AGRICULTURAL.

Devoted to the Interests of Farmers and Stockmen.

The Cactus.

Those who have not seen it on its native soil cannot imagine what a "cactus grove" looks like. It requires a warm or equable climate, and seems to draw its substance more readily from the driest sandy wastes where nothing else will grow. To one who has not lived in a cactus country the plant suggests only danger. Its long keen thorns possess a poisonous property which makes them very disagreeable things, and it has been said by some writers that the thorns of a cactus multiply when imbeded in the flesh of anything living. This statement is not trae. But there is no wound more painful than that made by a cactus thorn. On the high sagebrush covered hills of Southern California the cactus grows luxuriantly, and there its properties are known. It is not a useless plant by any means, but it does not invite a close study by the stranger. Many hillsides are covered with cactus groves. The plants often reach a height of from ten to fifteen feet, and are so closely jammed together that they make a solid wall of thorns that will successfully resist the assaults of man. The blossoms of the cactus are generally a rich yellow, but are often red and purple. They are pretty flowers, and grow from the apex of the fruit, often called "prickly pears." This fruit is about the size of a large egg, shaped like a fig, and is covered with many little bunches of minute thorns, which, if taken into the mouth, immediately sticks into the tongue, throat and palate, and often resist all efforts to dislodge them without medical assistance. When ripe the fruit is of a deep purple color, and the fine fuzzy thorns become loose and may be rubbed off. The inside of a prickly pear is not unlike that of a fig. It is a mass of minute seeds set in a clear, red jelly and has a very sweet taste. It is also exceedingly juicy. It is this juiciness which makes the prickly pear so valuable to man. Growing, as it does, in dry, arid wastes, where there is no water to be obtained, it furnishes a very pleasant beverage for the traveler.

The method of preparing the fruit for eating is purely native, and, as the "greasers" are the only ones who make use of the fruit to any extent, the *modus operandi* is here given. A sharply pointed stick is thrust into the fruit and it is then clipped off with a knife. It is then rubbed into the sand until the little thorns are removed, when it may be peeled, split open and eaten or the juice pressed out and caught in a vessel. A very strong intoxicant can be made with this juice, but in the "land of grapes" it is not needed. Many travelers have been puzzled to account for the existence of large flocks of quails and other birds, always including the road-runner, which live and thrive in the midst of sandy deserts where there is not a drop of water or anything green besides the cirtus plants. But the explanation is very simple. The birds know that there is juice in the cactus fruit and they pick holes in the thick rind and devour the jelly-like substance.

The fruit is not the only part of the cactus which is of use to man. The thick, pulpy leaves contain a glue-like substance which is used in whitewash. The leaves are chopped fine, placed in a tub and covered with water. After standing a certain time the water becomes mucilaginous. It is then drawn off and used in making the whitewash, which is made greatly better by it. Whitewash made with this water will dry quickly, harden and possess a glossy smoothness, and does not crack up and fall off in flakes. The thorns were once used by the natives as needles, and the fiber of the plant for thread, and the butcher bird uses it as a skewer upon which to impale his victims. The cottentail rabbit finds a safe refuge beneath its canopy, and the "manroot" or "snake-vine" seems to grow more plentifully near it.

The ugly, dangerous cactus, with its pale, sickly green leaves and unlovely shape, is a very useful plant.

A Talk to Farm Boys.

Farmer boys, you need not envy the young men who stand behind the counters of the city shops. You need not envy the young men who are making ready to take the places of the great army of lawyers and pettifogers who are subsisting by the litigations of quarrelsome and contentious clients. And certainly you ought not to envy the boys who have no employment at all; those who are growing up to manhood without acquiring industrious habits upon which to rely in times of great need and pressing emergencies, whose idleness invites to temptations which so often lure to mental and bodily ruin. Your clothes may not be so finely spun and made as the city boys, but you are the peers of them all, with your bronzed faces and horny hands, however pretentious their employments. Your business is one which antedates every other vocation in the world. The farmer was plowing and sowing and reaping his harvest long before a merchant, or lawyer or doctor was known; and he still stands foremost at the gates whence issue to the millions of the world the steady, never-failing streams of plenteousness and life. A generation or so ago the brightest boys of the farmer's family were assigned to the professions. The dull fellows were sent to the fields. Nowadays a different order of things prevails. Once the idea was popular that only muscular strength was necessary on a farm—the strength to guide a plow, to wield an ax, a hoe or a scythe—the endurance to go through with the sweltering tasks of summer or the exposing duties of winter. These important requisites given, a booby might fill the place just as well as any one else. So some folks used to think, but what say you, working farmer boys? Do you not place a higher estimate upon your skill, and upon the value of your services? Look up, then, and vindicate yourselves. You are getting health and strength from the wholesome exercises of the fields, and that you may have the necessary intelligence to combine with this strength for the proper prosecution of your calling, apply yourselves diligently to acquiring knowledge whenever respite from labor shall give you the opportunity.

Overhanging Fruit Trees.

The question often arises, Who owns the fruit of a tree standing near the boundary line between two proprietors? It is generally supposed that the fruit on the limbs overhanging one's land belongs to him; but this is an entire mistake. If a tree stands wholly on your land, although some of the roots extend into the soil of your neighbor and derive support and nourishment from his soil, he has no right to any of the fruit which hangs over the line (11 Conn. 177; 38 Vt. 105; 25 N. Y. 126); and if he attempts by force to prevent you from picking it he is liable for an assault and battery (46 Barb. 337; 48 N. Y. 201).

In one instance a lady, while standing on the fence picking cherries which hung over the line, was forbidden to do so by the adjoining owner, who was at work in his garden, and in the scuffle to prevent her she received some bruises on her arm, for which he had the pleasure of paying the neat little sum of $1000. If your fruit falls into your neighbor's lot, you have, I think, an implied license in law to go and pick it up, doing him no unavoidable damage (113 Mass. 376; 12 Vt. 273).

If, however, a fruit tree stands directly in the division line, and is what is called a "line tree," both parties own the tree and fruit in common, and neither can cut down the tree or seriously injure it without being responsible the other (12 N. H. 454; 34 Barb. 547; 25 N. Y. 123).

Sometimes persons are tempted to poison or secretly kill a neighbor's tree of some kind, which stands near the fence, and casts a baneful shade on their garden-plot; but this is dangerous business, and the party doing so may possibly find himself inside the county jail for twelve months, where the rooms are apt to be small and not always very clean. The safer way in such cases is to cut off the limbs which hang over your side, or dig down and cut off the roots, which undoubtedly you have a right to do; but it would not be safe to use the limbs for firewood or otherwise convert them to your own use, lest you have to pay their value, more or less.—*Bennett's Farm Law.*

The Largest Farm in the World.

In the extreme southwest corner of Louisiana lies the largest producing farm in the world. It runs 100 miles north and south, and many miles east and west, and is owned and operated by a syndicate of Northern capitalists. Their general manager, J. B. Watkins, gives an interesting account of this gigantic plantation, which throws the great Dairymple farm in Dakota into the shade completely.

"The 1,500,000 acres of our tract," Mr. Watkins said, "was purchased in 1883 from the State of Louisiana and the United States Government. At that time it was a vast grazing land for the cattle of the few dealers in the neighborhood. When I took possession I found over 30,000 head of half-wild horses and cattle. My work was to divide this immense tract into convenient pastures, establishing stations or ranches every six miles. The fencing alone cost in the neighborhood of $50,000. The land I found to be best adapted to rice, sugar, corn and cotton. All our cultivating, ditching, etc., is done by steam power. We take a tract, say half a mile wide, for instance, and place an engine on each side. The engines are portable, and operate a cable attached to four plows, and under this arrangement we are able to plow thirty acres a day with only the labor of three men. Our planting, harrowing and other cultivation is done in a like manner; in fact there is not a single draft horse on the entire place. We have, of course, horses for the herders of cattle, of which we now have 16,000 head. The Southern Pacific Railroad runs for thirty miles through our farm. We have three steamboats operating on the waters of our own estate, upon which there are 300 miles of navigable waters. We have an ice-house, a bank, a ship yard and a rice mill."

Treatment for Codlin Moth.

The following is recommended against the codlin moth: Burlap bands about six inches wide, fastened with a tack above, drawing the band close to the tree, leaving it loose at the lower edge. These bands should not be more than a foot from the ground, and the bark on the trunk must be smooth and clean. In large trees place rags in the crotches. The ground must be perfectly smooth, especially around the tree; no rubbish or boards to be allowed in the orchard, as the larva will hide in them. These measures, in addition to the picking off of infested fruit, have proved a great protection in comparatively isolated places whenever the rules have been followed out strictly. In addition, the spraying with Paris green and London purple is recommended for trial.

A gloomy feeling pervades the hop districts of Central New York. Two years ago growers hardly realized enough from their hops to pay the cost of raising. Last year the crop was almost a total failure. The uniform report by hop farmers is that a third bad year is before them.

Colorado continues in the first rank as the largest producer of precious metals in the United States, the value of its products of gold and silver having been over $20,000,000 during the last year. California yields the second place to Montana.

THE EFFECTS OF MENTAL EXHAUSTION.

Many diseases, especially those of the nervous system, are the products of daily renewed mental exhaustion. Business avocations often involve an amount of mental wear and tear very prejudicial to physical health, and the professions, if arduously pursued, are no less destructive to brain and nerve tissue. It is one of the most important attributes of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, that it compensates for this undue loss of tissue, and that it imparts new energy to the brain and nerves. The rapidity with which it renews weakened mental energy and physical vitality is remarkable, and shows that its invigorating properties are of the highest order. Besides increasing vital stamina, and counteracting the effects of mental exhaustion, this potential medicine cures and prevents fever and ague, rheumatism, chronic dyspepsia and constipation, kidney and uterine weakness and other complaints. Physicians also commend it as a medicated stimulant and remedy.

A young woman runs the elevator in a big Chicago building.

IT IS A FACT

well established that consumption, if attended to in its first stages, can be cured. There is, however, no true and rational way to cure this disease, which is really scrofulous ulceration of the lungs, except through purifying the blood. Keep the liver in perfect order and pure blood will be the result. Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," a purely vegetable compound, does all this and more; while it purifies the blood it also builds up the system, strengthening it against future attacks of disease. Ask for Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery." Take no other. Of druggists.

Nebraska pays annually $15,000,000 as interest on farm mortgages.

Pay no Freights. Palmer & Rey manufacture their own type, and having no freights to pay they will not advance their prices.

A REMEDY FOR CHILLS AND FEVER.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 16, 1885.

Four years ago I contracted a hard cold that settled on my lungs. I had a severe chill, followed by high fever, raging headache, pain on my left side over the lung, and every time a fit of coughing came on, which was every few minutes, it was terrible to bear the pain. I thought it meant an attack of pneumonia, as I went through a two-month seige of that disease, and it came on just the same way. As it was night I thought I would wait until morning before sending for a doctor. Fortunately, a half-box of ALLCOK'S POROUS PLASTERS was found in the possession of a friend, who boarded with us. One of these was put on my throat, two on my chest, and one on my back over the left shoulder blade. I then had a hot foot bath. After again getting into bed, it seemed but a few minutes when all my symptoms were relieved; the skin became quickly moist. I coughed only at intervals, and then with very little effort, and in about an hour I was in a sound sleep, from which I did not awake until morning. I resumed business in two days.

H. F. FLETCHER.

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You can take out spots from wash goods by rubbing them with the yolk of eggs before washing.

SOME FOLKS

have much difficulty in swallowing the huge, old-fashioned pill, but anyone can take Dr. Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets," which are composed of highly concentrated vegetable extracts. For diseases of the liver and stomach, sick and bilious headache, etc., they have no equal. Their operation is attended with no discomfort whatever. They are sugar-coated and put up in glass vials.

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SKIN TORTURES OF A LIFETIME INSTANTLY relieved by a warm bath with CUTICURA SOAP, a real Skin Beautifier, and a single application of CUTICURA, the great Skin Cure. This repeated daily, with two or three doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, the New Blood Purifier, to keep the blood cool, the perspiration pure and unirritating, the bowels open, the liver and kidneys active, will speedily cure.

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When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

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Cures all Humors of the Scalp and prevents Hair falling out; NO LADIES' TOILET IS COMPLETE WITHOUT IT, as it cures Dandruff and Softens Dry and Wiry Hair; is excellent for the Face and Chapped Hands; is perfectly harmless and has no equal as a dresser for the Hair; is fine for the face after shaving.

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—Wife (who had been sitting up for delinquent husband)—"Are you crazy? Have you been going about the streets with your umbrella up this starlight night?" Weary husband—"That's just it, dear. It's the stars—perfect avalanche of 'em—couldn't dodge 'em, so—put—up umbrella. Thought people would think I was intoxicated if I didn't."—*N. Y. Ledger.*

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If you feel dull, drowsy, debilitated, have sallow color of skin, or yellowish-brown spots on face or body, frequent headache or dizziness, bad taste in mouth, internal heat or chills, alternating with hot flushes, low spirits and gloomy forebodings, irregular appetite, and coated tongue, you are suffering from Indigestion, Dyspepsia, and Torpid Liver, or "Biliousness." In many cases only part of these symptoms are experienced. As a remedy for all such cases, Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is unsurpassed.

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