PROTECTION OF WEEDS.

Inexcusable Carelessness of Which Many Farmers Are Guilty.

More protection is given to the weed crop (and also the insects) than may be supposed owing to improper seasons of preparing the land for crops. After the wheat crop is cut the point next to be considered is how to treat the land after the crop is off. The amount of labor to be bestowed on the field next year, and the value of the crop to be taken off, is largely influenced by this year's treatment of the field. If the farmer could prevent weeds from springing up his item of labor would be greatly reduced, and it is a matter that not only deserves consideration but must be considered in time to put some method in practice by which weeds can be partially prevented and less labor entailed. The regulation of the weed crop should be under the control of the farmer, but to do this some system is required, and the weeds must not be overlooked in order to give the regular crops all the labor.

It is not customary to plow in the summer, just at the busiest time of harvesting, but when the farmer is busy then is the weeds' opportunity. They take possession and grow. They will not grow as well when the seed is uncovered as when covered, and the opportunity of the farmer should be to induce them to grow. Instead of leaving the stubble land idle for the weeds to grow on, with the uncovered seeds remaining to be plowed under for a spring crop, the stubble land should be plowed as soon as the wheat crop is off. It should not be turned under deeper than one or two inches, if possible, and if the soil is light the cultivator may serve to break it up. The seeds of the weeds will then germinate (as also the seeds of any grain that may be on the ground), and when the plants are well up the land should be plowed a little deeper, thus turning under the weeds as green manure and giving any remaining seeds an opportunity to sprout and come up. The land should then be left until late in the fall unless the weeds are nearly matured, as they should never be allowed to seed.

Late fall plowing turns up the insects that have buried themselves and exposes them to the cold. Should any more weed seeds remain, from being deep in the soil, they will also be brought to the surface, sprout in the spring and be caught by the spring plowing. Farmers may complain that this method entails three or four plowings and costs too much. Consideration will convince them that there will, however, be less work to do fighting weeds the next season and that the succeeding year will find fewer plowings necessary and the number of weeds greatly reduced. With the method practiced of leaving the stubble land unplowed until fall or spring, the weeds and insects are protected, more labor is required and the following crops are robbed of moisture and plant food.—Philadelphia Record.

HOUSE-TOP GARDENS.

Summer Resorts For the Poor Dwellers in Tenement Houses.

A plan to make our house-tops useful is sketched by Dr. Gouverneur M. Smith, in a paper on "Wasted Sunbeams—Unused House-tops." The Oriental has no difficulty in the matter. He lives on the top of his house a considerable part of the year, and builds his roof with an especial eye to that sort of occupation. Why may not we? By pitching our tents upon them, or by taking them as they are, except that the roof coverings would have to be made more solid, we might make our roofs comfortable sojourning places and inexpensive summer health resorts.

"Roofing," says the author, "can be contrived suited to this climate, and enduring as pavement. A pleasure resort might ornament each residence, its limits bounded by the area of the dwelling; neighborly consent could widen the range, turf and flowers brightening the plan. Iron-framed and glass-inclosed rooms or cupolas could be added, which would prove useful during all seasons, artificial heat tempering brumal inclemency. If such adaptation of house-tops would be an advantage to the affluent, who can escape city life during the summer, how much greater advantage would be secured to the tenement house districts! * * * For the higher graded tenement houses such fresh air facilities would be hailed with delight by the inmates. The proximity of open breathing places to their rooms would endear them to their humble homes. Summer moonlight evenings could have a new aspect; and again, round a family lantern, gropes might gather to read, sew, or engage in games, and thus a home-felt pleasure could quiet restless spirits, craving questionable or illicit amusements. More true enjoyment might be observed in such groups than on the piazzas of fashionable resorts. Landlords could arrange for the periodical sweeping of roofs, as well as the halls and stair-ways, and, among a very large class of respectable poor, pride would stimulate to a tidy and decorative care of their home parks."

By a litte alteration in structure the upper stories of houses, now stuffy places enough, could be made light and airy, and attractive as resorts or play rooms in inclement weather.—Popular Science Monthly.

—About four hundred and fifty cubic feet of well packed timothy hay in mow or stack will make a ton.

A MYSTERY.

"If you were me, and trouble haunted you,"
He whispered low,
"Weighed down your soul in doubt, what would you do?"
"I'd tell some one my trouble, were I you,"
With accent slow,
She said. And yet again: "If you were me,"
He said, "and loved a sweet lass tenderly,
What would you do?"
Flushed grew her cheek and drooped her head:
"I think I'd go and tell her so," she said,
"If I were you."

"Ah, sweet! 'tis you I mean, my little love—
I love you, Flo."
Yet lower drooped her sun-kissed head above
The roses on her breast; a frightened dove
Ne'er fluttered so.
"I love you, dear," he said again; and she—
Her answer e'er will be a mystery,
'Twas said so low.
—Cecil Percy Poole, in Harper's Weekly.

AN EXPENSIVE FIND.

How Higgins Celebrated the Discovery of a Five-Dollar Gold Piece.

"Jee Whillikens! What's that?" Higgins made a dive for something in the mud at his feet, fished it out between his thumb and finger, and slapped his thigh joyfully as he said: "A five-dollar gold piece, sure as guns! First money I ever found in my life! I'll have me a new hat out of that, and take the babies home some toys and something to my wife!"

A moment later he met two friends, and said:

"Ha, Smythe, how are you? How're you, Haley? S'posing we step into Archie Flynn's place and take something. I've just found five dollars and I'll set 'em up on the strength of it."

What he "set up" cost eighty cents, and ten minutes later he met three of the "boys" from the office and generously "set up" cigars all 'round."

Then he tossed twenty-five cents to a blind beggar and gave the office boy ten cents for blacking his boots.

He wrote a letter to his married sister that morning, to which was the following postscript:

"I picked up five dollars on the street to-day, and inclose two of it, with which you may get the children something from Uncle Henry."

"Guess I'll go down to the Parker House and get my dinner to-day instead of to the lunch-counter 'round the corner," he said at noon; "I can afford something extra to-day."

Then he paid a dollar and a half for a new straw hat, spent a dollar for toys for the children and another dollar for a vase for his wife.

"By Jove!" he said, as he was passing a theater, "my wife's been wanting all the week to go and see Lotta and I said we couldn't afford it, but hanged if we can't when a fellow picks five-dollar gold pieces up out of the mud!"

A day or two later Higgins found rather sober amusement in covering a sheet of paper with the following figures:

"Things bought with five dollars I found Wednesday—Hat, dollar and a half; theater tickets, two dollars; cigars for boys, fifty cents; drinks for boys, eighty cents; beggar, twenty-five; office boy, ten cents; Sister Nell, two dollars; dinner at Parker's, dollar and a half; toys for children, a dollar; vase for wife, a dollar; box early strawberries, fifty cents; neckties, dollar and a half; new cane, ninety cents; pound candy, forty; gloves, dollar and a half; gave wife, one dollar and a half; total sixteen dollars and ninety-five cents.

"If I'd found twenty dollars I'd have gone into bankruptcy, hanged if I wouldn't," he said, as he turned to one of the boys and borrowed a dollar to last him until Saturday.—Time.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

Wise Sayings Which Fell from the Lips of Great Philosophers.

Cowardice is the greatest giver of alms.

Spare moments are the gold dust of time.—Cole.

He who is devoted to every body is devoted to nobody.

If you note all the details you have not seen the whole.

Deliberation, too far prolonged, defeats its own ends.—Nelson.

Sands make the mountains—moments make the years.—Young.

Habit renders wrong-doing of any kind a sort of second nature.

Nothing is degrading which a high and graceful purpose ennobles.

Truth has never yet proved fatal to any one; there are too many antidotes.

To owe gratitude oppresses a coarse nature; to receive it oppresses a fine one.

Socialism is the fantastical younger brother of a nearly spent despotism, whose inheritance he claims.

The gardens of modern poetry too often betray a nearness to the drains of the cities.

There is not enough religion in the world to admit of the annihilation of religions.

For many natures it is as much a duty of cleanliness to change opinions as to change clothes.

Not when it is dangerous to tell the truth will she lack a prophet, but only when it is tiresome.

Those things which engage us merely by their novelty can not attract us for any length of time.

Man should command his flesh as a slave his master. The dominion of the enfranchised is the most imperious.

He that boasteth himself to know every thing is most ignorant; and he that presumeth to know nothing is most wise.—Plato, B. C. 427.

Old age is the night of life as night is the old age of day. Still, night is full of magnificence, and for many it is more brilliant than the day.

If you have built castles in the air your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.—Thoreau.

—It is said that an astonishing feature of the legal practice in Camden County, Georgia, is the number of hogs stolen and the excuses given by those accused of the theft. When one of the colored inhabitants wants to employ a lawyer to defend him the conversation is generally something like this: "Boss, kin I speak wid you privately a minute?" "Certainly! What can I do for you?" "Well, boss, dey got me up in de big court." "What is the nature of the charge against you?" "Dey got me 'scused of sumtin' 'bout a hog, but it's all through prejudice."

—An amusing story comes from Japan of a native doctor who had so far assimilated his practice to European methods that an English resident, being ill, sent for him in the absence of the only European doctor of the district. The Englishman having elaborately described his symptoms, the Jap doctor in his turn made a long and very vague statement, from which it was impossible to gather any thing really definite. "But come, doctor," exclaimed the patient at last, naturally anxious to know the nature of his complaint, "you have not told me what it is?" "Ah! you ask what it is?" returned the native medico, in what he intended to be his best European manner. "Well, I will tell you, sar; it is five shillings.

—Cherry Tapioca.—Wash a cup of tapioca and let soak over night; in the morning pour over a pint of boiling water and let simmer until perfectly clear; stem a pound and a half of sour cherries and add them to the boiling tapioca; sweeten to taste; take from the fire, turn in a dish and stand away to cool. Serve very cold with sugar and cream.