Petunias.

All who have cultivated Petunias have seen flowers with a margin of green, more or less wide. The seeds are offered in all catalogues under the name of *P. marginata*.

Several years ago we experimented with Petunias for the purpose of ascertaining how far they could be improved by crossing and selection, an account of of some of the results of which was given in this paper at the time. For the second year we obtained monstrous flowers, both as regards size and markings. The most striking of these were marked and the seeds (where perfected) saved. But the third season, instead of coming at all true, or of being improvements in any way upon their parents, they were all inferior to those of the second season, and, concluding that little was to be gained by further experiments, we gave up Petunia culture for that of other plants with which we had less to do.

Among them, however, was a plant that we watched with a good deal of interest. In early summer it bore flowers that, when spread out, measured seven inches across the throat of a lilac, veined with purple, and the edges banded with green of varying widths. During early fall the green margin increased in width, until by late September the flowers were wholly green. Those blooming still later were half corolla, half leaf, until at last a rosette of green leaves alone indicated where the flowers ought to have developed. In several instances, imperfect stamens and pistils were formed, surrounded by crimped or ill-shaped leaves that were neither leaves nor petals. In others the stamens and pistils grew together, forming a stem which continued to grow out of the corolla the same as if there had been a flower.

It is worthy of note that these green-flowered Petunias were wonders of vigor, the leaves and stems being twice, perhaps thrice, the size of the self-colored, blotched and striped varieties, and the flowers comparatively very few.

What seem unusual phenomena in plant growth are by no means so rare as we suppose. Make a specialty of what plant soever you will, and watch it closely through the season, we will be very likely to observe peculiarities that would escape ordinary observations.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Care of Harness.

Few farmers realize the care needed in the proper preservation of leather, and the lack of knowledge of its requirements causes the loss of many dollars to the owners of horses. The practice of washing harness in warm water is very damaging, unless a coat of oil is applied immediately after washing. No harness is ever so soiled that a damp sponge will not remove the dirt, yet, even when the sponge is applied, it is important to apply a slight coat of oil by the use of a second sponge. All varnishes and blacking that contain the properties of varnish should be avoided. When a harness loses its lustre and turns brown, as almost any leather will do after long exposure to the air, the harness should be given a new coat of grain black; first washing the grain surface thoroughly with potash water, to kill the grease, and after the grain black, applying oil and tallow to the surface. This will fasten the color and make the leather flexible.

Neat's foot oil only should be used on harnesses, and no more should be applied to the leather than it will absorb, as many harnesses are injured by applying too much oil. A superabundance so applied works out to the surface in hot weather, absorbing dust and dirt and soon looking very slovenly.

An excellent harness polish may be made by breaking in small pieces four ounces of glue, pouring over it in a basin about a pint of vinegar, and letting it stand until it becomes soft. Take two ounces of gum in another vessel and pour in half a pint of black ink, letting it stand until it is perfectly dissolved. Melt two drachms of isinglass in a cup, with as much water as will cover it. To mix the whole, turn the softened glue into a saucepan over a gentle fire, adding another half-pint of vinegar, stirring until perfectly dissolved, being careful not to let it burn at the bottom nor reach the boiling point. Next add the gum, and, after arriving at about the same heat, add the isinglass; then pour it out for use. Apply a thin coat, sufficiently heated to be fluid, with a piece of dry sponge, and if the article is dried quickly, either in the sun or by the fire, it will have a better polish. This answers equally well for boots and shoes.—*Coleman's Rural World.*

RAISING CUCUMBERS.—To make cucumber viees grow and set freely with fruit, the hill should be well watered every evening except in a wet time. The cucumber plant needs a great deal of moisture, and only when it is plentifully supplied will it yield a fair percentage of fruit in healthy condition. By observation I found this plant to yield most abundantly in wet seasons, and taking such fact for a cue, resolved to test the practice of watering the vines freely to insure a full crop, and find such practice resulting in all one could wish to establish its efficacy.

A Marylander tells me it is the custom at the South to plant vines along the banks of a ravine or water course, so that an abundance of water can be obtained at all times to water the plants. In no other way do they expect a full crop.

IN Switzerland, the law compels every newly-married couple to plant six trees immediately after the marriage ceremony, and two on the birth of each child.

Make It Two Dollars.

Col. Orzo J. Dodds, late member of Congress from the fourth district of Ohio, tells a good story about a call he recently received at his office from a man who claimed to be an editor from Arkansas. He was a very seedy-looking chap, and appeared as though he had but recently come off a six weeks' spree. Bowing profoundly, then striking an attitude, with one hand on his heart and the other extending a badly-used plug hat, he exclaimed with a dramatic air:

"Have I the honor of addressing the Honorable Orzo J. Dodds?"

"My name is Dodds; but I am no longer an honorable," said the colonel.

"Not an honorable? Dodds not an honorable? Now, by St. Paul, when I see that honorable face on whom the gods seem to have set their seal ('Green Seal!' murmured Dodds to himself), I read nothing dishonorable."

"That's right!" said Dodds; "never read anything dishonorable. But to business!"

"Yes, as you say, to business. I am a printer—I might say an editor. I am from the State of Arkansas; the only State, by the way, able and willing to support two Governors at the same time. But I have been unfortunate! Much have I been tossed about by the ire of cruel Juno, and"—

"Juno know how it is yourself!" broke in the colonel.

"Buffeted by the world's rude storms, you see me here a stranded wreck. Scarce three moons past I left my office in charge of my worthy foreman and sought the peaceful vales and calm rests of the Muskingum Valley, where my childhood sported. Returning, I stopped at Cincinnati. I fell into evil company, and —but why dwell on details? Enough that I am—that I am—disheartened, ruined, broke! A mark for scorn to point her slow, unerring finger at! As I was about giving up in despair, having given up everything else that I had, I thought of you. Sir, I am here. You did not send for me, but I have come. Your name is known and honored from one end of this great republic to the other. It

'Glows on the stars,
Refreshes the breeze,
Warms in the sun,
And blossoms on the trees.'

When the National Treasury was threatened by a body of greedy Congressmen, you stood like a wall of adamant between the people and those infamous salary-grabbers. *Lend me a dollar!*"

"My dear sir," the colonel hastened to explain, "you mistake the case entirely! I was one of the grabbers."

"You were!" grasping the colonel's hand warmly. "So much the better. Let me congratulate you that a parsimonious public could not frighten you out of what was but a fair remuneration for your invaluable services. I am glad that your pecuniary circumstances are so much better than I supposed. *Make it two!*"

And the colonel did. It was the only clear thing for him to do.

The Mennonites in Manitoba.

The Mennonite reservation east of the Red River, and about twenty-five miles southeast of Winnipeg, is now as well populated as any district of the Province of Manitoba, and the most recent immigration has been directed to a reservation of seventeen townships adjoining the frontier, and extending west of Red River to Pembina Mountain. The settlement on the reservation first mentioned, called Rat River, consists of 650 families, and on the second reservation, called Dufferin, 450 families have been planted. In addition thirty-three families have been settled near Scratching River, and the recent arrival of thirty-five families will go to Dufferin.

Estimating five to a family, the Mennonite settlements of Manitoba contain a population of 5,865, which will doubtless increase steadily, but by no means with the volume of the past three years. The Mennonites who still remain in Southern Russia, though inclined to emigrate, in consequence of the termination of the stipulation exempting them from military services, are not prepared to sacrifice their possessions. When they can sell without disadvantage they emigrate. The exodus is therefore likely to be gradual, especially as the Russian Government, while insisting on the right of conscription, assents readily to special assignments of service in deference to the Mennonite conscience—such as transportation, forestry, and hospital service—very much as the Quakers of the United States, during the late civil war, were subjected to military service, but relieved from bearing arms.

The emigrating class of Lutheran Quakers, known as Mennonites, are neither the rich nor the poor, but are an intermediate body, who are, however, by no means destitute. Mr. Hespeler estimates that the sum brought into the province by the Mennonite immigration is $500,000, and the recent arrival of thirty-five families have not less than $10,000.

There are Mennonite settlements in the Western States, but the land system there enforced does not admit of special reservations, and Manitoba has thus been enabled to present greater inducements for this class of settlers. Here the community can organize itself fully according to its traditions, including the rural village life of the dorf—or dorp, as we believe the word is anglicized—a custom which has great merit socially and industrially, and will warrant some fullness of detail.

A group of families—usually sixteen in number—take their homesteads separately, but proceed to throw them together, selecting the most desirable situation for a village or dorf, through which a street two chains wide is laid, and the plat divided into half acre lots, with assignments for church, school, or other public use. A tract most suitable for tillage is then selected in a block, which is inclosed, and within which each head of a family cultivates that portion of his allotment—for there is no communism—that he finds convenient. A hay meadow, held also in severalty, is chosen, and the remainder of the consolidated homesteads is used as a range for cattle and other animals, which are invariably attended by a herdsman who is paid by the dorf. The village lots and other subdivisions are distributed by lot.

The houses—only found in the dorf—are comfortable, heated by central brick ovens, warming three or four rooms. The same roof usually extends over separate lodgings for cattle, although in this respect there is a growing tendency to have different tenements. Each family has a yoke of oxen, two cows and indefinite poultry. The pig is not wanting, and there are 500 sheep and 150 horses on the Rat River reservation.

The municipal government is a simple democracy. The heads of families annually select a Mayor or Reeve, who is the chief executive officer, constantly conferring with his constituents. Over the whole community is a President or Elder, elected for five years, and who, associated with the Mayor of the dorfs, form a court for the final adjustment of all disputes and the enactment of all necessary ordinances. The President may act in all matters relating to a separate village in concurrence with the Mayor thereof.

The church organization is quite distinct from the civil administration. The people elect a clergyman in each dorf, and a Bishop to preside over the whole community for periods of five years. They receive no stipends. The teachers of the schools—one held in each village—are chosen by the people, but are paid a moderate compensation. Marriages are free—no allotment as formerly among the Moravians—and usually contracted early, the parties often remaining with the most prosperous of the parents for a year or two.

The Mayor of a dorf, with two assistants, constitutes an Orphan Court for the distribution of estates, and the custody of the funds of orphans, for which the property of every villager is liable; deducting from the said orphan fund whatever contributions for the relief of the few destitute orphans may be found necessary.

For most of these interesting particulars we are indebted to Mr. William Hespeler, Immigration Agent of the Dominion of Canada, who ascertained in 1871, during a trip to Germany, that a Mennonite emigration to this continent was probable, and who visited Southern Russia in 1872. Upon his representations, and under his auspices, a delegation came to Manitoba in 1872, and selected the reservation near Rat River; and three years of activity and well directed effort have resulted in the colonization which is the subject of the present compilation.

THE average destruction of life in Great Britain from drowning, now reaches over 4,200 per annum.