on their clothes, a little soap and kerosene will take it out. To clean dirty clothes, such as coarse towels, take a tablespoonful of kerosene and a small piece of soap. Boil these together with a quart of water till it makes an emulsion. Put this in your boiler with enough cold water to cover your clothes and let it come to a boil, stirring the clothes occasionally. This saves a lot of hard rubbing.—Suburban Life.

Cleaning Brass and Copper. For cleaning brass pans use salt and vinegar, which should be rubbed in well. Then rub with finely powdered bath brick and water or any brass polish. Thoroughly rinse out with hot water and polish with a clean dry cloth or leather. For the copper pans take half a lemon. One that has the juice squeezed out will do. Dip in powdered bath brick and with it rub the outside of the pan. Do not use acid for the inside, but clean off all marks with powdered bath brick and soap. Rinse well with hot water, then dry and polish.

Working Buttonholes. When working a buttonhole in a heavy cloth or one that pulls and frays, it saves much trouble to work the hole by basting thread, then stitching close to this on the machine, putting in two rows just the length of the buttonhole to be. Cut with a sharp penknife between these lines and work closely in the ordinary way over the machine stitching. This buttonhole will keep its shape and remain intact as long as the cloth holds together.

Salted Almonds. Salted almonds prepared at home always seem better than those purchased, perhaps because they are usually fresher. One only needs to blanch them and to each half pint add one tablespoonful of melted butter and one teaspoonful of fine salt. Stir well and then spread the nuts in a shallow cake tin, baking in a rather cool oven until the almonds become brown. This will take about twenty minutes.

Household Hints. Remove vaseline stains by washing in warm water and soap; rinse and apply chlorinated soda to the stain.

To keep brass or copper bright for some time after cleaning rub it over with beaten white of egg. To prevent cane or bamboo from yellowing when washed use warm salt water; rub with soft cloths until dry.

Stains on Mattresses. Stains on mattresses may be removed by making a paste of fuller's earth and water to which ammonia in the proportion of one teaspoonful to half a pint has been added.

Lay this over the stains, rub slightly in with the fingers and leave till it is dry. A second application may be necessary if the stain has not been removed.

Cement For China. A good cement for mending broken china: Dissolve a little gum arabic in a little warm water so that it is rather thick; put enough plaster of paris into this to make a thick paste. Cement broken pieces of china together, and in half an hour they cannot be broken in the same place. Hot water seems to make it more firm.

Washing White Stockings. Good laundresses when washing white stockings, whether of silk or thread, add a few drops of oxalic acid to the water. The reason of this is that the acid has the effect of removing stains caused by the boots and shoes, which are only "set" when washed with ordinary soap and water.

Stains on Leather. Stains from leather are removed by the use of paraffin. It likewise gives a brilliant polish. To remove sugar and sirup stains wash the stained part with warm water without soap, then rub with ammonia diluted with warm water. If not washable, use diluted alcohol.

Baked Shad. Clean a shad and stuff with mashed potatoes to which is added a teaspoon of finely minced parsley. Lay the fish on a baking dish on several slices of salt pork. Bake and baste often with the fat from the pork.

The Care of Carpets. Sponge carpets occasionally with hot water in which either common salt or powdered alum has been dissolved. This not only brightens the carpets, but prevents moths.

TOUGH OLD CANNON.

A good story is being told at the Mare Island navy yard concerning a San Francisco contractor, who bought all the old obsolete cannon which were sold at the local yard some time ago. The cannon were all of the smoothbore kind, and in order that they might be easily handled for shipment to the city all sorts of schemes were tried in an endeavor to break them with dynamite and blasting powder, but they were unsuccessful. An electric drill machine was even set up at the yard, and the cannon were drilled full of holes in order to weaken them for breaking open with wedges, but this was also unsuccessful. The cannon were then taken away, and the last heard of them they were corralled in the hills near Point Richmond, where an effort was being made to break them open with dynamite again. The cannon which proved to be so strong were among the armament of the war craft which sailed the seas in 1812.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Squaw at a Bank. A full blood Indian squaw attired in the regulation costume of a well bred society woman in Indian life—brightly colored blanket and skirt with beaded leggings and moccasins, with the latest approved Cheyenne co'ture, which is the same they have been wearing the past hundred years—was recently seen to walk into the El Reno State bank and fill out a check in a full round hand, which she presented at the proper window and received her pin money, supposedly. The officials at the bank say it is a common occurrence, but to the average citizen it seemed a singular proceeding.—El Reno American.

When Ohio Failed. In the midst of C. B. Galbreath's lecture on "Lafayette" the other night at the Young Men's Christian association he spent quite a little time on the incident of the princely sum of \$140,000 which he brought with him to this country and gave to congress.

"When Lafayette returned to the United States about forty-two years later congress voted him \$200,000 in return for the \$140,000 which he gave to us in that time of great need. When the vote was taken every state in the Union voted for it with—let us mention it softly—the exception of Ohio."—Columbus Dispatch.

Modern Forestry. One of the curiosities of modern forestry is the care of beautiful old shade trees. The amputation of diseased or dead limbs is as carefully performed to prevent further decay from the elements as in surgical operations on human beings. Decaying cavities are cleaned and filled with a preserving cement, as is done by the modern dentist. And the latest advance is to build a tin roof along the upper surface of wide spreading branches, where little hollows might hold dampness and promote decay. Some handsome patriarchs well deserve it.

The Deepest Gold Mine. Australia now possesses the deepest gold mine in the world. The shafts at the New Chum railway at Bendigo, Victoria, have been sunk to a depth of over 4,300 feet, and the quartz there tapped has been sampled and crushed, with the result that a yield of gold equal to an ounce per ton has been obtained. The operations in the mine have been tested by government officials in view of the fact that never before in the world's history has gold been obtained from so low a depth as three quarters of a mile.

Great Britain's Foxhounds. There are about 170 packs of foxhounds, consisting of about 6,000 couples, in England and Wales, and as the average number of days the hounds are out is about three per week the cost of the packs alone is at least £500,000 a year. This is taking no account of Ireland's twenty-six packs, with about 1,100 couples, and Scotland's eleven packs of 390 couples.

Uses of Earthquakes. This is a paragraph from the composition of a cynical eastern school-boy: "The earthquake and fire in San Francisco, although first looked upon as a calamity, really did a great deal of good. It purified the city of the great curse of underground Chinatown and burned down thirty-nine churches."—San Francisco Argonaut.

A Curious Cave. An immense natural cave of great beauty has been discovered underlying three of the principal streets of Constantine, Algeria. The interior is of dazzling white stone, worn by the forces of nature into all kinds of fantastic and beautiful forms. There are three ponds, the water being lukewarm and crowded with fish.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

Story of a Suburbanite Who Forgot What He Forgot.

"Wait a minute," said the suburbanite. "I've forgotten something." "What?" asked the man who was generally his running mate. "I forgot what I've forgotten." "That's plain enough." "Too bad I can't remember it." "My dear fellow, can't you see how impossible it is to remember what we forget or what we forget we've forgotten?"

"That's all right, but what'll my wife say when I tell her I forgot to get what she told me to? And she'll be still sorer if I tell her I didn't forget to get it, but that I had forgotten what I was to get. I can't tell her I knew I had forgotten to get what I had forgotten, but that I remembered I forgot, can I? She'll tell me I should have forgotten to forget it."

"Oh, come on! Forget it." "You mean I should forget that I forgot what I had forgotten." But just then the car came along, and as he took his seat near the stove he remarked to his neighbor, "I remember now."

"Remember what?" "I remember what I've forgotten."

"Look at the impossibility of that proposition. How can you remember what you have forgotten any more than you can forget what you remember?"

"But I do remember. It was coffee. Can't you see how I've forgotten what I remember? And I remember what I forgot to do. And I remember what I had forgotten I had forgotten."—Chicago Journal.



Jilted. Mag—Billy, I regrets ter say dat our engagement has got ter be broke off. Billy—Wot's de trouble now? Mag—Me ma won't leave me wear yer ring no more, 'cos it makes me finger black.—Leslie's Weekly.

Sarcasm. "Shorry I'm sho late, m'dear," began Dingle apologetically, "but shome fresh jokers stopped me an' wouldn't lemme go." "Indeed!" interrupted his wife. "Why didn't you take the brick out of your hat and hit them with it?"—Catholic Standard and Times.

How He Won Her. "The man I marry," said the girl in the parlor scene, "must be but a little lower than the angels." "Well, what's the matter with me?" queried the young man as he dropped on his knees at her feet. "You see, I'm a little lower than one of them."—Houston Post.

Reassuring Him. Cholly—Doctor, tell me the worst. Am I suffering from a brain storm? His Physician—Calm yourself, my dear fellow. You have some of the symptoms, but the conditions are totally lacking.—Boston Transcript.

Infalible Sign. "That man," said the great detective, "is evidently a genius." "Why do you think so?" queried the ordinary person. "The fringe is beginning to form on the bottom of his trousers," explained the G. D.—Chicago News.

Method. "Why do you give that man encouragement in offering you so much advice?" "I have some things I want to say to him, and I want to let him go ahead until I get a good opening."—Washington Star.

Coming Scandal. Potato Masher—Look out for a big sensation next week. T. Pot—Is that right? Potato Masher—Yes; the broom is going to make some sweeping charges, I hear.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Peerless. "Yonder is our peerless young society leader." "Peerless?" "Yes; jilted by a duke, you know."—Washington Herald.

A Partnership Affair. "Boggins and his partner are of the same mind about everything." "Well, I never thought that either of them had a mind of his own."—Detroit Free Press.

NEW ARMY PISTOLS.

This new arm, which the United States army is preparing to adopt, is an automatic magazine pistol that neither looks like the revolver nor loads like it nor shoots like it. The cartridges, in packets of ten, are inserted in the stock. The firing recoil throws out the empty cartridge, a new one rising into place. Firing is automatic at pleasure. The soldier can thus discharge the 200 cartridges he carries almost without stopping. If the man who makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before and the man who makes four incandescent electric lights burn where but one burned before are benefactors of their race, what shall be said of the man who makes it possible for the fighting man to kill ten men where before he could kill but six?—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Alvarado and the Yaquis. The temptation of a gift of \$10,000,000 from the Mexican Croesus, Pedro Alvarado of Parral, evidently proved too strong for the Mexican government to resist, and the great sum will, it appears from the words of the Mexican minister of war, be used in supporting an army for a war of extermination against the Yaquis. The minister says Diaz will accept the offer upon condition that all the officers of the command be selected from the Mexican army and that none but Mexicans be enlisted in the campaign, which is a wise precaution, though it does not meet exactly the ideas of Alvarado.—Boston Advertiser.

Checking Watches. The other afternoon a man stopped at the checking room of a New York department store and checked his watch. "Lots of people do that nowadays," remarked the attendant. "Somehow the impression has got abroad that an unusually large number of crooks are conducting their special line of business in department stores just now. When one begins to take precautions against pickpockets the first thing he looks out for is his watch. He is willing to take chances on letting the rest of his possessions guard themselves, but his watch he leaves with us until he is through shopping."—New York Globe.

Reads His Own Epitaph. Richard Bartholdt, congressman from Missouri, is one of the few men who already have bronze tablets erected to their memory. The house in which he was born in Germany is marked with a tablet showing the interesting events in the life of the doctor, together with a statement to the effect that he went to America and there became famous, becoming a member of the national lawmaking body and a prominent figure in the worldwide movement looking toward disarmament and universal peace.

The Dutch Fear Balloons. A bill has been introduced in the Dutch parliament to prohibit balloons, aeroplanes and all other kinds of flying machines from landing on Dutch territory, under a penalty of a fine not exceeding £40 or three months' imprisonment. Further legislation is proposed to make it compulsory on all aeronauts passing overhead to obey immediate signals to descend and to pay a deposit in case of inflicting damage by throwing out ballast or from other causes.—London Express.

Edinburgh's Unemployed. Edinburgh is to attempt a new way of dealing with the unemployed. Recognizing that a permanent scheme is desirable, the corporation has bought a farm fifteen miles from Edinburgh which has 235 acres, seventy being unimproved moss land. Refuse from the city destructor is to be deposited on about 100 acres, rendering that land ready in course of time for tillage. The aim is to use the whole farm for spade work and to sell market garden produce.

American Navy Is Third. Investigation by the navy department shows that the United States stands third as a naval power and Japan fifth and that if all the ships now building in the two navies were completed the relative positions would remain the same. The warship tonnage of the world on Feb. 2 stood: Great Britain, 1,612,857; France, 625,498; United States, 525,970; Germany, 475,067; Japan, 347,461; Russia, 261,945; Italy, 204,253; Austria, 114,127.

Singers of the Future. The prediction is made by one giving much thought to music that the majority of the American singers of the future will hail from the south. This belief is founded on the fact that the people of southern climes have the soft voices and temperament requisite to the success of a singer. The prediction is of especial interest, as it comes from a woman of New England origin and training.—Circle Magazine.

If You Read This

It will be to learn that the leading medical writers and teachers of all the several schools of practice recommend, in the strongest terms possible, each and every ingredient entering into the composition of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for the cure of weak stomach, dyspepsia, catarrh of stomach, "water complaint," torpid liver, or biliousness, chronic bowel affections, and all catarrhal diseases of whatever region, name or nature. It is also a specific remedy for all such chronic or long standing cases of catarrhal affections and their resultants, as bronchial, throat and lung disease (except consumption) accompanied with severe coughs. It is not so good for acute colds and coughs, but for lingering or chronic cases it is especially efficacious in producing perfect cures. It contains Black Cherrybark, Golden Seal root, Bloodroot, Stone root, Mandrake root and Queen's root—all of which are highly praised as remedies for all the above mentioned affections by such eminent medical writers and teachers as Prof. Bartholow, of Jefferson Med. College; Prof. Hare, of the Univ. of Pa.; Prof. Finley, of Chicago; Prof. John King, M. D., of Cincinnati; Prof. John M. Scudder, M. D., of Cincinnati; Prof. Edwin M. Felt, M. D., of Hahnemann Med. College, Chicago, and several of other equally eminent in their several schools of practice.

The "Golden Medical Discovery" is the only medicine put up for sale through druggists for like purposes that has a special endorsement—more than any number of ordinary remedies. Open publicity of its form is the best possible guaranty of its merit.

A glance at this published formula will show that "Golden Medical Discovery" contains no poisonous, harmful or habit-forming drugs and no alcohol—chemicals pure, triple-refined glycerine being used instead. Glycerine is entirely unobjectionable and besides is a most useful agent in the cure of all stomach as well as bronchial, throat and lung affections. There is the highest medical authority for its use in all such cases. The "Discovery" is a concentrated glyceric extract of natural medicinal roots and is safe and reliable. A booklet of extracts from eminent medical authorities, endorsing its ingredients mailed free on request. Address Dr. E. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Dairy Talk of Today.

The handling of milk the first few hours after it has come from the cow has a great influence on its quality and the commercial value of the products made from it. The care of milk needs a simple matter, but better methods in our dairies are of the greatest importance to the success and reputation of American dairying.

Testing of Dairy Cows. Officially authenticated testing of dairy cows is becoming more and more the leading feature of the work of breeders. These tests are regarded by the public as the true index of the value and of the capacity of all breeds. Practical dairymen are placing absolute reliance upon them as an invaluable aid in the selection of sires with which certainly to improve the capacity and profitable production of their cows.

Dairy Products in Demand. The greatest profit is in selling milk and cream to customers, the next in having annual customers who will take either cheese or butter as it is made. Then follows the selling of cream to the creamery and, lastly, butter to the store trade as one can catch the market. There seems to be a constantly increasing demand for the products of the dairy which keeps pace with the increase of cows. There is a bright prospect ahead for all who wish to engage in this great branch of agriculture.—S. F. Emerson.

Where the Expense Comes In. Professor W. J. Fraser of the Illinois College of Agriculture says, "It is what the farmer does not know about his cows that hurts." If he knew how expensive it is to keep a poor cow, he would not do it. Twenty-five good cows will earn more net than a hundred moderately good cows and more than 1,000 poor cows. The poor cows will not pay their way. In one case the cows will keep the farmer; in the other the farmer will keep the cows.

The Milking Machine. The Farmers Advocate says: "We did not believe in the efficiency of the milking machine until we saw one at work. Now that we have been shown we cannot say too much in its favor. There are milking machines and milking machines, so be careful what you buy when you are approached by a smooth tongued milking machine salesman. So far as we know, there is only one or two approved makes of milking machines. Better go slow in the purchase of a machine and be sure you get a good one."

Culling the Herd. It is the constant aim of progressive dairymen to improve their herds, and such improvement must depend largely upon culling the herd and getting rid of the unprofitable animals.

Keep Out the Bacteria. The most careful handling of milk after it is once infected with bacteria will not suffice to make a good product from it. The bacteria must not be allowed to gain ingress if clean, wholesome products are desired. Thorough washing with boiling water, or better, live steam, followed by rapid cooling and subsequent exposure to the direct rays of the sun, is the only sanitary way of handling the dairy's utensils.

Don't imagine that cows and young stock grow hardy and keep strong from exposure. Exposure costs feed and costs vital force. It works for the survival of the physically fittest. Quick fattening makes tender meat. Let it help out with the old cows. Round up all the poor cows for the butcher. Don't keep unprofitable cows in the herd, and don't sell them to an unsuspecting neighbor. The careless man and the good cow can never win out. Breeding and feeding are of equal importance in developing the dairy calf into a dairy cow.